

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 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 R N Budgeon |] | Oakridge Ward |
| | Mr G Newton | } | |
| | Mr N M MacLeod | | Clerk |

In attendance: Neither the County Councillor nor District Councillor were able to attend the Meeting.

Four members of the public were present.

- 10.05 1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mr P Dawes and Mr N Holliday and from County Councillor Mrs J Nash and District Councillor Mrs P Carrick.
- 10.05 2. **Declaration of Interests**
No declarations of interest were received.
- 10.05 3. **Public Participation**
There was no participation by the members of the public attending the Meeting.
- 10.05 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 7th April 2010 having been circulated to all councillors were approved unanimously and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.
- 10.05 5. **Matters Arising**
Parish Office – The Chairman advised Councillors that a letter had been sent to the Head Office of the Methodist Church in Manchester seeking to re-open dialogue about the possibility of

using the Meeting Room of the Methodist Church in Bisley as a Parish Office. A response was awaited and it was agreed that this subject would be a standing agenda item at future Meetings.

10.05 6. **District Council Matters**

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

10.05 7. **County Council Matters**

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

New Fire Stations in Cheltenham and Gloucester - The provision of four new Fire Stations and a Life Skills Centre had taken a step forward. Cabinet have awarded the Private Finance Initiative to a company named 'Blue 3' and detailed planning applications for all four sites are likely to be considered by the County Planning Committee on 22 July 2010. It is hoped that construction will begin in January 2011 and be completed between November 2011 and March 2012. The new Life Skills Centre will concentrate on reducing and preventing accidents by providing a range of practical risk scenarios, to include road, rail, fire, electrical and water safety, as well as dangers in the home, including slips, trips, accidental poisoning and internet safety. The centre will be used by schools, youth groups and community organisations across the County.

In response to questions, the Chairman – an expert on Fire Service issues – expanded on the provision of new Fire Stations. Changes to the demographics of the area, new building regulations, requirement to meet an 8-minute maximum response to an incident had, amongst other factors, determined a re-organisation of the Fire Services in Cheltenham and Gloucester. Four new Stations would be created – one on Bristol Road, Gloucester on the site of the old Highways Depot; one at Elmbridge Court roundabout in Gloucester; one at Keynsham Road in Cheltenham on the site of the existing Station and one at Uckington on the Tewksbury Road in Cheltenham. These new stations, combined with greater emphasis on fire prevention and the development of community safety measures, will ensure that the Fire Service is well-positioned to respond to the demands placed upon it.

New Head of Gloucestershire Highways - Chris Rogan is leaving Gloucestershire, after three years, and going to work for Atkins in Essex. Nigel Tomlinson will be the new Head of Gloucestershire Highways, moving from his current position in Somerset.

Road works and Diversions - There are dozens of road work schemes in progress the moment, many still dealing with the winter weather problems. It has been noted that many drivers are ignoring road closed signs and not using the signed diversions. This is causing extra disruption throughout the County. County Councillors are being asked to remind our residents to use the diversions and to take notice of signs, in order to minimise the congestion this otherwise causes.

Social Care - New reforms in the Social Care system begin this month. The changes will begin with older people joining the care system for the first time. The approach is called "Your Circle", and the individual will become the central focus rather than the services offered. With help from Council Officers, a resident will be able to decide how to spend their personal budget to obtain the services best suited to their needs. Checks will be made to ensure the expenditure is legal, cost effective and meets the assessed needs

A46 bridge at Merrywalks, Stroud - The contract to build the bridge has been awarded to Carillion plc. Work is planned to start on 3rd May 2010 and will form part of the Cotswold Canals Development Project. Work will begin with construction of a temporary road to bypass the site and keep traffic moving. Signs will be in place in an effort to cut down on the number of HGVs using the route. The plan is to complete the work, and open the new bridge in November 2010.

10.05 8. **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Parish Council Elections**

The Chairman updated the Meeting on the latest position regarding elections to the Parish Council, originally scheduled for 6 May 2010. The calling of a General Election for the same day had resulted in the delay of Parish Council elections to 27 May 2010 in Wards where there were more nominations than the number of councillor seats available. At the previous closing date for nominations of 8 April 2010 the number of nominations received by SDC for each Ward showed that there was no requirement for contested elections. However, a later 'window' for nominations was opened between 21 and 29 April 2010 and this resulted in 5 nominations for 4 councillor seats in Bisley Ward. This election will take place on 27 May 2010.

The Chairman said that he had written to SDC to highlight the problems caused by the delay in holding Parish Council elections. In the uncontested Wards of Eastcombe and Oakridge, new Councillors were deemed to be elected on 5 May 2010, whereas the new Councillors for Bisley Ward will not be decided until 27 May. The new Parish Council would thus be formed by

'installments', with the AGM to receive new Councillors postponed until June.

The Clerk advised the Meeting that the contested election in Bisley would result in a cost to parishioners of approximately £1600.00, for which provision had been made in this year's precept.

b) Recruitment of a Clerk

The Chairman advised that the advertisements for the position of Clerk to the Parish Council had generated a number of positive responses and that it was hoped that a suitable candidate would be selected by the end of the month. This would enable the new Clerk to have a comprehensive handover before taking post on 1 July 2010.

c) Clerk and Councillor Training

The Clerk advised that a Training Day for new Clerks would be held by GAPTC on 23 June 2010 at Churchdown in Gloucester, with a further Training Day for new Councillors taking place at Highnam on 15 July 2010. Provision is made in precept for this training and the Clerk said he would reserve the necessary places on these courses.

d) Terms of Reference for Energy Study Group

Councillor R N Budgeon said that it would be best to leave this issue until after the Parish Council elections, when the new composition of the Council will be known. Two other parishes had expressed interest in the project and it was hoped that additional members of the public would participate.

e) Village Design Statement

Councillors were advised that the VDS Report would be completed by the end of May. The Parish would then approach SDC to determine if they are prepared to adopt it. What will happen thereafter and in what timescale is still unclear, but it is expected that some delay will occur whilst negotiations with SDC take place. Final publication of the Report will not take place until the position with SDC is clarified.

f) Report from RoSPA Inspection of Play Areas

The Clerk said that he had accompanied the RoSPA Play Area Inspector throughout the inspection and that there were no issues that required immediate attention. The format of the Report will be revised to include photographs of each item of equipment and this may delay its final production. Minor issues will be raised by the Clerk with the relevant Play Area Wardens.

g) Repairs to the Vandalised Play Area in Windyridge

The Chair of Bisley Ward advised that repairs to the damaged play area surfaces at Windyridge needed to be carried out with some urgency because, with the onset of better weather, mothers in Windyridge were pressing the Ward to re-open the area as soon as possible. Bisley Ward had investigated a number of options to either repair or replace the safety surface and this has co-incided with a project to enlarge and improve the facilities available to mothers and children on the site. Estimates of costs for replacement of the safety surface and upgrade of the play area have ranged as high as £11,500.00. However, equipment providers have been reluctant to quote for much lower cost repairs to the damage rubber tiles. Bisley Ward said that whilst some funds from the Westbury Section 106 Grant could be applied to this project, there may still be a need to seek assistance from the Parish Council Capital Projects Reserve Fund.

The Chair of Eastcombe Ward said that before taking any further action it would be worthwhile approaching a company – Playground Services Limited – which project managed the development of play areas and had wide access to a wide range of equipment and safety surface providers.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Playground Services Limited to provide estimates of cost for comparison.

10.05 9. **Finance**

Receipts April 2010

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Bank Interest | £2.06 |
| Precept for Half-year | £26,875.00 |
| Allotment Rents | £200.00 |
| Football Club Fees | £175.00 |
| Tennis Court Membership | £15.00 |

Total Receipts **£27,267.06**

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

| | £ | VAT | Total |
|--|----------|------------|--------------|
| Oakridge Village Hall Trust – Hall Hire | 7.70 | | 7.70 |
| Bisley WI Village Hall – Hall Hire | 240.00 | | 240.00 |
| T W Hawkins & Sons – Grass Cutting | 772.50 | 135.19 | 907.69 |
| Five Valley Signs & Labels | 29.50 | 4.43 | 33.93 |
| Stroud District Council – Warden | 300.00 | | 300.00 |
| GAPTC – Annual Membership Fee | 423.12 | | 423.12 |
| NAALG – Allotment Gardeners Subscription | 55.00 | 9.63 | 64.63 |

| | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Mole's Services – Allotment Rotovation | 165.00 | | 165.00 |
| Clerks Salary – April 2010 | 742.97 | | 742.97 |
| HMRC – Tax/NI | 325.13 | | 325.13 |
| NPower – Bisley Pavilion | 111.89 | 5.59 | 117.48 |
| Clerk – Refund of Purchase - Printer Ink | 16.54 | 2.90 | 19.44 |
| T Bryant – Grounds Maintenance (O) | 200.00 | | 200.00 |
| Totals | £3,389.35 | £157.74 | £3,547.09 |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Petty Cash Payments – April 2010 | £83.90 |
| Cash Balance as at 30 April 2010 | £41,964.27 |
| Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 30 April 2010 | £2,138.23 |
| Westbury Gift Balance as at 30 April 2010- | £10,000.00 |
| Parish Office Reserve as at 30 April 2010 | £17,000.00 |
| Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 30 April 2010 | £1,213.50 |
| Capital Projects Reserve as at 30 April 2010 | £4,750.00 |

10.05 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.10/0464/HHOLD – The Firs, Far Wells Road, Bisley – Extensions and alterations – **Support.**

Oakridge Ward

S.10/0642/HHOLD – Cobdens, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of extension, new porch and garage – **Support.**

10.05 11. **Correspondence**

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| GCC Environment Directorate | Guidance Leaflets on Dog-walking in the Countryside |
| CPRE | 'Countryside Voice' for Spring 2010 |
| Cotswold AONB | Members' Guide 2010 |
| | 'Cotswold Lion' Magazine |
| | Conservation Leaflets |
| | Grant Information |
| Natural England | England's Statutory Landscape Designations |

10.05 12. **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley Ward**

Pavilion Meeting – The Chair of Bisley Ward summarised the outcome of the meeting held with the residents of Van Der Breen Street concerning the proposed redevelopment of the Pavilion. It had been a ‘lively’ meeting at which residents’ concerns focused primarily on the narrow road access to the Pavilion site and the parking difficulties which even now resulted in vehicles parking on the road and damaging the grass verges. From a Ward perspective, it was felt that little could be done to improve the access road but that traffic and parking was clearly an issue that would need to be taken into account as the project progressed. It had been agreed that further meetings would be held to ensure that residents were kept fully informed.

b) **Eastcombe Ward**

The Chairman of Eastcombe Ward announced that the ‘PlayBuilder’ scheme to replace the play equipment at Eastcombe Recreation Ground was now underway. Initial design plans would be available at the end of the month and it was hoped to complete the project by late autumn.

c) **Oakridge Ward**

With only 2 Councillors currently serving, Oakridge Ward would have difficulty in meeting its full range of responsibilities. Every effort was being made to attract new Councillors but until this was achieved, only the most pressing issues could be addressed. The Chairman of the PC said that the other Wards and Councillors would assist where possible.

10.5.13 **Retirement of Councillors**

The Chairman confirmed that Mr S Trinder (Bisley Ward), Mrs L Petch (Eastcombe Ward) and Mr P Dawes & Mr N Holliday (Oakridge Ward) had not sought re-election to the Parish Council. The Chairman and fellow Councillors paid tribute to their substantial contributions to the work of their Wards and the Parish Council and wished them well for the future.

10.05 14. **Date and Place of Next Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday 2 June 2010, commencing at 7.30 pm.

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