

MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2009 AT BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL

Present:	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

Three members of the public were present.

- 09.4 1. **Apologies for Absence**
There were no absences from the Meeting.
- 09.4 2. **Public Participation**
There was no participation from the three members of the public who attended the Meeting
- 09.4 3. **Declaration of Interests**
Mr S Trinder – a Trustee of The Ancient Parish of Bisley - declared an interest in the Chestergate Allotments - Item 09.4 8(i) of the Agenda.
- 09.4 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 March 2009 having been circulated to all councillors were approved and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.
- 09.4 5. **Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising from the previous Meeting.

09.4 6.

District Council Matters

District Councillor Mrs P Carrick reported to the Meeting on the following matters:

Traveller's Caravan – During recent months, a traveller's caravan had occupied a number of unauthorised public and private sites on land in the Parish. It was believed that following removal from the entrance to a public footpath on the Cheltenham Road, the caravan may now be in the Catswood area. District Councillor Mrs P Carrick advised that this issue was a Parish and not District Council matter and that there was little that the Parish could do other than to request that the County Council initiate court action to remove the caravan from the Parish. If it were to move outside of this Parish, it would simply become the problem of another Parish Council.

Cotswold Canals – A Chartered Engineer from Dursley had been appointed as the new Project Manager for the development of the Cotswold Canals and would take up post in a month's time.

09.4 7.

County Council Matters

County Councillor Mrs J Nash reported to the Meeting on the following matters:

County Roadworks – A new 'on-line' roadworks map is available at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roadworks. This map is updated 3 times daily and includes roadworks by the Highways Department, Utility Companies and other contractors.

Telephone Contact with County Highways – Shire Hall 'Contact Central' is no longer in use. Telephone calls using the 08000 514 514 number are now processed through a Centre at Imperial Gate in Gloucester, from where they are diverted to our Area Highways Office at Stroudwater Interchange. This is a great improvement because it now enables direct contact to be established with the managers responsible for the roads in the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish.

Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Lights – A trial is underway in Gloucester to convert the halogen traffic lights to new, energy-efficient LEDs. If successful all existing halogen traffic and pedestrian signal lights will be changed to LED over the next 2 years, thus reducing costs and carbon emissions. The new lights should last for 10 years, against the 9 months for those currently fitted.

Lorry Management Zone – The Vehicle Restriction Scheme to limit the movement of heavy goods vehicles in the Cotswold AONB will be introduced later this month, following agreement with the Highways Agency on the signage to be erected on the A417 road.

Winter/Snow Operations – County Highways will shortly engage with Parishes to agree future arrangements and responsibilities for

winter snow clearance operations. The arrangements are expected to confirm the use of volunteer Snow Wardens and Snow-Plough Operators.

Adult Care – Inflationary increases are imposed for non-residential services such as Day Care, Foot Care and Domiciliary Care.

Assessment is made of ‘ability to pay’, resulting in persons with savings in excess of £23,000.00 paying the maximum fee. In practice, some 50% of patients receive care free of charge.

A new Government Scheme – ‘Putting People First’ is designed to give people more choice in the Care Packages offered by Adult Care. In future, people will know how much money is available for their care and will have choice in the way it is spent to support their needs.

09.4 8 **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Annual Audit of Parish Accounts**

The Clerk informed Councillors that Notice to Commence Audit of the Parish Accounts had been received. Details would be placed on Parish Notice Boards and parishioners would be able to inspect the Parish Accounts by prior appointment with the Clerk during the period 30 April to 29 May 2009. In the meantime, the year-end accounts would be submitted to the Independent Internal Auditor for scrutiny and endorsement.

b) **Ratification of Appointments – Bisley Ward**

Subsequent to the election of new Councillors, the Meeting agreed the following appointments in Bisley Ward:

Allotments Warden – Ms L Greene.

Ex-Officio Snow Warden – Mr Ashley Dickinson.

Play Area Warden Recreation Ground – Mr P Bradley.

Play Area Warden Windyridge – Mr S Trinder.

Chair of Ward Planning Sub-Committee – Ms L Greene.

Traffic and Transport Representative – Mr P Thorp.

Footpaths/Snickets – Mr S Trinder.

Bin Warden – Mr P Bradley.

c) **Parish Office Progress Report**

The Chairman gave a resume of the current position regarding a Parish Office. The early option of an extension to the Village Hall at Bisley had all but ‘evaporated’ following the WI Village Hall Committee’s view that it may wish to consider such an extension for its own purposes.

An option within the All Saints Church at the South-West corner was a possibility and the Parochial Church Council were supportive of the proposal. There could be sufficient space to house a Parish Office and a small Meeting Room which would also be of benefit to the children’s Sunday School, for example. If this location was

considered feasible, a design concept would provide a basis for costings and architecturally, the facility could provide synergy at the rear of the church with the corner on the adjacent side which was developed to incorporate the toilets.

A further option now presented for consideration was a modern, pre-fabricated office, which could be used on a temporary or even more permanent basis. Whereas the rental of such a facility had previously been eliminated on the grounds of excessive cost, the outright purchase of such a facility might be possible from within existing funds, with the benefit of a re-sale value as and when it was no longer required. However, a site for this would need to be agreed and approved.

The Chair of Oakridge Ward advised that there were suitably-sized rental premises currently available in Bisley High Street, although the first-floor location and steep steps did not provide ideal access.

The Chair of Bisley Ward advised that a meeting had been held with Bisley Cricket Club to discuss proposals for Pavilion refurbishment. A number of options had been discussed, including demolition of the current Pavilion and re-building to Sport England Standards, with the possible inclusion of a Parish Office. However, the Club had expressed reluctance to support any proposal which would result in the loss of car-parking space and had even suggested a two-storey structure, which would blend in with the adjacent properties.

Given the variety of proposals that were currently 'on the table' it would be necessary to have a further meeting of the Steering Group to evaluate the options.

d) SDC 'Core Strategy – Cluster Group Meeting on 23 April 2009

The Clerk advised Councillors that SDC would give a Presentation on 23rd April at Whiteway Village Hall to the surrounding 'cluster' of Parishes on the proposals contained in the Core Strategy Document. The event would commence at 7.00 pm and available Councillors were encouraged to attend.

e) Mobile Speed Sign use in the Parish

Correspondence had been received from County Highways requesting that prior approval be sought before positioning the Mobile Speed Sign on roadsides in the Parish. Councillors who had served for a number of years said that the procedures for using the sign had been agreed with County Highways and the Police some time ago and that 'random' placement of the sign at key locations was an important element in deterring speeding drivers. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed with County Highways at the next monthly meeting with them on Monday 11th May.

f) Subscription to the National Allotments Association

The Clerk had obtained details of subscription to the National Allotments Association, which included the requirement for any Parish subscriber to become a nominal shareholder in the Association. It was agreed that the Parish should proceed with its application because of the considerable benefits that would accrue from membership.

g) Neighbourhood Warden

The Clerk was asked to re-open discussion with the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme and arrange for a representative to visit the Parish to determine the range of services that could be provided.

h) RoSPA Inspection of Play Areas

RoSPA will carry out inspections of all the play areas later in April. Play Area Wardens would be notified of the date and time and were asked to be present if possible.

i) Chestergate Allotments

Questions concerning the usage of the Chestergate Allotments Field had been put forward by the Trustees of the Ancient Parish of Bisley. In particular, the Trustees called for details of the income and expenditure arising from the Bisley Allotments and the Clerk was requested to provide this information. The Trustees had also formed the view that the allotments area was now encroaching on part of the field on which hay-cropping authorisation had been granted to a local farmer. Historically, it was believed by some Councillors that the entire field had at one time been given over to allotments and that over many years usage had gradually declined. The recent increase in the demand for allotments had led to more plots being allocated and the Council would need to carry out more in-depth investigation to establish what agreements exist in relation to usage of the field for allotment purposes. Finally, the Trustees had raised a question concerning the boundary between the field and the recent 'Little Close' development. The Council was not able to provide informed comment on this matter other than to say that SDC had granted authority to the developers to remove the previous dry stone wall and replace it with panel fencing. SDC Planning Department had visited the site and it was assumed that the boundary between Chestergate Field and 'Little Close' had been properly identified during the legal processes affecting the development.

09.4 9 **Finance**

Receipts March 2009

Bank Interest	£3.99
Oakridge School – Tennis Court	£200.00
'Little Acorns' – Gift for Play Equipment (O)	£1,425.77
Foundation for Sport/Arts – Tennis Court Grant	£2,000.00
Glos Environmental Trust - Tennis Court Grant	£3,755.00

Total Receipts **£7,384.76**

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

	£	VAT	Total
Robert Cole – Walls/Track Repairs (E)	2,250.00	337.50	2,587.50
D W Robbins – Repairs to Pavilion (O)	727.00		727.00
Mole's Services – Allotments (O)	150.00		150.00
Dobbies – Tennis Court Bench	221.65	37.35	259.00
All Round Services – Bus Shelter (B)	2,229.25		2,229.25
Timberline – 'Toddlers' Swing (O)	2000.00	300.00	2,300.00
Allianz Cornhill – Parish Insurances	2,288.76		2,288.76
Toshiba UK – Photocopier Rental	11.42	1.71	13.13
GAPTC – Annual Subscription	422.04		422.04
SDC – By-Election Costs	1,557.20		1,557.20
Ian Trueman – Maintenance (B)	202.50		202.50
Consortium – Printer Ink	38.65	5.81	44.46
JNC Fire – Pavilion Inspection (B)	34.50	5.18	39.68
Bryant Grounds Maintenance (O)	110.00		110.00
Cotswold Skip Hire – Allotments (B)	175.00		175.00
Amos Joinery – Tennis Notice Board	250.00	32.61	282.61
DJM Haulage – Basketball Court (B)	3,380.00	507.00	3,887.00
OVHT – Hall Hire	12.40		12.40
D J Elliott – Notice Board (B)	524.00		524.00
Mount Pleasant Trees – Tennis Court	399.60	59.94	459.54
BCCS – Disposal of Waste (NOMS)	15.00		15.00
Clerk – Salary for March 2009	755.28		755.28
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	340.15		340.15
NSALGL Ltd – Subscription	50.10	7.50	57.60
Clerk – Refund of Shoe Tag Cost	26.96	4.04	31.00
Totals	£18,171.46	£1,298.64	£19,470.10

Petty Cash Payments – March 2009 **£57.27**

Cash Balance as at 31 March 2009 **£20,802.19**

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 March 2009	£2,136.97
Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 March 2009-	£10,000.00
Parish Office Reserve as at 31 March 2009	£17,500.00
Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 31 March 2009	£3,300.00

09.4 10 **Planning**

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

Eastcombe Ward

S.9/0192/FUL – Lewisville Cottage, The Street, Eastcombe – Erection of two-storey extension and garden room – **Comment only** – We would like to point out that the address of this property is shown incorrectly on SDC documents. It is in fact in The Street and not in Dr Crouch's Road. The Parish Council is in discussions with SDC over this issue in order to differentiate between the two roads.

S.09/0295/FUL – Land at Middle Hill, Eastcombe – Construction of an agricultural building – **No Observations.**

09.4 11 **Correspondence**

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

GAPTC	Update Newsletter April 2009
Stroud District Council	Invitation to a Funding Information Event on 12 May 2009
'Carers' Gloucestershire	'Caring Matters' Magazine April 2009
Allotments Regeneration Association	Spring 2009 Magazine
Project Manager	'Today'Magazine April 2009

09.4 12 **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley Ward**

Road Safety – The Ward reported that a child had been hit by a car whilst crossing the road outside of Bisley Bluecoat School. This crossing point for children is hazardous because of restricted line of sight and narrowness of the road. A Child Safety Assessment Officer would visit the site to advise on what action was needed to improve safety at the crossing point.

b) Eastcombe Ward

Entrance to the Allotments/Scout Hut/Football Pitch – The Ward advised that it had received a recommendation from the Eastcombe Scouts to improve the road at the entrance gate to the site by laying a concreted area to prevent the road becoming potholed and damaged by turning vehicles. The view of the Ward was that, whilst this measure would be beneficial, the cost was likely to be beyond present budgetary resources and priorities.

c) Oakridge Ward

Copier for the Village Magazine – The Ward Chairman announced that future publication of the ‘What’s On’ Village Magazine had been narrowly saved by the purchase of a new copy-printer, following the demise of the previous one, and that this had only been achieved by a favourable, cost-price agreement with Abbey Business Equipment and a generous grant from the Gloucestershire Community Foundation for which the village was most grateful.

09.4 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Oakridge Village Hall on Wednesday 6 May 2009 commencing at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.15 hours.