

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2009 AT BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

<b>Present:</b>	Mr P Thorp		Chairman
	Ms L Greene	}	
	Mr P Bradley	}	Bisley Ward
	Mr S Trinder	}	
	Mr R K Brooks	}	
	Mr D Hunt	}	Eastcombe Ward
	Mrs L Petch	}	
	Mrs V Nairn	}	
	Mr A E Davis	}	
	Mr P Dawes	}	Oakridge Ward
	Mr R N Budgeon	}	
	Mr N Holliday	}	
	Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

One member of the public was present.

09.3 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies - through illness - were received from County Councillor Mrs J Nash and District Councillor Mrs P Carrick.

09.3 2. **New Parish Councillors**

The Chairman and fellow Councillors welcomed Mr P Bradley and Mr S Trinder as new Councillors on the Bisley Ward of the Parish Council and congratulated them on their success at the recent elections. The Parish Council was now at full strength to meet the challenging workload ahead.

09.3 3. **Public Participation**

The member of the public attending asked the Chairman to provide a progress report on the provision of a pavement in the Stroud Road from 'Little Close' to 'Bearsfield' and on the installation of a Cardboard Bank at Oakridge.

The Chairman said that work on the pavement was expected to start as soon as the final specifications were agreed between the County Highways and the Contractor. It was expected that this should be in place within the next month. County Highways had also advised that Persimmon Homes – the Contractors of Phase 2 of the Windyridge development – had agreed a 'goodwill' payment

of £8,000.00 towards the cost of the work. As a result, there would be no cost to the Parish for the provision of this important amenity. As to the Cardboard Bank, the Chairman advised that the Parish remained on the SDC list for priority provision of a cardboard bank - to be situated in Oakridge Village - and the Clerk added that the budget approved by SDC had included this facility.

09.3 4. **Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared by Councillors.

09.3 5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 having been circulated to all councillors were approved and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

09.3 6. **Matters Arising**

(a) Footpath at Tunley - The Parish Council had written to the County Council to intimate that, whilst there were no particular objections to the footpath at Tunley being formally recorded on the Definitive Map, residents would prefer that the path is not highlighted by the erection of 'finger post' signs, so as to prevent its unauthorised use by motor cycles, as had occurred on other paths. One Councillor pointed out that, should County Council agree to this measure, it could lead to residents affected by other footpaths seeking similar dispensation. It was agreed that the Parish Council would await a reply from County Council before considering the matter further.

b) Snow Operations - The Parish Council had written to all the snow plough operators to thank them for their excellent work during the recent heavy snow falls and to encourage them to submit their invoices for payment by County Highways. Two of the ploughs had been damaged during operations because of age and the 'rutted' road surface. County Highways had agreed to carry out repairs to or replacement of ploughs, as required.

c) Salt/Grit Bins – The vast majority of grit bins in the Parish had been replenished. However, it was pointed out that some bins had been filled in a careless manner, leaving salt/grit strewn on the grass and close to trees. This had a damaging effect on vegetation and particularly trees. It could also result in salt being washed into nearby watercourses. The Clerk was to write to County Highways to have this problem addressed.

d) School Bus Tender – Whilst County Council had acknowledged the concerns of the Parish in relation to the recent poor performance of the Company providing the rural bus service to Thomas Keble School, there remained concern that these would not be fully addressed during

the imminent re-tendering process for the contract. The Clerk was asked to determine the current status of the re-tendering procedure.

09.3 7. **District Council Matters**

In the absence of District Councillor Mrs P Carrick, no District Council issues were discussed

09.3 8. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor Mrs J Nash submitted the following written report to the meeting:

Council Tax – 2009/2010 – County Council had agreed the proposal to increase Council Tax by 2.9% for FY 2009/2010. A great deal of work has been done to ensure that front-line services will not be cut.

Waste – An ‘Industry Day’ was held in February - attended by 40 Waste Companies – to hear more about the Gloucestershire Residual Waste Project and the £92M of PFI funding. The objective was to encourage Waste Companies to provide innovative solutions for managing residual waste in the County.  
Part Night-Lighting Programme – Some 50 Local Councils had agreed to take part in the Scheme to switch-off street lights between midnight and 5.50 am. Each individual street-light would save 40% of its carbon emissions and energy costs. The aim for this year is to convert 7,000 lights to part-use out of the County total of 58,000, producing an annual cost saving of £110K. Councils were able to decide on a local basis whether or not to implement the Scheme, following consultation with the Police and local communities. The Chair of Bisley Ward expressed strong support for this Scheme and suggested that it be extended to security lights at premises

Highways – Following the recent harsh weather, County Highways were conducting a detailed inspection of roads to assess the extent of damage and to prepare a ‘Priority List’ for repairs, especially potholes.

Community Meals – A new contract will begin in April with the WRVS delivering meals to home users, Day Centres and Lunch Clubs. The County Council provides some 1000 meals per week and the contract includes a 7-day service to support independent living for older residents. There will also be a linkage between the delivery service and Social Services and Health Organisations, should the need arise.

Fire and Rescue Services – Following the annual assessment by the Audit Commission, the Fire and Rescue Services in the County had been awarded the highest rating of ‘4’, confirming that they were performing strongly and above requirements.

**Matters for Discussion****a) Bisley Ward Elections – 19 February 2009**

The Chairman summarised the outcome of the recent Elections for two Parish Councillors to serve on Bisley Ward. The 'seats' were keenly contested and the Chairman paid tribute to the staff of the Electoral Office at SDC who had manned the Polling Station for 15 hours continuously and produced results within an hour of closing. The Clerk had written to the Senior Elections Officer to convey the appreciation of the Parish Council. The Parish Council now awaited notification of the costs of the Election which were expected to be circa £2,000.00.

**b) Parish Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders Working Group had met to produce a final version of Parish Council Standing Orders which incorporated the feedback to the draft issued to Councillors. There were no further questions and the adoption of the orders dated March 2009 was put to the vote and carried unanimously. The Clerk undertook to obtain signatures from Councillors to confirm that they had received and understood these Orders.

**c) Oakridge Pavilion Refurbishment**

The Chairman of Oakridge Ward provided Councillors with a detailed Report of the proposals to refurbish the Pavilion at Oakridge Recreation Ground, which had suffered neglect over a long period. Knock-down and replacement of the Pavilion was not a viable option and for cost reasons, the programme of works proposed for the renovation would need to be phased-in over a number of years. For the FY ahead, work would be carried out to bring the Visitors Changing Rooms up to a good standard. Funding included in the Ward Precept during recent years for dry stone wall repairs would be diverted to this more pressing task. Competitive estimates for the work had been sought and the cost for this year would be £4,907.00. The Ward had included a provision of £4,500.00 in its precept for the year and the Ward Chairman said that economies would be sought elsewhere in the precept to 'bridge' the deficit.

The Parish Council agreed that it was most important to address the poor condition of the Pavilion and agreed unanimously that the Oakridge Ward should proceed with the first phase of work at a cost of £4,907.00.

**d) Renewal of Parish Insurances**

The Clerk provided Councillors with the Schedule of Items covered under the Parish Insurance Policy with 'Allianz Cornhill'. The premium for the year ahead had been notified as £2,288.76. Councillors were asked to check the Schedule to ensure that all Parish assets and equipment were included and to report any additions, deletions or discrepancies to the Clerk.

Councillors discussed the insurance valuations placed on buildings which increased each year in line with inflation. It was pointed out that these valuations reflected re-build costs and not necessarily the value of the buildings as they currently stood. The Clerk was asked to investigate what cost effect, if any, a reduction in these valuations would produce.

**e) The 'Wiggly Worm' Summer Cooking Camp and Associated Events**

Councillors had been issued with a letter received from Robert Rees, the noted Cotswold Chef, which proposed to hold a summer holiday event for school-children centred upon a 'Cookery Camp' using Village Hall facilities, together with associated events such as a tennis tournament and five-a-side football. The event would be held under the auspices of the 'Wiggly Worm' Cotswold Chef Company, a non-profit making organisation. In order to progress the proposal, financial support in the region of £1K was sought from the Parish Council. Councillors expressed strong support for this proposal which offered an exciting opportunity for the youth of the community to participate in an educative, sporting and social event during the 'drawn-out' holiday period. A question arose as to whether or not the event would be for this Parish only or would include neighbouring parishes. It was also suggested that participants could 'camp-out' in tents, rather than attend on a daily basis from home.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Rees to convey the 'in principle' support of the Parish Council to the event and to seek some further information on his proposals, before making any financial commitment.

**f) 'NOMS' Working Party Assistance to the Parish**

The Chairman advised Councillors that assistance from the 'NOMS' Working Party based at Leyhill Prison had been secured for the week commencing 23 March 2009. The Working Party would be kept under close supervision throughout its time in the Parish and would undertake general tidying and maintenance duties. Wards were asked to confirm to the Clerk the tasks they would wish the 'NOMS' to undertake, so that a programme of work throughout the Parish could be prepared.

09.3 10 **Finance**

**Receipts February 2009**

Bank Interest	£5.22
Bisley Cricket Club Fees	£200.00
Donation to Tennis Court Fund (Xmas Trees)	£160.00
Burial Fee – Oakridge	£100.00
Allotment Rent – Oakridge	£5.00

**Total Receipts** **£470.22**

**The following payments were approved by the Parish Council**

	<b>£</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
ST Water – Bisley Pavilion	77.24		77.24
Vialtus – Domain Name	29.00	4.35	33.35
Hailey Wood Sawmill – Grit Bin (O)	65.00	9.75	74.75
BT – Office Telephone	135.87	19.70	155.57
N MacLeod – Salary	731.70		731.70
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	324.67		324.67
Acott Mower Services (E)	86.50		86.50
Eastcombe Pavilion Fund – Cleaning	480.00		480.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£1929.98</b>	<b>£33.80</b>	<b>£1,963.78</b>

**Petty Cash Payments – February 2009** **£49.57**

**Cash Balance as at 28 February 2009** **£22,062.24**

**Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 28 February 2009** **£2,136.81**

**Westbury Gift Balance as at 28 February 2009** **£10,000.00**

**Parish Office Reserve as at 28 February 2009** **£17,500.00**

**Community Tennis Court Fund as at 28 February 2009** **£0.00**

**Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 28 February 2009** **£3,300.00**

### 09.3 11 **Planning**

The following Planning Applications have been received during the past month and the Planning Sub-Committees' responses are recorded.

#### **Eastcombe Ward**

**S.9/0056/FUL** – Westfield, Fidges Lane, Eastcombe – Erection of a single-storey detached garage - **No Observations.**

#### **Oakridge Ward**

**S.09/0216/FUL** – Sugar House, Lyday Close, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of extension, alterations and associated hard landscape alterations to Sugar House – **Support/Comment** – Councillor A E Davis, being a neighbour, did not take part in the consultation.

### 09.3 12 **Correspondence**

The following correspondence received during the past month was available for inspection by Councillors:

Standards Board for England  
Cotswold AONB  
Gloucestershire Police Authority  
Clerks and Councils Direct  
GRCC – Rural Communities  
GPFA  
John Taylor Foundation

February 2009 Booklet  
'Cotswold Lion' – Spring/Summer 2009  
Independent Custody Visitors  
March 2009 Magazine  
'Local at Heart' Booklet  
'The Playing Field' – Winter Issue  
Letter requesting services of a Parish  
Council Trustee – Chairman asked for a  
'Volunteer' to come forward to serve on  
this important Board. Notification to  
Clerk requested.

### 09.3 13 **Ward Matters**

#### a) **Bisley Ward**

**Pavilion** – Following approval of the Planning Application, a more formal 'Steering Group' would be set up to consider the way ahead and especially fund-raising opportunities. Two members of Bisley Ward would serve on this Group and a Representative from Bisley Blue Coat School would also be invited to participate, together with other co-opted members with expertise applicable to the Project.

Bus Shelter – Final clearance of utility services had been obtained and work on the shelter would proceed forthwith.

**b) Eastcombe Ward**

Eastcombe Ward had no issues to raise.

**c) Oakridge Ward**

Brush Cutter – The Ward Chairman announced that the Ward had purchased a ‘brush cutter’ for use by the handyman. The equipment would be securely housed at the Chairman’s residence.

09.3 14 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting followed by the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at Bisley Village Hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009 commencing at 7.00 pm. Councillors were asked to encourage attendance by parishioners.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.45 hours.