

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2010 AT BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL

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

In attendance: County Councillor Mrs J Nash and District Councillor Mrs P Carrick.

No members of the public were present.

- 10.01 1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apology for absence was received from Councillor Mr P Bradley who was attending another meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 10.02 2. **Declaration of Interests**
No declarations of interest were received.
- 10.02 3. **Public Participation**
There was no public participation at the Meeting.
- 10.02 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 December 2009 having been circulated to all councillors were approved unanimously and the Chairman signed the Minute Book. For the record, the Parish Council Meeting scheduled for January 2010 had to be cancelled because of severe winter weather conditions.
- 10.02 5. **Matters Arising**
There were no 'Matters Arising' from the Minutes of the previous Meeting.

10.02 6. **District Council Matters**

District Councillor Mrs P Carrick reported the following issues to the Council:

Attendance at Parish Council Meetings – Mrs P Carrick said that, in recent months, conflicting Meetings at Ebley Mill and the serious illness of her husband had prevented her attendance at Parish Council Meetings. She apologised for any inconvenience her necessary absence had caused.

Winter Weather – The severe winter weather in recent weeks had impacted seriously on the waste and re-cycling collections and on the condition of roads and footpaths. Hopefully, things would now return to normal, although repairs to roads would continue for some months ahead.

Delivery of Briquettes – The cold weather had made the delivery of briquettes to the elderly all the more important and Mrs Carrick thanked Councillor N Holliday of Oakridge Ward for his valuable assistance in distributing these in the Parish.

Awards to SDC – Stroud District Council had received two accolades for its work in tackling the problems of Climate Change and in the South-West Energy Awards category as ‘the most proactive local authority’. The Council had also gained recognition by the Carbon Trust for its work in reducing carbon emissions.

10.02 7. **County Council Matters**

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

Highways - Following the recent bout of severe weather, there has been an exceptional amount of damage to the highways network. The normal Highway Inspection policy has been suspended up to the end of March. Category 1 safety defects likely to cause imminent hazards will be dealt with first. An assessment is taking place across the network to shape the programme for remedial works. The provisional plan is to return to normal inspections procedures in April.

New information website - Inform Gloucestershire is a new website with a wide range of statistics and intelligence to help make decisions about services. This can be used by anyone and may help Parish Councils in research for new projects or services. Key data includes population, crime, unemployment bulletins, health, economy reports, age, housing and much more. This information can be accessed on www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform

Staffing Issues - Following the offer of Voluntary Early Retirement last autumn, 179 applications were received and 128 members of staff had their requests agreed. These members of staff have access to their pensions but no redundancy payments. After a

'one-off' cost of £3.1m to cover pensions, there will be a saving of £21m over three years from VER, redeployment, ending of temporary contracts and a moratorium on recruitment.

Flood and Water Management Bill - This Bill is still going through Parliament. It is expected that the Bill will complete its passage through both Houses before the end of the present Parliamentary session. It will then place many legal duties for flood resilience on lead local authorities. However, there is concern about where the funding will come from to deliver the new responsibilities

Changes to Subsidised Bus Fares - Some bus services subsidised by the County Council have increased fares from 25th January 2010. The majority of increases are less than 30p for adults and 10p or 20p for school children. This is to comply with a legal requirement of the Transport Act, that subsidised fares are not less than the fares charged by commercial operators for similar journeys. Posters advertising these changes have been placed on all affected bus routes.

Schools - The School Rolls of pupils are falling each year and this makes the budget tighter across the County. During the severe weather the decision to close a school was in the hands of the Head and Staff. Local Radio was very helpful in keeping parents informed about schools opening and closing.

10.02 8. **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Stroud District Council Meeting with Town and Parish Councils**

The Chairman and Clerk will attend the Meeting, to be held in the Council Chamber on 4 February 2010. Bisley Ward asked that during the Questions Session, clarification be obtained from SDC about the likely level of grant funding for community projects during the current 'economic squeeze'. In particular, access to the Rural Investment Grant Scheme had proved vital to the development of important community projects and evidence of such support from District Council was also a catalyst to obtaining additional funds from other providers. Bisley Ward also asked that the appropriate senior representatives at SDC be made aware of the unacceptable delays in processing the planning issues concerning the Pavilion and pavement on the Stroud Road from Little Close to Bearsfield.

b) **Village Design Statement – Update on Progress**

Councillors were advised that there were differences between the SDC and Parish Council perspectives on the appropriate direction and content of a Village Design Statement. On-going discussions were taking place with SDC and it was hoped that these differences can be resolved. This has delayed the distribution of the questionnaire to

parishioners, which is now planned for issue in paper form and on the website at the beginning of March, asking for comment by the end of the month.

c) Professional Fund-Raiser for the Parish

Councillors discussed the possibility of using the services of a professional fund-raiser to access funding opportunities for larger projects in the Parish, such as the re-build of the Bisley Pavilion. In the current economic conditions, the availability of funding was likely to be constrained and most Councillors had neither the time, nor skills nor ready access to sources of funding to make a meaningful contribution. Information had been obtained from a locally-based fund-raiser outlining likely costs. These were based on a monthly 'retainer' fee plus a further percentage fee based upon the level of funding obtained.

Councillors considered that an on-going 'retainer' was expensive and provided less incentive for a fund-raiser to produce early results. It was also felt that information was needed from other fund-raisers, so that comparisons could be made. It was suggested that an approach be made to other Parishes to determine if they had any interest in 'pooling' resources in fund-raising activities.

Overall, Councillors had no fundamental objection to engaging a professional, provided the cost was affordable. In the final analysis, the loss of a small percentage of funding professionally raised was preferable to raising no funds at all. The Meeting agreed that the Parish Council would continue to investigate the possibilities offered by professional fund-raising.

d) Condition of Roads and Snow Clearance Operations

Following the severe winter weather, the condition of roads throughout the Parish had deteriorated considerably, with hazardous potholes appearing on many surfaces. Councillors were issued with copies of a 'Summary' provided by County Highways which explained how these problems were to be addressed.

As always, priority would be given to the major and most-used transport routes and personnel employed on road inspection duties would be increased significantly to determine the scale of the problem. Already, some 70 gangs were engaged in repairing around 500 potholes per day, with the most dangerous defects being repaired first. Members of the public could continue to use the emergency hotline for reporting defects, but the undertaking to repair within 24 hours had been suspended. In due course the overall roads re-surfacing programme for the County would be reviewed, to take account of stretches of road most damaged by the winter conditions.

Snow clearance in the Parish had gone well and Councillors wished to record appreciation to the Snow Wardens and Plough Operators who were in action in the very early hours to ensure that, where possible, routes were open to daytime traffic. As usual, parked cars prevented the ploughs accessing some of the narrower roads in the villages. A further problem arose whereby clearance work was required to individual properties so that Care Services could attend to the needs of occupants. In the future, it would be useful to have advance warning of such requirements. It was agreed that a request to pre-warn of such a requirement would be published in parish newsletters and on the website towards the onset of each winter.

e) Frost Protection in Pavilions

Following the recent heavy frosts, all three Pavilions in the Parish suffered from cracked water pipes. Whilst it is too costly to install winter heating in these buildings, it is important that all pipes and water tanks are properly lagged and protected from extreme cold, if the Pavilions are to remain functional during the winter months. Councillors agreed that a survey should be carried out in the Pavilions at Bisley and Oakridge to determine the cost of frost protection. The Pavilion at Eastcombe is not under the management of the Parish Council. The Clerk was instructed to obtain an estimate for the costs involved.

f) Presentation on Core Strategy Options

Stroud District Council had extended an invitation to Parish Councils to discuss the alternative strategies for dealing with the development of the District up to 2026 and the proposed policies to guide this development. SDC proposed 'cluster group' meetings with parishes during the consultation period – 8 February to 22 March 2010. Councillors agreed that it was important that the Parish contribute to this consultation and the Clerk was asked to arrange a date and venue for a 'cluster group' meeting with neighbouring Cotswold Parishes. Post Meeting Note – The 'cluster group' meeting between SDC and local parishes will be held at Painswick Town Hall on Thursday 25th February at 6.45pm.

g) Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

Councillors were provided with information detailing the sites put forward to SDC by developers as suitable for possible future development. All of these sites fell within the AONB and some were on 'green belt' land. Councillors considered it vital that the Parish Council should be closely involved in discussions concerning these sites and it was agreed that this issue formed part of the Core Strategy of the District and the Village Design Statement and should be raised during the forthcoming meeting at Painswick Town Hall (See Post-

Meeting Note above). In the meantime the Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Officer at Cotswold AONB to register concern about these possible sites for development.

10.02 9. **Finance**

Receipts December 2009/January 2010

Bank Interest	£4.85
Allotment Rent - Bisley	£4.00
VAT Repayment	£1,986.13

Total Receipts **£1,994.98**

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

	£	VAT	Total
Toshiba – Office Copier	10.48	1.57	12.05
C R Pulley - Path Maintenance (E)	490.41	73.56	563.97
Consortium – Printer Ink/Stationery	92.28	13.86	106.14
OVHT – Hall Hire at Oakridge	19.90		19.90
Clerk – Salary for December 2009	742.97		742.97
HMRC – Tax/NI	325.13		325.13
NPower – Electricity at Bisley Pavilion	117.91	5.90	123.81
Berrymans Lace Mawer – VAT		429.00	429.00
Clerk – Salary for January 2010	742.97		742.97
HMRC – Tax/NI	325.13		325.13
Oakridge Village Hall Hire	4.00		4.00
Totals	£2,871.18	£523.89	£3,395.07

Petty Cash Payments – December 2009/January 2010	£114.45
Cash Balance as at 31 January 2010	£24,895.34
Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 January 2010	£2,137.98
Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 January 2010-	£10,000.00
Parish Office Reserve as at 31 January 2010	£17,000.00
Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 31 January 2010	£1,213.50
Capital Projects Reserve as at 31 January 2010	£3,250.00

10.02 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.09/2036/HHOLD – Old Police House, Cheltenham Road, Bisley – Erection of two-storey extension – **Comment Only** – Ensure development enhances the energy

efficiency and sustainability of the property in line with the Parish Council's Sustainability Policy.

S.09/2057/HHOLD – 'Milestone', George Street, Bisley – Installation of vertical flue for wood-burner – **Support/Comment** – The installation of a wood-burner contributes to the Parish Council's Sustainability Policy by enhancing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy systems. The applicant – Mr S Trinder - is a Parish Councillor. He declared an interest in the application and took no part in the discussion or decision.

S.09/2252/TCA9034 – Bracebridge House, Calway Lane, Bisley – Removal of Horse Chestnut tree and trimming of boundary trees – **Support**.

S.09/2300/FUL – Barn, Lower Nashend, Bisley – Erection of garage, stables and tack-room block – **Support/Comment** – Support on condition that this is not a commercial operation.

Eastcombe Ward

S.09/2173/HHOLD – Leslyn, Dr Crouch's Road, Eastcombe – Erection of rear extension – **No Observations**.

Oakridge Ward

S.09/2035/HHOLD – Foxfield, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of single-storey extension – **Support**.

S.09/2217/FUL – Methodist Chapel, Oakridge Lynch – Conversion of Chapel and Old School Room to a residential dwelling – amendments to design following approval S.08/2170/FUL – **Support**.

10.02 11. **Correspondence**

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

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association	Newsletter Winter 2010/ Annual Report
Gloucestershire County Council	Seeking Nominations for Gloucestershire Medal for Courage
Society of Local Council Clerks	'The Clerk' – January 2010
Gloucestershire Rural Renaissance	Final Edition Review 2009/2010
Mount Pleasant Trees	Spring 2010 Catalogue
Carers Gloucestershire	Winter 'Caring Matters' Magazine

10.02 12. **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley Ward**

The Chairman of Bisley Ward reported on the following issues:

Pavilion – The Planning Application for the re-building of the Pavilion at Bisley was still under consideration at SDC. A Petition lodged by 8 local residents concerning the proposed development now required that the Application be heard ‘in Committee’. It is believed that main concern of the residents is the potential for increased traffic movement in Van der Breen Street, leading to the Pavilion. Unfortunately, the long delays in processing this Application will impact adversely on ‘in principle’ grants obtained by the Ward, including a Rural Development Grant from SDC of £2,000.00 and a ‘Cheers’ Energy Efficiency Grant for the installation of energy-saving measures in the Pavilion.

Youth Development – The Ward was very pleased to report that, as a result of its investment in developing youth activities, a Youth Cricket Team would for the first time compete in the Gloucestershire Under-13s Cricket League. Further youth-development initiatives were planned and the Sports Hall at Thomas Keble School had been hired for training sessions.

Bisley Community Orchard – The Ward was also delighted to report that the planting of fruit trees of varieties indigenous to Gloucestershire would take place during the coming week to establish the new Community Orchard in the Allotments Field. Warm appreciation was extended to the Trustees of the Ancient Parish of Bisley for their support of this project and especially to Councillors Petch and Trinder from the Parish Council who are now Members of the Board of Trustees.

‘Evans Field’ – With much regret, the Ward Chairman announced that all efforts to secure a portion of ‘Evans Field’ as an activities area for youngsters at Windyridge had failed. Unfortunately, it had not proved possible to reach agreement with the tenant of this land for this much-needed project.

b) **Eastcombe Ward**

Grant to Develop the Play Area at Eastcombe Recreation Ground – The Chairman of Eastcombe Ward was very pleased to announce that an application to the national ‘Playbuilder’ scheme for a grant to revitalize the children’s play area at Eastcombe had been successful. A sum of £35,000.00 had been awarded and work would get under way during the year. A Working Group would be formed to manage the project, with representation from the village schools and parents. The Ward Chairman expressed his appreciation to the Clerk and Councillor V Nairn for the hard work they put in to securing this grant.

c) **Oakridge Ward**

Footpath Public Inquiry – The Chairman of Oakridge Ward advised that a Public Inquiry had been convened for 22 June 2010 in Oakridge Village Hall to consider an application for the adoption of a long-established walkway at the back of the Old Chapel at Tunley as a designated Public Footpath. It was agreed that Councillor R N Budgeon would represent the Parish Council at this Inquiry.

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

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday 3 March 2010 commencing at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.30 hours.