

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL 2010 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	}	
	Mr D Hunt	}	Eastcombe Ward
	Mrs V Nairn	}	
	Mrs L Petch	}	
	Mr P Dawes	}	
	Mr R N Budgeon	}	Oakridge Ward
	Mr N Holliday	}	
	Mr G Newton	}	
	Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

In attendance: County Councillor Mrs J Nash.

Six members of the public were present.

- 10.04 1. **Apologies for Absence**
An apology for absence was received from District Councillor Mrs P Carrick owing to family illness.
- 10.04 2. **Declaration of Interests**
No declarations of interest were received.
- 10.04 3. **Public Participation**
Mr A E Davis from Oakridge Ward asked about the planning application for further development at Aston Down. Whilst he recognised that this site was not in the Parish, he nevertheless considered that elements of it could have an impact on this and neighbouring parishes. In particular, Mr Davis highlighted the approval for a roundabout to be constructed at the top of Cowcombe Hill on the A419 trunk road and the possibility that road safety regulations would require that it was illuminated. He said that this illumination would be clearly visible from parishes above the valley floor, which would represent unwelcome light pollution in the AONB. County Councillor Mrs J Nash undertook to investigate this matter and would report her findings to the Parish. The

Stakeholder Manager for this area at Gloucestershire Highways would also be asked to comment.

Mr Davis also raised a question about the red telephone kiosks which had been identified by BT as under-utilised and loss-making. Parishes had been offered the opportunity to 'adopt' these kiosks, failing which they would be removed by BT. The Parish Council had notified BT and SDC that it had no wish to adopt the kiosk in Oakridge, yet no action had been taken by BT to remove it and re-instate the grass verge on which it was sited. The kiosk had now taken on an 'abandoned' appearance, with fungi growing on the window glass. It was agreed by Councillors that BT should be directed to either remove the kiosk and re-instate the verge or return it as an operational facility for villagers.

10.04 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

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

10.04 5. **Matters Arising**

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

10.04 6. **District Council Matters**

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

10.04 7. **County Council Matters**

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

Savings on Energy Costs - During 2009, Gloucestershire County Council engaged West Mercia Supplies to buy all gas and electricity used in its premises - schools also have the option to buy into the contract. WMS is owned by four neighbouring local authorities. This system drives prices down and also allows buying in bulk when prices are low and to trade the supply when prices are higher. Savings of £1M have been achieved in the 6 months to March 2010, of which £110K will be transferred to an 'Energy Club' to work on energy saving projects within the Council and in Schools.

Schools - Unfortunately Gloucestershire was not included in the Government's 'Building Schools for the Future' programme. The County had hoped for £80M to improve Maidenhill and Shrubbs Schools in Stroud District, Pittville in Cheltenham and Heywood, Dene Magna and Lakers in the Forest of Dean. The County

Council will be bidding again in the next round and hope to succeed as these schools badly need improvement to their buildings. Funding for the new Academy has been confirmed with £25M from the Government. All Saint's Academy will replace Kingsmead School and Christ's College in Cheltenham with the building of a new 1150-pupil 'Academy', jointly sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Clifton and the Anglican Diocese of Gloucester. This new school will also provide first class sporting facilities for the community in West Cheltenham. Work in underway to develop the 'Expression of Interest' to Government for a new Academy in Gloucester City.

Local Transport Plan - LTP3 - More than 600 people took part in consultation on transport issues. The Draft Plan will be prepared for a second round of consultation in the summer.

Recycling.- The Landfill Tax for Gloucestershire is costing £7.7M this year - £1.3M more than last year. As the tax per tonne increases each year, future cost will be much higher if recycling is not improved. Currently 42% of household waste is recycled against a target of 60%. Old television sets can be taken to Household Recycling Centres and about 96% of a modern TV set can be recycled. At the moment about 1200 TV sets are recycled each month and more are expected due to the switchover to digital systems.

Horsley Recycling Centre - A new access road has been created so drivers do not have to queue on the B4058. Customers will now wait on site for a recycling bay to become free. This will remove the problem of blocking traffic on the B4058 road.

Highways - "Operation Road Rescue" has continued to address the winter damage and it is hoped that the normal routine of inspections and repairs will be resumed later in April. The County has received £1.6M extra money from the Government towards the extra cost of winter road repairs.

10.04 8. **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Parish Council Elections**

The Clerk briefed the Meeting on the present situation concerning the forthcoming Parish Council Elections. As a result of the Government calling the General Election for 6 May 2010, elections for any contested seat to the Parish Council would now take place on 27 May 2010. A new 'window' for the submission of nominations will open between 21 and 29 April 2010. All nominations received prior to the previous closing date of 8 April 2010 will be carried forward to a new closing date of 29 April 2010. If, after the closing date and period allowed for withdrawals there are more nominations in any Ward than the number of councillors

seats available, an election for that Ward will be held on 27 May 2010. Should the nominations for any Ward be either equal or less than the number of councillor seats available, such candidates will be deemed 'Elected' after noon on 5 May 2010. The Parish would then be invited to fill any shortfall of councillors by co-option. In view of the uncertainty surrounding the election dates for the Parish and the possibility of contest in one or more Wards, it was agreed that the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council would be held at the beginning of June 2010.

b) Annual Audit of Parish Accounts

The Meeting was advised that the end of the Parish Financial Year of 31 March 2010 had now passed and that the Clerk would be preparing the end-of-year accounts for submission to both internal and external audit. Under statutory provisions, the Clerk would publicise the audit on parish notice boards to invite members of the public to inspect the accounts should they so require. Inspection would be available during the month of May by prior appointment with the Clerk.

c) Village Design Statement

Completed questionnaires from parishioners had now been gathered-in by the VDS Working Group. Overall, a 17% rate of return had been achieved parish-wide, with Oakridge Ward achieving the highest return of 21%. The returns would now be collated by the Working Group in preparation for submission of the VDS document to SDC. It was emphasised that the key to adoption of the VDS by District Council was an auditable trail of events supporting the contents, proposals and recommendations contained in the document. Should for any reason SDC fail to adopt the VDS, Councillors agreed that it should still be published and circulated to residents. It was agreed that in any event the contents of the document could still play an important role in supporting planning procedures and appeals, if necessary.

d) Future Energy Provision in the Parish

Councillor R N Budgeon had been invited by the Parish Council to put forward proposals for energy efficiency and security of future energy supplies within the Parish. Similar action was being taken by other Councils throughout the UK. Whilst it was considered extremely important for all organisations and individuals to examine and where possible reduce their 'Carbon Footprint', it was equally if not more significant to raise concerns about the security of energy supplies. To support the latter point, Mr Budgeon advised the Meeting that current reports by DECC and OFGEM suggest that the UK will begin to suffer energy shortages as soon as 2015, with the cost of supplies rising dramatically thereafter. Increased nuclear power generation is

not achievable before 2019; gas and oil supplies would become increasingly limited, with reliance placed on other nations for security of supply and clean coal was generally considered an optimistic source of supply in the short term. This would leave 'renewables' as probably the best option to meeting future shortages of supply, whilst also addressing carbon footprint issues. Whilst it would be possible both nationally and locally to address supply management – Smart Grid and Private Wire Systems – to optimise the delivery of energy, such measures would have limited impact on the overall problem.

In considering future energy supplies at a Parish level, Mr Budgeon said that the primary issues would be reduction in energy consumption, improvements in energy efficiency and greater use of renewables as part of an energy mix. As to renewable supplies, wind, solar and biomass were the main resources available to the Parish, with wind power being the easiest to translate into useful, portable energy. It was believed that a suitable site could be found within the Parish for a wind turbine of sufficient capacity to power the Parish and provide a substantial source of additional income. This could in turn be applied to the benefit of parishioners, such as providing offset to the Parish Precept or in funding increased energy efficiency measures.

Given that the Parish is situated within an AONB, planning issues would arise and in promoting any such project it would be vital that it was a community-supported proposal. Financing such a project should not be a problem, given wide-ranging access to grants and loans. Mr Budgeon strongly advocated that should a wind turbine proposal receive the necessary level of support, it would be a Parish resource in the ownership of parishioners and not shareholders.

In summarising, Mr Budgeon said that given the complex nature of the proposal, it was vital that it be handled with sensitivity and that parishioners were 'kept in the picture' at all stages as work on the proposal progressed. This would involve public briefings to explain the nature of the problem and to build confidence in the merits of the proposal. It was evident from the information gathered from parishioners during the VDS that structures such as wind turbines produced divided opinions and that doubts were cast by many on the viability and economic benefits of such projects.

Councillors agreed that a Working Group be established to consider the issues arising from Mr Budgeon's proposals and that it would be worthwhile to approach neighbouring parishes to see if there was interest in joining the Group. Councillors also proposed that there be parishioner representation in the Working Group and Mr Roger Utley and Mr Rob Dickinson attending the Meeting as members of the public offered to participate. The Chairman thanked them both for their welcome support.

Finally, it was agreed that Terms of Reference for the Working Group would be presented to the PC Meeting on 5th May 2010.

e) **RoSPA Annual Inspection of Play Areas**

The Clerk advised the Meeting that the Annual Inspection of Play Areas would be carried out by RoSPA later this month. The precise date and times had yet to be agreed and Play Area Wardens would be advised of these so that they were available to be present at the Inspection, where possible.

f) **Appointment of Clerk with effect 1 July 2010**

The Chairman confirmed notification by the present Clerk – Norman MacLeod – of his wish to retire from the appointment on 30 June 2010, on completion of 5 years in post. An advertising campaign for his replacement was already underway and interviews of applicants for the post would take place during May, with a month-long handover period in June.

10.04 9. **Finance**

Receipts March 2010

Bank Interest £2.02

Total Receipts **£2.02**

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

	£	VAT	Total
Acott Mowers – Servicing (E)	89.50		89.50
Mole's Services – Bisley Allotments	150.00		150.00
P Thorp – Refund of VDS Printing Costs	160.00		160.00
Clerk – Salary March 2010	742.97		742.97
HMRC – Tax/Ni March 2010	325.13		325.13
P Lorenzen – Grass-cutting/Allotments	130.00	22.75	152.75
JNC (Fire Protection) Ltd	20.75	3.63	24.38
Severn Trent Water – Bisley Pavilion	80.85		80.85
Toshiba UK – Photocopier	10.93	1.91	12.84
Bisley WI Village Hall Hire	14.00		14.00
	£1,724.13	£28.29	£1,752.42

Petty Cash Payments – March 2010 **£79.74**

Cash Balance as at 31 March 2010 **£18,449.53**

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 March 2010 **£2,138.14**

Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 March 2010- **£10,000.00**

Parish Office Reserve as at 31 March 2010 **£17,000.00**

Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 31 March 2010 **£1,213.50**

Capital Projects Reserve as at 31 March 2010 **£3,250.00**

10.04 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.10/0392/LBC – Jaynes Court, Back Lane, Bisley – External Alteration – **Support.**

Eastcombe Ward

S.10/0325/TCA – The Old Bakehouse, Dr Crouch’s Road, Eastcombe – Pruning of Cherry Trees and felling of Norway Spruce – **Support/Comment** – The correct address for this property is The Street and not Dr Crouch’s Road.

S.10/0142/HHOLD – Highlands, Dr Crouch’s Road, Eastcombe – Single-storey extension – **No Observations.**

S.10/0380/HHOLD – Field House, Fidges Lane, Eastcombe – Erection of two-storey side extension – **No Observations.**

Oakridge Ward

S.10/0163/HHOLD – Fysie, Oakridge Lynch – First-floor extension – **Support.**

S.10/0070/HHOLD – Hungerfords, Oakridge Lynch – Replacement of flat roof with a pitched roof – **Support.**

S.10/0338/HHOLD – Paddock Cottage, Waterlane, Oakridge – Erection of two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension – **Support/Comment** – Whilst we see nothing in this proposal to recommend refusal, we would have liked to have seen more to upgrade the environmental performance of the existing building.

S.10/0383/HHOLD – Lillyhorn Cottage, Bournes Green, Oakridge – Alterations and extensions – **Support.**

10.04 11. **Correspondence**

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

GRCC	‘Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year – 2010’
CPRE	Newsletter Spring 2010
CPRE	‘Fieldwork’ Magazine - April 2010

10.04 12. **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley Ward**

Pavement on Stroud Road, Bisley - The Chair of Bisley Ward was pleased to announce that after almost 4 years of Parish pressure, work to provide a pavement from 'Little Close' to Bearsfield on the Stroud Road had now commenced. Additionally, a traffic restriction would be incorporated at the 'Little Close' end to reduce the speed of vehicles entering the village

b) **Eastcombe Ward**

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

c) **Oakridge Ward**

The Chairman of Oakridge Ward – Councillor P Dawes - said that he and Councillor N Holliday would not be seeking re-election to the Parish Council at the forthcoming elections.

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

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday 5 May 2010 commencing at 7.00 pm.

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