

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2009 AT OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

Present:	Mr P Thorp		Chairman
	Mr P Bradley	}	Bisley Ward
	Mr S Trinder	}	
	Mr R K Brooks	}	Eastcombe Ward
	Mr D Hunt	}	
	Mrs V Nairn	}	
	Mrs L Petch	}	
	Mr R N Budgeon	}	Oakridge Ward
	Mr G Newton	}	
	Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

In attendance: County Councillor Mrs J Nash

One member of the public was present.

- 09.11 1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms L Greene, Mr P Dawes and Mr N Holliday.
- 09.11 2. **Declaration of Interests**
No declarations of interest were received.
- 09.11 3. **Public Participation**
Mr R Utley raised queries concerning the proposed new-build Pavilion at King George V Playing field at Bisley. He had noted from the plans submitted for approval at SDC that the new building would have two floors, with provision for a lift to be installed. He expressed concern that at the outset, the installation of a lift would be an expensive addition to the premises and that thereafter, considerable running costs could be incurred. In particular, he highlighted the need for regular inspections, maintenance (both routine and unscheduled) and safety and compliance with regulations. Mr Utley was advised that these issues had been discussed with the architect during the preparation of the plans and that the design of the building allowed for this option to be deleted if it proved too costly.
Mr Utley also questioned the merits of installing a bio-mass boiler to provide for the heating needs of the new Pavilion. In particular, he

considered that frequent 'manual intervention' would be needed to keep the boiler loaded with fuel and for removal of ash. Whilst it was agreed that a bio-mass boiler would be more labour intensive than some other options, this should be limited to the replenishment of 'pellets' every 4 or 5 days in normal conditions and occasionally each day if the outside temperature falls below -5 degrees Celsius. Because the system produced almost total combustion of fuel, very infrequent removal of ash would be required.

Mr Utley noted that the Severn Wye Energy Consultation carried out in 2008 had discounted the installation of ground source heating on the basis that the ground conditions were unsuitable for the installation of a horizontal loop collector. The consultants' report, however, had not considered the use of a vertical collector extending down into the water table even though the pavilion site was particularly suitable for installation of such a collector. Mr Utley stated that it was generally accepted in the heating industry that ground source heat pumps represent the most energy-efficient means of heating currently available and he believed that Severn Wye Energy had been wrong to dismiss it as an option.

Mr Utley was assured that the Parish Council would continue to work with Severn Wye Energy to refine the proposals for heat provision and to seek the most cost-effective outcome.

09.11 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 October 2009 having been circulated to all councillors were approved and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

09.11 5. **Matters Arising**

(a) Swindon to Kemble Rail Link

County Councillor Mr J Nash advised the Meeting that the removal of the Westbury By-pass from the Government's transport programme could result in the transfer of monies to fund the proposed enhanced rail-link between Swindon and Kemble.

(b) Food Waste

An event to support of the South-West Region's recent 'Love food Hate Waste' campaign had been held in Bisley on 31 October 2009. It had attracted much interest, including the most welcome attendance of David Drew MP. The Chairman expressed his appreciation to Ms L Greene – Chair of Bisley Ward – who had masterminded the event.

09.11 6. **District Council Matters**

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

09.11 7. **County Council Matters**

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

W S Atkins Contract – The Gloucestershire Highways contract for roads maintenance in the County has been re-awarded to W S Atkins for a further three years - until 2014.

County Council Budget - Work is progressing across the Council to balance budgets for future years. A total of £60 million has to be cut over the next three years. Improved training for budget holders ran throughout the summer months and a new approach to business planning and reporting is being 'trialled' this autumn. This is a testing time for all departments in the County Council.

Library charges - Some Library Fees will increase and some charges will be removed, with effect from 2 November 2009. Overdue charges for Adults will increase from 12p to 15p per day, but for children there will be no charge for the first week overdue and thereafter the cost will be 10p per week. Online reserve items will be free, and the overnight hire charges for DVD and computer games will increase from £1.00 to £1.50, but the weekly charge will remain the same at £3.00. Borrowed items can be renewed online or by phone, 24hours a day, 7days a week.

The Summer Reading Challenge - This was a great success with children throughout the County. More than 11,300 children took part in the challenge and 70% read six books and made at least three visits to a library during the summer holidays. These children were presented with a certificate and a medal to mark their achievement.

Waste Core Strategy - There is still an opportunity to view displays and talk to officers about the 13 sites in question and possible uses for them. The venues arranged for 'open sessions' are at Hardwicke on 9 November, Quedgeley on 18 November and Gloucester on 21 November.

Future Road Works in the Area – The A46 at Coopers Hill, work to infill voids on the verge and for maintenance to the safety barrier will commence on 30 November 2009 and last for two weeks.

Single-way traffic control will be in place during this period. The main work on the A46, to deal with the landslip, will begin in May 2010 and is expected to take six months. During this time efforts will be made to keep single way traffic moving if possible, but there may be times when the road will have to be closed due to extensive piling work.

Gas Main Replacement – Extensive work to replace mains gas pipes in the Painswick area will commence in January 2010 and is

scheduled to last for nineteen weeks. During this time it is envisaged that there could be a complete closure of the A46 road to the north of Painswick for up to 5 weeks.

09.11 8. **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Parish Precept 2010/2011**

The Finance Management Sub-Committee met on 28 October 2009 to consider the Parish Precept for FY 2010/2011. Given the current economic backdrop, the Committee considered that its remit should be to keep any increase in the overall precept to the minimum required to maintain adequate services, whilst at the same time ensuring that provision was made for essential capital expenditure work on existing assets. In May 2010, quadrennial elections for the full Parish Council would take place. The cost of these elections falls to the Parish Council and could range from a few hundred pounds to in excess of £3000.00, dependent upon the degree of contest in each Ward. The Committee considered that a sum of £1,500.00 should be contained in precept on the basis that contests would not necessarily arise in all Wards. It was also anticipated that the costs of insurance and recreation ground maintenance would rise and that a further provision of £300.00 would need to be made for the services of the Neighbourhood Warden, whose value to the Parish was clearly evident from the free 3-month trial period.

During the Committee's discussions both Bisley and Eastcombe Wards said that they would not seek any increase in their budgets for 2010/2011. It was further agreed that that the sum set aside each year for major capital projects would be reduced by £1,000.00, thus enabling the Admin budget to remain at the current figure. However, in Oakridge Ward, the costs of the on-going refurbishment of the Pavilion had placed a severe strain on the current year's budget and further refurbishment was scheduled for 2010/2011. The Ward sought to raise its precept from £8,040.00 to £8,450.00 to accommodate some additional costs.

The net effect of the Finance Management Sub-Committee's deliberations would be to increase the overall precept of the Parish for 2010/2011 by £410.00 or 0.78%. Councillors were asked to consider the recommendations of the Committee, with a final decision to be taken at the December Meeting of the Parish Council.

b) **Payments under Section 137 of the Local Government Act**
Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises Parish Councils to make donations annually to charities and organisations which are considered to be beneficial to the interests of parishioners. Following recommendation by the Finance Management Sub-

Committee the Parish Council approved the following donations for payment:

Bisley All Saints Church	£500.00
St Bartholomews Closed Churchyard	£900.00
The Frith Youth Club	£775.00
Cotswold Air Ambulance	£100.00
Cotswold Care Hospice	£150.00
Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau	£150.00
Stroud Victim Support Group	£50.00
WRVS	£50.00
Stroud Volunteer Centre	£50.00
The Bisley News	£100.00
'Whats On' Oakridge Newsletter	£100.00
Eastcombe Village Newsletter	£100.00
The Royal British Legion	£75.00
The Eastcombe Scouts and Guides	<u>£50.00</u>
Total	<u>£3,150.00</u>

c) Village Design Statement Update

The draft Guidelines of the Village Design Statement have now been reviewed in the light of feedback from recent Public Consultation events, comments received from Stroud District Council and some additional interpretations from the Steering Group.

It was decided that the final Public Consultation event would be delayed from November 2009 to January 2010, in order to ensure that a good-quality draft document will be available on the Parish website when the consultation is carried out. In this way, Parishioners will have the opportunity of looking in detail at what has been produced, when asked to record whether they support or reject each Guideline.

d) Adoption of Telephone

In 2008, the Parish Council had been invited to 'adopt' the telephone kiosk in Oakridge Lynch which had been earmarked by BT for removal. Following consultation in the village, it had been decided that adoption of the kiosk would place unwelcome additional costs on the Parish to maintain a facility which was very seldom used by parishioners or visitors – 37 calls placed in a 12-month period. The Parish Council advised BT that it did not wish this long-term cost commitment.

Further correspondence had now been received from BT inviting the Parish to 'adopt' not only the kiosk in Oakridge which had previously been rejected, but also the kiosk in George Street, Bisley. It was stated by BT that the Bisley kiosk had been used on 170 occasions during the latest 12-month period.

The Parish Council was most concerned that the Bisley kiosk had been offered for adoption before any opportunity had been given to the Parish to submit a case for its retention as a functioning facility. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to BT to express the concern of the Parish Council to any prospective de-activation of the kiosk in Bisley and to submit a case for its on-going retention.

09.11 9. **Finance**

Receipts October 2009

Precept for half-year to 31 March 2010	£26,425.00
Bank Interest	£2.10
Allotment Rents	£237.50
Tennis Court Memberships	£30.00
Cricket Club Fees - Oakridge Village Hall Trust	<u>£125.00</u>

Total Receipts **£26,819.60**

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

	£	VAT	Total
Stroud District Council – Planning Fee (B)	837.50		837.50
N Power – Bisley Pavilion	216.93	10.85	227.78
CIX Online Ltd – Webserver	67.44	10.12	77.56
JNC Fire Protection – Oakridge Pavilion	20.75	3.11	23.86
Clerk – Salary for October 2009	742.97		742.97
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	325.13		325.13
T Bryant – Oakridge Allotments	36.60		36.60
T Brown – Grass-cutting - Eastcombe	125.00		125.00
Totals	£2,372.32	£24.08	£2,396.40

Petty Cash Payments – October 2009 **£62.87**

Cash Balance as at 31 October 2009 **£31,303.95**

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 October 2009 **£2,137.70**
Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 October 2009- **£10,000.00**
Parish Office Reserve as at 31 October 2009 **£17,000.00**
Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 31 October 2009 **£1,213.50**
Capital Projects Reserve as at 31 October 2009 **£3,250.00**

09.11 10. **Planning**

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

Bisley Ward

S.09/1807/FUL – Priests Hollow, Calfway Farm, Bisley – Erection of dwelling – **Support/Comment** – If permission is granted, please ensure that the applicant takes care during construction with building traffic for the well-being of neighbours along Calfway Lane.

Oakridge Ward

S.09/1208/FUL – Hillcroft, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of one dwelling (Revision of plans received on 22/9/09 – **Comment Only** – We considered the original pre-appeal application too tall and dominating visually – we would not consider anything that might further exacerbate this opinion. We understand the District's position with this application and whilst we do not support the principle of this dominating visual appearance, we think that the present proposal is consistent with the appeal result.

With the 'wooden shed-like' cladding on the south-facing wing removed and the building finished in stone the same as the rest of the building, this seems architecturally more consistent.

We do support moving the garage lower down the site – this removes the need for access and vehicle movements higher on the bank. It takes away the vehicle movements from behind the existing dwelling line.

The roof lights on the north-facing roof elevation might cause loss of privacy to this dwelling and the one to the north, unless placed very high near the ridge.

S.09/1652/FUL & S.09/1668/FUL – Lyday Close, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of dwelling and associated garaging – **Support/Comment** – We see no reason to refuse this application. However, clarity on where this and other recent applications will take the property would be of benefit.

09.11 11. **Correspondence**

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

CPRE

Countryside Voice' Magazine
Autumn 2009

GRCC

GRCC's Review of the Year
2008/09

Carers Gloucestershire	'Caring Matters' Magazine Autumn 2009
GAPTC	'Update' Magazine October 2009
GRCC	Invitation to a Seminar on Community Land Trusts 27 November 2009
Volunteer and Community Action	Annual Report 2009
Allotment and Leisure Gardener	Quarterly Magazine

09.11 12. **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley Ward**

George Stores Post Office – The Ward wished to record its concern that the Post Office facility at the George Stores in Bisley High Street had been out of commission for 'operational reasons' since 21 October 2009. The Clerk had contacted Post Office Ltd on several occasions to gain assurance that this was a temporary problem and was advised that services should return to normal in the near future. The Clerk had also spoken with the Rural Re-generation Department at SDC which was equally concerned about this unannounced and on-going closure. SDC undertook to seek a swift re-opening of the facility.

b) **Eastcombe Ward**

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

c) **Oakridge Ward**

Oakridge Ward had no matters to raise which were not covered elsewhere in the Meeting

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

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday 2 December 2009 commencing at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.05 hours.