

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 November 2010 AT BISLEY SPORTS PAVILION**

**Present:**

Mr P Thorp	Chairman
Mr R Utley	] Bisley Ward
Mr R K Brooks	]
Ms Anna Bonallack	]
Mrs V Nairn	]
Mr J Ellis	]
Mr R N Budgeon	]
Mr D Hunt	]
Mr P Morris	Clerk

**In attendance:**

County Councillor Mrs J Nash and District Councillor Mr D le Fleming.

**10.11 1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Gareth Newton, Lesley Greene and Phil Bradley.

**10.11 2. Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**10.11 3. Public Participation**

No members of the public were present

**10.11 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 6 October 2010 having been circulated to all councillors were approved unanimously and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

**10.11 5. Matters Arising**

A member of the Energy Group reported that their latest meeting had concentrated on organising a Public Meeting to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Bisley WI Village Hall.

**10.11 6. District Council Matters**

District Councillor Mr D Ie Fleming reported the following information to the meeting.

## **District Councillor's Report to Parish Council 3 November 2010**

### **Eastcombe Litter bin**

I hope the bin is now in the right place!.

### **Eastcombe – The Street**

I think the necessary action is now completed.

### **Bisley Surgery on 4 Nov**

Joan & Daniel to hold a joint surgery at the Stirrup Cup Bisley on 4 Nov, and planning to hold surgeries in Eastcombe & Oakridge in January/March

### **SDC Development & Planning**

A consultation on the new Core Strategy (replacing RSS) is currently taking place, which will include a review of the RSS housing target of 9100 houses.

### **Stroud Bus Station**

Various improvements to provide additional shelter and facilities are being made with the help of the Town and County councils.

### **Council activities**

1. More information has been received about the impact of the cuts:

- 28% reduction in government funding to local authorities 2011-2014
- changes in provision of social housing: more powers and responsibilities for local councils
- changes in planning & housing law to increase housing supply, particularly affordable homes
- a Green Deal to help households improve energy efficiency of their homes at no upfront cost

2. Current focus at Ebley on council housing:

Housing improvement plan – increasing tenant involvement & empowerment

Improvements in financial controls

Woolaway houses at Minchinhampton being emptied and replaced

**Local Planning** -Changes were proposed to the Scheme of Delegation, the main one being that five or more letters of objection would no longer be grounds for referral of an application to DCC.

I now find that the scheme which is to come before Council on 11 November goes further, and removes the right for Parish Councils to request referral to DCC.

In effect all applications which qualify to be dealt with by Officers under delegated powers will be so dealt with unless they are referred to DCC by the chairman or vice-chairman of that Committee, or by the Ward Councillor. Such references will need to specify the planning grounds on which referral to DCC is sought.

What is intended is that in all cases where the Parish Council has an objection to the proposed development, it will inform the Ward Councillor and ask him or her to notify DCC on behalf of the Parish Council of the objection (specifying the planning grounds) and requesting call-in to DCC instead of the exercise of delegated powers.

As you know, the Ward Councillor also has the right to attend the DCC meeting and argue the Parish Council's case.

I shall of course be happy to exercise both these rights whenever the Parish Council so requests.

I understand the thinking behind this change (which brings Stroud into line with the majority of comparable councils) is to increase the speed and efficiency of the planning process. I believe also that a number of requests for referral have been made by parish councils without specifying sufficient planning grounds for the referral. As the planning experts on Bisley PC know, the decisions SDC can make as a planning authority are heavily constrained by government/local authority rules which severely limit the district council's discretion.

Clearly the proposals look like a reduction in the powers of the Parish Council - something which I would report to you with regret. But I wonder if the change is as significant as it looks at first sight.

Where the PC simply wants to comment on an application, it will have the same power it has at present, making its submissions in the usual way. Where the PC wants the application to go to DCC, and not be dealt with under delegated powers, it will make its request through the Ward Councillor and, assuming a reasonable planning case has been made, the application will go to DCC as at present.

The plan is to bring the new arrangements into place on a trial basis for one year, and then carry out a review.

Councillor Mr D le Fleming was requested to enquire what plans are being made, if any, to transfer responsibility for particular services from District Council to Parish Councils.

10.11 7. **County Council Matters**

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

**November 2010 County Councillor's Report**

**Meeting the Challenge.** No more information until the county announcement on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Snow.** The new Snow Code Publication, published by the Dept. of Transport explains that there are no laws against clearing footpaths in a sensible manner and gives good examples of good practice for clearing snow and ice within local communities. It is hoped that this document will encourage the public to help themselves and others in severe conditions. To view this code ....

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG\\_191868](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_191868) I do hope this will take some of the "claim culture" fear out of good neighbourly acts in snow clearing.

**Grit Bins** New bins will not be provided by GCC , however bins provided by Parishes need to be sited in strategic positions agree in writing with GCC Parish Councils are encouraged to take a bigger role in the control of salt and grit in the Parishes. In the past winters some local residents have taken supplies for their own use , or spread in the road in an overgenerous manner. GCC will make every effort to replenish bins and ensure safety of residents, but it must be appreciated that times of severe weather put enormous pressure on staff and vehicles throughout the County.

If any Parish wishes to take control of local salt supply, please contact John Kay as soon as possible.

**County Waste Project delayed.** Following the decision of DEFRA to withdraw the £92 million of PFI cash last month , the Council has put this project on temporary hold. There will still have to be an alternative to landfill for the County and in the next few months the County Council will be looking at ways to take the project forward. It is hoped that the item will be considered by the County Council Cabinet in February 2011

**Food Waste in Schools.** So far just 30 schools have signed up to take part in the campaign to cut food waste. This is part of the County Waste Reduction Challenge 20<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November. Children who bring packed lunches will be encouraged to think carefully about the content of the lunch box, and those having school meals will be encouraged to take care in the size of portion in order to cut down in leftover waste.

**Playbuilder Scheme** Confirmation that funds for this scheme have been restored and that Eastcombe has been allocated £34,000 to refurbish the Play Area.

Parish Councillors thanked County Councillor Joan Nash for her sustained effort to acquire these funds.

10.11 8 **Matters for Discussion**

**a) Parish Precept 2010/2011**

Wards confirmed that they had completed their discussions regarding their proposed Precept figures for the next Financial Year and these will now be discussed at the Finance subcommittee tomorrow evening.

**b) Resilience**

Preparation work has been completed and more information will be available at the next Parish Council meeting.

**c) Grant Scheme**

It has been confirmed that we can claim for a number of grants but they must be on a single application. Application will consider grants for Bisley Youth Cricket Training and update to Web site.

**d) QE 11 Fields Challenge**

Councillors agreed that they could not see any benefits in applying for this scheme.

**e) GFRS Consultation**

The following information relates to proposed changes to the Fire Service at Stroud.

***Benefits across the county***

- Providing more firefighters at every road traffic collision (RTC)
- Providing better equipment for firefighters at RTCs
- Providing a more effective response for RTCs

***Current appliances at Stroud Fire Station***

- Two Fire Appliances (pumps)
- One Rescue Appliance

***What are we proposing for Stroud Fire Station?***

- Not to replace the Rescue Appliance that has come to the end of its service, but use the funding (£250k) to enhance the RTC equipment in the county
- Modify one of the pumps as a Pump/Rescue appliance with enhanced RTC equipment

- Redeploy firefighters that currently staff the Rescue Appliance across the Service

***How will this work for an RTC incident?***

- The pump/rescue appliance and crew of five will respond immediately to the RTC
- An additional pump and crew of 5/6 will respond five minutes after the pump/rescue
- Overall improved response compared to today - 10+ firefighters respond rather than seven

***What does this mean for the residents of Stroud District***

- A more effective response to RTCs.
- Increased number of firefighters skilled to deal with RTCs
- Updated and better equipment being used at RTCs

***Why do we need to change?***

We have identified a main area of focus in our Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2009-2012 to improve our response to RTCs county wide.

There has been a petition in the Stroud News and Journal which has attracted over 4,000 signatures opposing these changes. Following an explanation from our chairman, it was agreed that he should attend a meeting at SDC and vote to approve these changes on behalf of the Parish Council.

**f) Pavilion Steering Group**

Peter Thorp was elected as chairman of the Pavilion Steering Group. It was also agreed that the sum of £500 to cover the costs of a Quantity Surveyor should be provided from the Pavilion Reserve Fund.

**g) PC Website**

It was proposed that the PC website should be updated and Councillors were invited to give some thought on what they would like to change, improve or add to the website at the next Parish meeting.

**h) Annual Audit of Parish Accounts**

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit of Parish Accounts was now complete and had been signed off by both the Internal and External Auditors, Attention had been drawn by the External Auditors – Moore Stephens Chartered Accountants – to the significant variations in Section 1, Items 3 and 6 – ‘Total other receipts’ and ‘Total other costs’. This was explained as an exception due to the large grants received and payments made for the provision of a Community Tennis Court,

10.11 9. **Finance**

**Financial Statement**

**Receipts October 2010**

Bank Interest	£2.86
Allotment Rents	£282.00
Football Fees	£100.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£384.86</b>

**The following payments were approved by the Parish Council**

	<b>£</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
I Trueman – Handyman Eastcombe	198.75		198.75
Chalford Parish Council	47.00		47.00
ST Water – Windyridge Allotments	157.10		157.10
Alex Davis (A C Newman Architect)	50.00		50.00
Charity Ancient Parish Bisley	50.00		50.00
S T Water – Eastcombe Allotments	163.30		163.30
S T Water – Oakridge Allotments	69.32		69.32
Toshiba UK – Photocopier	9.05		9.05
Wicksteed – Eastcombe Play Area	296.80	51.94	348.74
CIX Web Browser	67.44	11.80	79.24
BT Office Line Rental	45.00	7.87	52.87
Moles Services – Tennis Courts & Allotments	150.00	26.25	176.25
JNC – Fire Extgr. Oakridge Pavilion.	22.75	3.98	26.73
SDC – Planning App. Oakridge Pavilion	85.00		85.00
P Morris – Stationery (James & Owen)	13.08		13.08
Roger Utley -	47.44	8.68	56.12
GAPTC Training	25.00		25.00
Clerks Salary – October 2010	852.77		852.77
HMRC – Tax & NI	215.33		215.33
GAPTC Training	40.00		40.00
I Trueman – Handyman Bisley	36.00		36.00
S T Water – Supply to Far Oakridge Allt's	791.10	138.43	929.53
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£3,432.23</b>	<b>£248.95</b>	<b>£3,681.18</b>

<b>Petty Cash Payments – October 2010</b>	<b>£87.87</b>
<b>Cash Balance as at 31 October 2010</b>	<b>£43,926.51</b>
<b>Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 October 2010</b>	<b>£2,138.77</b>
<b>Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 October 2010</b>	<b>£10,000.00</b>
<b>Parish Office Reserve as at 31 October 2010</b>	<b>£17,000.00</b>
<b>Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 31 October 2010</b>	<b>£6,250.00</b>

Planning Applications

Eastcombe Ward

**S.10/1488/VAR8216 – 2 The Laurels, Eastcombe – application** to renew extant permission for the demolition of existing garage and erection of a detached dwelling. – **No observations**

**S.10/1897/FUL5827 – Eastcombe, Stroud – Erection of replacement stable building.**

**Comments only**

1. Site shown on map is not adjacent to Thomas Keble School Sports ground as stated in the location description. It is clearly located east of football pitch on Eastcombe recreation grounds.
2. Definite improvement to site and existing buildings.

**S.10/2012/HHOLD – Totteridge, Dr Crouch's Road, Eastcombe – application for erection of two storey extension.**

**No observations**

**S.10/2026/TCA – Pretoria Villa, Wells Road, Eastcombe – reduce height of Thuya and Willow tree – No observations**

**S.10/2026/TPO – Overdale, Fidges Lane, Eastcombe – work to Beech at front of building, work to middle Beech in line of three, work to Beech to right. – No observations**

**S.10/2027/TCA – Overdale, Fidges Lane, Eastcombe – work to large Beech at side of house TPO 0225 – No observations**

Bisley Ward

**Nothing to report**

Oakridge Ward

**S.10/1772/FUL – Land adjacent to Woodside Cottage, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud.**

**Object**

Reasons / Comments: We have a number of points to raise although we are not opposed to a new dwelling on this site:- 1. The recent Village Design Statement indicates that the parish has a need for smaller, more affordable properties. This

together with our view that the application is against Policy HN5, 6, 8, 10 leads us to object.

2. The site is outside the village envelope and we would like to see the dwelling curtilage clearly shown, as separate from the whole site. Against HN8, 10, 14 3. The boundary of the site includes the biggest part of the land ownership which is paddock/agricultural, this needs a clear distinction from the dwelling and garden.  
4. The mass and height of the building is larger than the buildings around, the stable block on the site is effectively single storey. Against Policy BE5 5. We don't consider the building is distinctive enough or physically discrete enough to comply with BE1 or 2.

#### **10.11 11 Correspondence**

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

Playing Fields Association Newsletter  
Campaign to Protect Rural England Newsletter

#### **10.11 12 Ward Matters**

##### **a) Bisley Ward**

Bisley Ward had no matters to report that were not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

##### **b) Eastcombe Ward**

Full quote received to repair damaged swings No order to be placed until final decision received regarding Playbuilder Scheme.

##### **c) Oakridge Ward**

Oakridge Ward had no matters to report that were not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

#### **10.10 13 Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in **Bisley WI Village Hall** on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010, commencing at 7.30 pm.

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