

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

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

In attendance: County Councillor Mrs J Nash.

Five members of the public were present.

10.03 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mr P Dawes, Mr S Trinder and from District Councillor Mrs P Carrick. Mr R N Budgeon said that his attendance at the Meeting would depend upon rail services out of London

10.03 2. **Presentation the Bisley Voluntary Warden**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Dave Burwell – the Voluntary Warden for the Bisley Parish area - and Mr David Carlton from the Cotswold Conservation Board. Mr Burwell said that the aim of the Voluntary Warden Scheme was to assist the Conservation Board in preserving the countryside for future generations. The Cotswolds constitute the largest conservation area in the UK and teams of unpaid volunteers devote more than 40,000 hours per annum to work in support of conservation. This includes, dry stone wall re-building, footpath clearance, maintenance of stiles and gates and hedge-laying. Additionally, the organisation arranges guided walks and talks to interested parties and masterminds educational projects with schools in the area.

The majority of tasks involve the maintenance of Public Rights of Way (PRoWs). In Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish alone there are 53 miles of PRoWs, including 41 miles of public footpaths. Recently, a survey of 'furniture' on footpaths was carried out and action is in hand to liaise with the land-owners who share responsibility for the

upkeep of these facilities. This includes land-owners with Riparian responsibilities for the clearance of waterways and upkeep of bridges.

A lively question session followed and the Chairman thanked Mr Burwell and Mr Charlton for a valuable and most informative insight into the wide-ranging conservation work carried out in the Parish by willing volunteers. Mr Burwell said he would be more than happy to give advice and possibly support on any conservation issues and was contactable by email on admburwell@btinternet.com

10.03 3. **Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were received.

10.03 4. **Public Participation**

Two members of the public from Eastcombe Ward said they were most concerned about the increase in litter in the village and particularly in the vicinity of Thomas Keble School. A letter had been sent to the school but to date no reply had been received. They accepted that policing the discarding of litter was a problem, unless the culprit was witnessed committing the offence. The Chair of Eastcombe Ward said that there was normally an organised 'Spring Clean' event in the village and that it would be most beneficial to get youngsters to participate in this project. The Neighbourhood Warden now engaged part-time by the Parish would be informed of the litter problem and asked to keep a particular lookout for offenders. In the meantime, the Parish Council agreed to write to the Headmaster at Thomas Keble School to add support to the concerns raised by parishioners.

10.03 5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 3 February 2010 having been circulated to all councillors were approved unanimously and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

10.03 6. **Matters Arising**

There were no 'Matters Arising' from the Minutes of the previous Meeting.

10.03 7. **District Council Matters**

In the absence of District Councillor Mrs P Carrick no District issues were discussed at the Meeting.

10.03 8. **County Council Matters**

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

Increase in Council Tax - Following the Budget meeting on 24th February, the County Council Tax rise for the next year will be 2.3%. This has been kept as low as possible, with commitments made to preserve the care of the elderly and vulnerable residents who need help. There has also been increase in funding to provide for 30 extra social workers to protect children in the County who may be considered 'at risk'.

Hospital Beds - The surprise announcement by the Hospitals' Trust which proposed the closure of 200 beds at Gloucester and Cheltenham Hospitals was debated at Council. The Trust had not consulted the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as would have been expected, or consulted the Governors. A motion - supported unanimously - called on the Trust to delay any decision until the required consultation had taken place.

County Highways – 'Operation Road Rescue', to address the severe weather damage, continues and some 10,000 potholes had been repaired by the end of February. Progress was being made on assessing the full scale of the damage and developing a resurfacing programme in response. The Estimates Meeting later in March will be advised of plans to prioritise urgent schemes and review existing schemes.

County Household Recycling Centres - New opening hours will start on 28th March 2010. These will be 9 am to 6.15 pm every day, except Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The sites will have adequate lighting during the winter months to cater for these extended opening hours. It is hoped that this will reduce fly-tipping outside the gates during the darker months.

Rural Economic Recovery - A new initiative has been launched to support events or activities which will help boost rural businesses. Rural communities can apply for one-off seed-corn grants to help fund events to encourage more people to buy and trade locally. The campaign is looking to encourage local business groups to work with Parish Councils to promote the local buy and trade approach. For more information contact Daniel Judges, Senior Rural Regeneration Officer. Telephone 01242-864144 or email danieljudges@gloucestershire.gov.uk

New Care Home - Chestnut Court at Quedgeley was opened by the Duke of Gloucester on 16th February. This Care Home is run by the Order of St John Care Trust in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council. It is an 80 bed care facility providing nursing care and includes a specialist dementia unit. It is part of the £60 million redevelopment of residential care programme for the County agreed in 2007.

10.03 9. **Matters for Discussion**

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

The Parish Council had sought Tenders from local Grounds Maintenance Contractors to carry out the grass-cutting of the Recreation Grounds at Bisley, Eastcombe and Oakridge together with the 'Green' at Stonecote Ridge on the Bussage Estate which falls within the Parish boundary. Of the Tenders received, only two were considered to be competitive and in line with previous costs and budgetary constraints. These included a quotation from the current Contractor. Both Eastcombe and Oakridge Wards expressed satisfaction with the work carried out by the present Contractor, whilst Bisley Ward considered that there might be some merit in a change, if only to be able to draw comparison in the quality of work. The Chairman put the issue to a vote and by a majority of 6 votes to 2 the Parish Council decided that the Contract for the grass-cutting for 2010/2011 should remain with the present Contractor – T W Hawkins and Sons. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would invite new Tenders for grass-cutting on a year-to-year basis in future.

b) **Energy Provision in the Parish**

Councillor R N Budgeon of Oakridge Ward had prepared a brief to deliver to the Meeting on the issue of meeting the future energy requirements of the Parish. Unfortunately, a serious train delay from London had prevented his arrival at the Meeting and Councillors agreed that this Agenda Item would be postponed until the April Meeting. The Chairman apologised to the members of the public who had expressed interest in this topic for the unavoidable postponement of this discussion item.

c) **Funding of the Neighbourhood Warden – Bisley Ward**

Whilst this issue had been discussed at previous Meetings, approval was now sought for the expenditure of £300.00 to formalise the engagement of the Neighbourhood Warden for 2010/2011, following expiry of the 'trial' period. Bisley Ward expressed strong support for the work of the Neighbourhood Warden and it was agreed that there were a number of issues – Parish-wide – which would benefit from Warden-involvement, including litter, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. Councillors agreed unanimously to the expenditure of £300.00, provisionally earmarked in the Parish Precept.

d) **Report on the SDC Meeting with Parish and Town Councils**

The Chairman said that he and the Clerk had attended the SDC Meeting with Parish and Town Councils held at Ebley Mill on 4 February 2010. The overall theme of the presentation was one of 'Partnership' between the respective tiers of Local Government. However, the Chairman said

that it soon became apparent that the SDC interpretation of 'Partnership' appeared to be the 'hiving-off' of some responsibilities from District to Towns and Parishes, in order to meet the requirement to reduce manning and budgetary levels. Given that the Precepts of Towns and Parishes had already been set for the year ahead, there would clearly be no scope for them to meet additional costs. It was also considered unreasonable that in order to save on staffing costs at District level, additional tasks should be placed upon a hard-worked force of unpaid volunteer Councillors.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Chief Executive of SDC to express concern and dismay at any proposals which added to the already challenging workload of Councillors in the Parish.

e) **'Cluster Group' Consultation on Core Strategy Options**

No Councillor had been able to attend the Consultation Meeting held at Painswick Town Hall and it was agreed that every effort would be made to attend the next Meeting to be held in the Subscription Rooms in Stroud on Saturday 13 March.

f) **Annual Parish Meeting**

As required by the Local Government Act, the Parish Council will hold its Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 7 April 2010 in Bisley WI Village Hall, commencing at 7.00 pm. Parishioners were strongly encouraged to attend this event.

The Clerk reminded Ward Chairs of the requirement to summarise the work carried out within Wards during the past year and to outline plans for the year ahead.

10.03 10. **Finance**

Receipts February 2010

Bank Interest	£2.14
Bisley Cricket Club – Annual Fees	<u>£200.00</u>

Total Receipts **£202.14**

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

	£	VAT	Total
Aon Limited – Annual Parish Insurance Premium	2,507.94		2,507.94
P Thorp – Refund of payment for tap for Bisley Pavilion	21.44	3.75	25.19
P Bradley – Refund of payment for lock for grit bin in Windyridge	18.20		18.20
BT – Office Telephone	117.43	16.08	133.51
KJS Building Services – Repair to water leak – Eastcombe Recreation Ground	190.00		190.00
C P Jefferies – Repairs to leaks at Oakridge Pavilion	295.15	51.65	346.80
CIX On-line Ltd – Website Domain	29.00	5.08	34.08
Clerk Salary – February 2010	742.97		742.97
HMRC – Tax/NI	325.13		325.13
Eastcombe Pavilion Cleaning 2009/10	480.00		480.00
	£4,727.26	£76.56	£4,803.82

Petty Cash Payments – February 2010	£57.53
Cash Balance as at 28 February 2010	£22,651.07
Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 January 2010	£2,138.06
Westbury Gift Balance as at 28 February 2010-	£10,000.00
Parish Office Reserve as at 28 February 2010	£17,000.00
Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 28 February 2010	£1,213.50
Capital Projects Reserve as at 28 February 2010	£3,250.00

10.03 11. **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.09/1976/LBC – Coombe House, 2 Wells Road, Bisley – Replacement of front door – Support.

S.10/0094/COU and S.10/0095/LBC – Barn, Lower Nash End, Bisley – Conversion of Barn to Dwelling – **Comments Only** – Use Cotswold stone tiles to enhance character in the AONB as per policies B4, B5 and B6.

Oakridge Ward

S.10/0098/LBC – Sugar House, Lyday Close, Oakridge Lynch – Internal and external alterations – **Comments Only** - We observe that the ‘Application Site’ (for the property in the plans) is no longer the curtilage of the site within the ownership of the Trust, but a plot within the whole site. From this we deduce that there is a plan to develop the site for dwellings, each in its own plot. Can this be confirmed?

We do in principle wish to keep a range of house-sizes within the Parish, as supported in our Parish Plan (2006) and the Village Design Statement we are about to complete, so we would like to see this house remain as a smaller, more affordable unit, especially as there seems to be an overall plan to develop the site.

If clarity could be brought to this application, a consultation decision can be made by this Parish Council.

S.10/0099/LBC – Giselas Cottage, Lyday Close, Oakridge Lynch – Extension and alterations – **Comments Only** - We observe that the ‘Application Site’ (for the property in the plans) is no longer the curtilage of the site within the ownership of the Trust, but a plot within the whole site. From this we deduce that there is a plan to develop the site for dwellings, each in its own plot. Can this be confirmed?

We do in principle wish to keep a range of house-sizes within the Parish, as supported in our Parish Plan (2006) and the Village Design Statement we are about to complete, so we would like to see this house remain as a smaller, more affordable unit, especially as there seems to be an overall plan to develop the site.

If clarity could be brought to this application, a consultation decision can be made by this Parish Council.

S.10/0100/LBC – Lyday Close (not Lyday Cottage), Oakridge Lynch – Extensions and alterations – **Comments Only** – The address in the application and on the site plan is for a cottage adjoining the site and not for the house shown in the application.. The application address is Lyday Cottage and the body of the application shows plans for Lyday House. We have considered the application as in the plan provided.

We observe that the ‘Application Site’ (for the property in the plans) is no longer the curtilage of the site within the ownership of the Trust, but a plot within the whole site. From this we deduce that there is a plan to develop the site for dwellings, each in its own plot. Can this be confirmed?

We do in principle wish to keep a range of house-sizes within the Parish, as supported in our Parish Plan and the Village Design Statement we are about to complete, so we would like to see this house remain as a smaller, more affordable unit, especially as there seems to be an overall plan to develop the site.

If clarity could be brought to this application, a consultation decision can be made by this Parish Council.

S.10/0101/LBC – Peters Cottage, Lyday Close, Oakridge Lynch – Extensions and alterations – **Comments Only** - We observe that the ‘Application Site’ (for the property in the plans) is no longer the curtilage of the site within the ownership of the Trust, but a plot within the whole site. From this we deduce that there is a plan to develop the site for dwellings, each in its own plot. Can this be confirmed?

We do in principle wish to keep a range of house-sizes within the Parish, as supported in our Parish Plan (2006) and the Village Design Statement we are about to complete, so we would like to see this house remain as a smaller, more affordable unit, especially as there seems to be an overall plan to develop the site.

If clarity could be brought to this application, a consultation decision can be made by this Parish Council.

10.03 12. **Correspondence**

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

GAPTC	January & February 2010 ‘Update’ Magazines
National Society of Allotment And Leisure Gardeners	‘Allotment’ Magazine
Alzheimer’s Society	Spring 2010 Newsletter

10.03 13. **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley Ward**

Pavilion - The Chair of Bisley Ward reported that following the objections raised by some parishioners, the Architect of the Bisley Pavilion Project had adjusted the plans to cater for increased car parking on the site. It was hoped that this adjustment would allay the concerns of parishioners in Van Der Breen Street. The Chair confirmed that the delay in processing the application had resulted in the loss of much-needed grant support for the Project.

b) **Eastcombe Ward**

The ‘Green’ – The Chairman of Eastcombe Ward announced that work to place large stones on the boundary of the ‘Green’ to prevent damage by vehicles would be carried out later this month, with the cost to come from the precept of the current year.

c) **Oakridge Ward**

Oakridge Ward had no Ward issues to raise at the Meeting.

10.03 14. **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday 7 April 2010 commencing at 7.00 pm, followed by the normal Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council.

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