

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2009 AT BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL

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

One member of the public was present.

- 09.7 1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs L Petch and District Councillor Mrs P Carrick.
- 09.7 2. **Public Participation**
There was no public participation at the Meeting.
- 09.7 3. **Declaration of Interests**
No declarations of interest were received.
- 09.7 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 June 2009 having been circulated to all councillors were approved and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.
- 09.7 5. **Matters Arising**
(a) **Advertisements for Local Events**
The Parish Council had received a policy document from County Highways concerning the placement of advertisements for local events on roadside verges and sign posts. It was not clear from the document where authority for the removal of unwanted or obstructive signs lay and it was hoped that a common-sense approach would be implemented where signs did not create any

hazard to road users. Signs for the main events held annually in villages normally occupied the same locations, none of which should 'fall foul' of the policy directives. To date, the Parish Council had not received any complaints about the removal of signs, but would monitor the situation and take action if required.

Ethical Investment

The Clerk was asked to present recommendations to the August Meeting for the investment of parish funds with an Ethical Bank.

09.7 6. **District Council Matters**

In the absence of District Councillor Mrs P Carrick, no District matters were discussed.

09.7 7. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor Mrs J Nash advised the Meeting that she was most pleased to be re-elected as our County Councillor for another four years and would continue to do her best to serve the Parish. The Parish Council congratulated County Councillor Mrs J Nash on her noteworthy success in the recent Elections and said that it looked forward very much to working with her over the coming years.

County Councillor Mrs J Nash then reported to the Meeting the following matters;

Funding – There was considerable financial pressure on the County, which will not improve over the next few years. There will have to be a cut in jobs this year of about 200, with another 300 plus in the next two years. These cuts will be in administrative and managerial posts and not in front line posts.

Fire Station Webcams - Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud Fire Stations now had live link-ups to their website, so people could watch events at these Stations. There was also a link to the Met Office for real-time weather warnings. The website for Stroud Fire Station is www.glosfire.gov.uk/stroudcam.html

RON Registration on line - Since 29 June, Gloucestershire had joined the General Register Office new national computer system for the registration of births and deaths.. The Registrar would now place all this information on the national web-based system, and a certificate for the birth or death of an individual would continue to be issued.

Trading Standards Service - Residents of Gloucestershire were saved over £2 million through measures to tackle unfair trading practices. Actions had been taken against traders providing goods and services without reasonable care and skills and employing misleading claims, aggressive selling or unfair contract terms. This service helps to protect consumers and ensures that businesses can compete fairly.

Concessionary Bus Travel - Public Transport is a County responsibility but the concessionary bus travel scheme is administered by the six District Councils. A £15 million agreement has been finalised between the District councils and Stagecoach West, up to 31 March 2011. Government money is given directly to District Councils and in the past each District received a different amount of money. Now, the Districts and Stagecoach are working together and this longer term approach should provide more stability and certainty.

Highways Drainage Mapping - Department of Transport has given £320,000 to County Council to survey drainage assets in flooding hotspots to confirm condition of the drainage and what repairs are needed. Together with some money received earlier in the year, this will now amount to just over £500,000 for a map which will be vital in the future fight against flooding.

Lorry Management Zone - The results of the Cotswolds AONB Lorry Management Zone are continuing to be monitored. Reminder of contacts www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/lorry or Telephone 08000 514514

Dementia Care Services - Due to the growing number of people diagnosed with dementia - 8000 in Gloucestershire and likely to increase to 12,000 by 2025 - the Dementia Care Steering Group is planning to reach out to as many people as possible who are suffering from dementia, their carers and families. Gloucestershire County Council, NHS Gloucestershire and Together NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with The Citizen and Gloucestershire Echo will be running a series of articles and advertisements to raise awareness and inform people of what services are available.

Equality Bill - This bill is going through Parliament and will place many more responsibilities on all Employers, including the County Council. The Council currently has specific duties under Disability, Gender and Race equality legislation, this will in future extend to cover Age, Gender Recognition, Sexual Orientation and Religion or Belief.. Public bodies will also have a further duty to “consider what they can do to reduce socio-economic inequality”. It was observed by Councillors that the Parish Council would need to recognize the implications of this legislation.

County Councillor Mrs J Nash advised the Meeting that she was no longer a Cabinet Member. In future, her areas of responsibility would be the Commons and Rights of Way Committee and the Council Representative on the County Adoption Panel, which are both areas of special interest and concern. She added she hoped this change would give her more time to look at the issues of the residents in the thirteen villages in her area of responsibility.

During ensuing questions, County Councillor Mrs J Nash was requested to investigate the following issues and report findings to the Parish Council:

Bisley Blue Coat School – There was now ‘overcrowding’ at the School which continued to work from inadequate accommodation, some of which was in poor condition. Planning to improve the accommodation had been approved but was long-outstanding. An update on progress with this work was required.

Compulsory Purchase of Land – Direction was sought on the procedure the Parish Council could invoke under the Sustainable Communities Act, should it wish to consider compulsory purchase of land in the Parish.

Cavity Wall Insulation Grants – There appeared to be a lack of information available to residents of the qualification required to benefit from the Government-assisted cavity wall insulation scheme. There was also an apparent ‘disconnect’ between this and other schemes available such as ‘Warm and Well’.

Clarification of the qualifying procedures was requested.

Biodiversity and Climate Change – the Parish Council requested an update on the progress made by County Council towards meeting its biodiversity and climate change action plan targets.

09.7 8. **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Neighbourhood Warden Scheme**

The Parish Council instructed the Clerk to arrange with the Community Safety Neighbourhood Warden Scheme to commence a 3-month free trial as soon as possible. This would be timely because of recent incidents of anti-social behaviour and it was considered that the prominent markings on the wardens’ vehicles would serve as a visual indicator to residents that a ‘close eye’ was being kept on events in the Parish. An entry in Parish Magazines was agreed to promote this initiative.

b) **£137 Donation to the ‘Wiggly Worm’ Summer Cooking School**

The Chair of Oakridge Ward and the Clerk had met with the Organiser of the Summer Cookery School and Councillors were given a written summary of the meeting. The event would be held during August and it was already fully subscribed, with 60 youngsters taking part. The total cost of the event would be around £1800.00, of which one-third would be recovered from participants. Given the likely success of this ‘pilot trial’, the Organiser envisaged further similar events in the Parish in the future. A donation towards the cost of the Summer Cookery School was requested. Councillors agreed that support of events which benefited the youth of the community was a policy of the Parish and after some discussion it was proposed by the Chair of Oakridge

Ward that a sum of £300.00 be awarded under Section 137 of the Local Government Act. This was seconded by the Chair of Bisley Ward and carried unanimously.

c) Public Liability Insurance Claim

The Chairman advised Councillors that a Public Liability Insurance Claim had been served on the Parish Council following an alleged injury sustained by a parishioner at the Oakridge Recreation Ground in April 2006. This claim had been forwarded to the Allianz Cornhill Insurance Company which had agreed to deal with the matter on behalf of the Parish Council.

d) Meeting with Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) to discuss Local Housing Needs

GRCC intended to carry out a Local Housing Needs Survey in the Parish and requested an opportunity to discuss with the Parish Council how the survey would be carried out. The aim of the project would be to identify affordable housing needs and to work with Stroud District Council and a locally-based Housing Association to meet housing requirements. It was pointed out that similar surveys had been conducted in the past and that local housing needs had been identified as an important issue in the development of the Village Design Statement currently being produced by the Parish.

A broad-based discussion ensued about the allocation of Council Tax collected on second homes in the Parish and on the perceived negative effect such homes had on the availability of housing in the community. It was also pointed out that it was the availability of land for affordable homes rather than a willingness to build which was the main problem.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would welcome a discussion with GRCC on this issue and the Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting.

e) Parish Office Update

The Chairman provided Councillors with a written update on progress to obtain 'dedicated' Parish Office facilities. This matter had been under discussion for some 3 years, during which a number of options had been considered. All of these required considerable capital investment by the Parish and some would require additional grant support from outside organisations. Moreover, the need for 'dedicated' facilities was pressing, whereas some of the options under consideration would not provide an early solution.

Recently, a further possible option came to attention which would involve the part-time use of a room within the Methodist Church in Bisley. The accommodation would comprise a good-sized office room, with adjacent kitchen and toilet facilities. This part of the building had an entrance separate from the main Church and was essentially self-contained. The Parish Office Steering Group had met with representatives from the Methodist Church to discuss the feasibility of housing a Parish Office within this area, with very positive results.

The principal advantages to this proposal would be early access and very limited capital outlay. Whilst there would be a limitation placed on the amount of office equipment which could be reasonably housed in the premises, it was not considered that this would impact adversely on occupation of the premises. Additional matters such as Health and Safety, Insurance and Security of Tenure would need to be considered and agreed, but there did not appear to any insurmountable obstacles to be overcome.

Whilst this opportunity offered a cost-effective and more immediate solution to the provision of 'dedicated' office facilities, the Chairman added that this did not preclude continuing the consideration of alternative, preferably parish-owned facilities for the longer term. Councillors agreed that the proposal to utilise a portion of the Methodist Church was most attractive and authorised the Steering Group to continue its discussions with representatives of the Church.

09.7 9. **Finance**

Receipts June 2009

Bank Interest	£2.50
Allotment Rent	£164 00
Tennis Court Subscriptions	£60.00
Total Receipts	£226.50

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

	£	VAT	Total
Cheltenham Insurance – Pavilion (E)	698.98		698.98
Toshiba UK – Office Copier	19.87	2.98	22.85
Cotswold Skip Hire – Bisley Allotments	170.00		170.00
T W Hawkins – Grass-cutting	1,500.00	225.00	1,725.00
C P Jeffries – Oakridge Pavilion	4,951.70	742.76	5,694.46
N M Newman – Oakridge Pavilion	360.00		360.00
Mole's Services – Burial Ground (O)	250.00		250.00
Ian Trueman – Handyman Services	322.50		322.50
D Richards – Handyman Services	228.00		228.00
CPRE – Annual Subscription	29.00		29.00
H Brown – Water Connection Repair (O)	40.00		40.00
Clerk – Salary June 2009	736.18		736.18
HM Revenue & Customs (Tax/NI)	320.77		320.77
D Kaspar Consultancy (O)	50.00		50.00
Clerk – Refund Key-cutting (B)	40.00		40.00
T Bryant – Handyman Services (O)	280.00		280.00
D Holbrow – Handyman Services (E)	101.12	1.37	102.49
Totals	£10,098.12	£972.11	£11,070.23

Petty Cash Payments – June 2009	£76.63
Cash Balance as at 30 June 2009	£26,470.66
Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 30 June 2009	£2,137.34
Westbury Gift Balance as at 30 June 2009-	£10,000.00
Parish Office Reserve as at 30 June 2009	£17,000.00
Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 30 June 2009	£5,000.00

09.7 10. **Planning**

The following Planning Applications have been received during the past month and the Planning Sub-Committee’s response is recorded.

Bisley Ward

S.09/0813/LBC – Bisley Bluecoat Primary School, School Road, Bisley – Erection of first-floor structure and conservation roof-lights to existing roof – **No Observations.**

09.7 11. **Correspondence**

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

CPRE	Annual Report 2008-2009
GAPTC	Parish and Town Council ‘Update’ June 2009
Charity Commission	Summer 2009 News
Stroud District Council	Code of Conduct Training Courses 29/7/09 and 15/9/09
Stroud District Council	Flood Prevention Measures – Sand-less Sandbags

The Chairman advised Councillors that he had received a joint-letter of complaint from a small number of residents concerning a village event. Whilst a good deal of the content of the letter was inaccurate, mention was made of Parish Council agreement for the use of Parish-owned land, when no such arrangement had been discussed by the Parish Council or the relevant Ward. The Chairman asked Councillors to be mindful in future of the need to obtain the endorsement of the Council, before granting permission for the use of Parish-owned property.

09.7 12. **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley Ward**

The Chair of Bisley Ward reported the following matters:

No Calling Zone – A ‘No Cold-Calling’ Zone had been introduced in the Windyridge development.

Stancombe – Gloucestershire Highways have agreed to introduce a series of measures designed to slow traffic passing through Stancombe. Whilst a 30 mph limit in this area is the preferred option, local residents are satisfied that the measures proposed should go some way towards addressing the problem of speeding traffic.

Grit Bins – The Ward had decided to obtain basic plastic grit bins from Gloucestershire Highways because the alternative re-cycled plastic bins are too expensive to purchase.

Allotments AGM – The Allotments AGM would be held on 25 July 2009.

b) **Eastcombe Ward**

Eastcombe Ward had no matters to report.

c) **Oakridge Ward**

The Chair of Oakridge Ward recommended that a copy of the ‘First Steps to Allotment Gardening’ Leaflet issued by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners should be issued to all new allotment holders. The Clerk would distribute copies to Allotments Wardens, with a copy to the Parish Website.

09.7 13. **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Oakridge Village Hall on Wednesday 5 August 2009 commencing at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2130hours.