

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 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	}	Eastcombe Ward
	Mr D Hunt	}	
	Mr R N Budgeon	}	Oakridge Ward
	Mr N Holliday	}	
	Mr G Newton	}	
	Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

In attendance: County Councillor Mrs J Nash

No members of the public were present.

09.10 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mr P Dawes, Mrs V Nairn and Mrs L Petch.

09.10 2. **Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were received.

09.10 3. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation at the Meeting.

09.10 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 September 2009 having been circulated to all councillors were approved and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

09.10 5. **Matters Arising**

(a) **Neighbourhood Warden Scheme**

The Chairman welcomed Neighbourhood Warden Andy Murray and Community Police Officer Hazel Pearson to the Meeting. Both had attended to introduce themselves to Councillors and to deliver a brief resume of their respective roles. It was already clear that the close liaison between Neighbourhood Wardens and Community Policing was beneficial in dealing with incidents arising in the Parish, as evidenced by the recent investigation into vandalism at

the Windyridge Play Ground. Although the presence of a Neighbourhood Warden in the Parish was still in its 3-month trial period, the merits of employing a Warden into the longer term were apparent. Councillors expressed their appreciation for the valuable work being carried out by Andy Murray and Hazel Pearson.

(b) Parish Office

The Chairman said that the latest communication received from the Methodist Church had not yielded any positive progress in utilising the Meeting Room at the Methodist Church in Bisley as a Parish Office. However, the project remained under consideration at the Property Department of the Church and it was hoped that more encouraging news would be forthcoming in due course.

(c) Recruitment of a Parish Clerk

The present Clerk reported that five expressions of interest had been received for the post of Clerk, but that none of these had progressed to an application for the appointment. Advertising the vacancy would continue and be extended to include Village Magazines and Newsletters.

09.10 6. **District Council Matters**

District Councillor Mrs P Carrick was not present at the Meeting and no District matters were reported.

09.10 7. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor Mrs J Nash reported the following information to the Meeting:

External Funding and Grants - Following the initiative instigated by Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council, there is now an officer at Shire Hall who gives advice and information on external funding - Clarisse Forgues, Chief Executive Support Unit. Tel. 01452 426094, email 'clarisse.forgues@gloucestershire.gov.uk'.

Waste Core Strategy - Consultation takes place from 5th October to 30th November on the 13 sites put forward to be included in the Waste Core Strategy 2011 to 2026. This is a planning process, required by Government, to identify sites which are suitable for dealing with waste. The 13 sites are identified from a list of more than 300 sites using criteria which includes transport links and prevention of flooding. There are no sites in this Division and the nearest are Javelin Park Haresfield, Quadrant Business Centre Quedgeley, Land at Moreton Valence and Nastend Farm Stonehouse. A copy of the consultation questionnaire can be obtained from www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/wcs or from District Council Offices or Libraries.

Food Waste - Gloucestershire is joining the South West regional "Love Food Hate Waste" campaign for four weeks beginning 12th October 2009. A number of events will take place to encourage

residents to take more care in reducing waste of food. Food is one of the worst forms of waste to be buried underground, because it decomposes and releases methane gas. It also puts additional pressure on County Council finances in higher Landfill Tax payments. The Chair of Bisley Ward advised that an event to promote the Campaign would be held in Bisley on 31st October 2009, to include food stalls selling local produce.

Local Speed Limit Review – The County Council Road Safety Department is currently reviewing the speed limits on all Gloucestershire's A and B roads, with the aim of standardizing speed limits countywide. For urban areas the standard speed limit remains at 30 mph. The review is expected to finish by 2011 when a speed survey database will be produced. During the next quarter, Road Safety will begin to run reports and identify speed limit areas of concern. This will be followed by meetings with Stakeholder Managers for decisions regarding changes to speed limits by the start of 2010.

Highway Safety Inspection Policy (Potholes) - A new inspection regime will mean that most repairs will be scheduled into a rolling 28-day programme, to ensure that defects are permanently repaired on the first visit rather than just temporarily 'patched'. Emergency 24-hour repairs will still take place for more serious problems. The reporting number for potholes remains 08000 514514.

Libraries - Gloucester and Stroud Libraries are amongst the 12 busiest libraries in the County and will soon have self-service facilities. This should improve customer service and make revenue savings. Work is about to begin at Gloucester to move the music and drama library from Greyfriars to the main library.

Coroners Service - The Cabinet has approved plans for a new Coroners Court Complex. The plan is to build a new Mortuary and Coroners Court on land by the Walls Roundabout, Barnwood, Gloucester, at a cost of £4.5M. Annually, there are about 200 deaths reported to Gloucestershire Coroner and around 1250 post mortem examinations are carried out. There are also approximately 325 Inquests each year at the Coroners Court. This new complex will bring together the Mortuary and post mortem area, and the Coroners Court. The new building will provide better environment and facilities for bereaved relatives and make a more dignified and comfortable experience at a difficult time for families.

Swindon to Kemble Rail Link - In answer to a letter send by County Council to the Department of Transport, it seemed evident that funds had yet to be allocated to improve the railway link between Swindon and Kemble and that the current budget for railway improvements was fully committed up to March 2014.

09.10 8. **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Parish Precept 2010/2011**

The Clerk presented Councillors with a first assessment of the Administration Precept requirements for the next Financial Year. These would be discussed in greater detail at a forthcoming meeting of the Finance Management Sub-Committee, during which the assessed precept requirements for each of the three Wards would also be considered. Recommendations on the overall precept requirement would be presented before the November Parish Council Meeting, with a final decision to be made in December.

b) **Grass-Cutting Contract for Recreation Grounds**

Complaints had been received from some residents in Bisley Ward about the poor quality of grass-cutting at the King George V Playing Field. Concerns had also been raised about the presence of unsupervised youngsters on the Field whilst the mowing was carried out, including the enclosed playground area.

As far as the quality and frequency of grass-cutting was concerned, both Oakridge and Eastcombe Wards said that they had not received any similar complaints and that the local Cricket Teams, as main users of the Recreation Grounds, were most content with the work of the current contractor.

The presence of youngsters was clearly a Health & Safety concern and the Chair of Bisley Ward agreed to produce a draft letter to raise this issue with the contractor.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Grass-Cutting Contract was due for renewal before the next season and that more detailed instructions concerning Health & Safety would be issued to prospective contractors when new tenders were sought.

c) **Energy, Sustainability and Waste**

Councillors were advised of the many grants now available to parishioners and communities and some illustrations of the type of grants claimable were given. These ranged from 'cash-back' on relatively low-cost purchases to major low carbon community schemes. The main problem facing both parishes and communities was knowledge of and access to the wide-ranging assistance available. It was agreed that a long-term strategic view was required for future energy generation and the parishes had an important role to play, particularly in the development of sustainable communities where significant financial benefits could accrue to parishioners from 'localised' power generation.

However, in order to progress such an initiative it would be important to have positive commitment from the community and this would only be achievable if a coherent and persuasive case could be prepared for consultation.

Councillors considered that a joint venture with perhaps one or two other parishes would be beneficial in terms of ideas, workload and expertise and it was mentioned that Severn Wye Energy would be prepared to act as 'facilitators' to a working group engaged on such a venture. Some interest in participating had been expressed by neighbouring parishes.

It was agreed that four Councillors would form an initial study group to consider the proposal and report in due course to the Parish Council.

d) **Village Design Statement – Progress/Consultation**

Following completion of consultation with the community on the Guidelines and Draft Village Design Statement, a welcome number of comments had been received from members of the public. These are being reviewed by the Steering Group and a document that captures the collated views of the public and the responses of the Steering Group arising from them will be produced. The general comments on the Report itself will be considered during forthcoming updates of the document.

e) **'NOMS' Working Parties**

The Clerk advised Councillors that a letter had been received from Leyhill Prison asking for bids to be lodged for 'NOMS' Working Parties in 2010. Use of this Scheme had proved most beneficial and cost-effective to the Parish earlier this year and Councillors were enthusiastic to continue participation. The Chairman asked Wards to notify the Clerk as soon as possible of tasks they would wish to be included in a bid for working parties in 2010.

f) **Gloucestershire Homeseeker – Property Newsletter**

A request had been received from SDC for the Parish Council to provide a location where a Weekly Newsletter advertising available properties to social housing applicants could be placed. The Clerk advised that village Post Offices had been approached to provide a similar facility. Councillors considered that the Parish Council did not presently have the facilities to provide a central information point in Parish which homeseekers could visit to gain a weekly update on available properties. This could change if the Parish obtained 'dedicated' office premises.

09.10 9. **Finance**

Receipts September 2009

Bank Interest	£1.96
Total Receipts	£1.96

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

	£	VAT	Total
T W Hawkins – Grass Cutting	750.00	112.50	862.50
Keith Angus – Pavilion Architect (B)	3,000.00		3,000.00
D Richards – Handyman Bisley	230.00		230.00
GPFA – Annual Subscription	50.00		50.00
Chalford PC – Path Clearance (E)	42.00		42.00
Godwin Jetting – Drain Clearance (O)	300.00	45.00	345.00
Mole’s Services – Tennis Court/Burial Ground (O)	410.00		410.00
Toshiba UK – Photocopier	13.02	1.95	14.97
Oakridge VHT – Hall Hire	15.20		15.20
D Holbrow – Handyman Eastcombe	160.00		160.00
Amos Joinery – Noticeboard Oakridge	245.00	36.75	281.75
ST Water – Eastcombe Allotments	17.92		17.92
ST Water – Oakridge Allotments	33.14		33.14
ST Water – Bisley Allotments	41.52		41.52
Clerk Salary – September 2009	775.92		775.92
HMRC – Tax/NI	347.93		347.93
SDC – Dog Bin Emptying	68.16	10.22	78.38
T Bryant – Handyman Oakridge	50.00		50.00
I Trueman – Handyman Eastcombe	90.00		90.00
Oakridge VHT – Hall Hire	7.70		7.70
I Trueman – Handyman Bisley	337.50		337.50
Totals	£6,985.01	£206.42	£7,191.43

Petty Cash Payments – September 2009 **£68.92**

Cash Balance as at 30 September 2009 **£12,068.65**

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 30 September 2009 **£2,137.61**

Westbury Gift Balance as at 30 September 2009- **£10,000.00**

Parish Office Reserve as at 30 September 2009 **£17,000.00**

Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 30 September 2009 **£5,051.00**

09.10 10. **Planning**

No Planning Applications were considered by the Parish Council during the past month.

09.10 11. **Correspondence**

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

Gloucestershire Police Authority	Annual Report & Chief Constable's Annual Report
CPRE	Fieldwork Magazine September 2009
Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau	Annual Report
Great Western Ambulance Service	Annual Review
Clerk & Councils Direct	September 2009 Magazine
SDC	SDC News – Autumn 2009

09.10 12. **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley Ward**

Windyridge Playground –It was with regret that the Chair of Bisley Ward advised of vandalism at the Windyridge Playground, whereby some 20 'rubberised' safety mats had been prised from the concrete surface below. The matter had been reported to the Police and enquiries were underway. The equipment providers – Proludic – had inspected and photographed the damage and an assessment of repair cost was awaited. In the meantime, the Parish Council had been forced to close the Playground in the interests of Health and Safety. It was expected that repairs would be expensive and play areas are excluded from Parish Insurance Policies. Bisley Ward advised that it might be necessary to seek assistance from Reserve Funds to cover costs beyond the scope of the Ward Precept.

'Message in a Bottle' – Details had been received of a free 'Message in a Bottle' Scheme which would enable elderly and vulnerable residents to provide helpers with personal and medical details in the event of an emergency. Details of where to find the 'bottle' would be available to helpers dealing with an emergency situation. It was agreed that this very worthwhile Scheme should be publicized widely within the Parish and it was suggested that Youth Organisations such as the Beavers and Scouts could assist in bring the information to the attention of the elderly.

Youth Council – Bisley Ward intended to pursue an initiative to establish a Youth Council within the village, whereby youngsters would have the opportunity to express their views and concerns in a more formal setting.

b) **Eastcombe Ward**

Eastcombe Ward had no specific matters to report that were not covered elsewhere in the Meeting.

c) **Oakridge Ward**

Gritting at Oakridge School – The Ward advised that a further approach to Gloucestershire Highways to include the road leading down to Oakridge School on the winter gritting schedule had again been rejected. Gloucestershire Highways considered that a gritting vehicle would be unable to turn safely outside the school and that, without two personnel on-board, reversing was not authorized. The School was carrying out a risk assessment of the hazards posed to children and parents by the exclusion of this road from winter gritting and intended to present findings to Gloucestershire Highways in an attempt to have the decision changed.

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

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Oakridge Village Hall Wednesday 4 November 2009 commencing at 7.30 pm.

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