

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 April 2011 AT BISLEY WI VILLAGE
HALL**

Present:	Mr P Thorp		Chairman
	Mr R Utley	}	
	Ms L Greene	}	Bisley Ward
	Mr R K Brooks	}	
	Mrs V Nairn	}	Eastcombe Ward
	Mr J Ellis	}	
	Mr R N Budgeon	}	Oakridge Ward
	Mr D Hunt	}	
	Mr P M Morris		Clerk

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

11.4 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Anna Bonallack, Mr G Newton and Mr P Bradley.

11.4 2. **Declaration of Interests**

Mr R Utley declared an interest in item 8c – receipt of cheque.

11.4 3. **Public Participation**

Five members of the public were present and Mr A Davis addressed the meeting regarding item 8 i) on the Agenda. Telephone kiosk in Oakridge Lynch.

Mr Davis reminded Councillors of the conditions that BT originally applied to public telephone kiosks:

Adopt a kiosk - this entailed the transfer of ownership of the structure to a competent and approved body for a nominal charge of £1. This would incur a never ending cost commitment in addition to that of maintenance and the new owner would be responsible for any termination of the electricity supply at a fee of between £200 - £500. BT have revised these terms and are prepared to supply power free of charge and pay for its removal if they decide to disconnect.

Sponsorship – a straightforward subsidy ensuring an operational facility. The annual cost of £300 p.a. (reduced from £500) However

BT will not give an undertaking as to the longevity of this rate. Withdrawal of the scheme can take place at any time.

Mr Davis said that he had reported the poor condition of the kiosk to BT and to his surprise they have replaced panes of broken glass, and promised to renew the door and paint the entire structure at a future date.

He accepted that the kiosk has very little use but provides an emergency function for those without mobile phones.

Mr Davis requested that should there be a move by BT to take the Box away, the PC should consider either of the two retention options at that time.

Councillors explained that the Parish Council could not afford to meet any cost for the retention of the kiosk.

11.4 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 March having been circulated to all councillors were approved unanimously and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

11.4 5. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting.

11.4 6. **District Council Matters**

A copy of District Councillor Mr D le Fleming's report to the meeting is at Annex A to these Minutes.

11.4 7. **County Council Matters**

A copy of County Councillor Mrs J Nash's report to the meeting is at Annex B to these Minutes.

11.4 8. **Matters for Discussion**

a) Energy Group

The Chairman provided a Background Paper on the history of the Energy Group and is at Annex C to these Minutes together with the proposed Constitution and Terms of reference. A suggestion was made that the Parish Council could not approve the working groups Minutes as they would not have been party to those discussions, therefore the Terms of Reference will state that the Parish Council will 'Note' the Minutes. The constitution and Terms of Reference were, on that basis approved by the Council. The working group will in future will be referred to as Bisley Community Energy Project. (BiCEP)

Councillors approved an initial budget of £80 to meet cost of proposed Public Energy Meetings at Eastcombe and Oakridge.

b) Local Housing Needs

An example of survey questionnaire supplied and it was agreed that this should include Jobs needs also. Combined questionnaire to be delivered to Parish households and collection boxes strategically positioned throughout the Parish.

c) Employment Land/Jobs Survey.

This included in Agenda item 8b.

d) Schools Sports Partnership

Initial part of this item deferred due to responsible Councillor being unable to attend this meeting. Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting with a representative from Stroud District Council to discuss whether PC would form a partnership with ThomasKebleSchool to operate the Sports Centre due to SDC considering withdrawing its support. We informed SDC representative that we could not make a commitment without first meeting with Mr Steer, the Headmaster and then reporting back to the Parish Council for discussion.

e) Trees

This item was deferred due to responsible Councillor being absent from this meeting.

f) Bisley Sports Pavilion

Five local firms requested to quote for repair to roof and guttering with only one responding. After broadening the horizon, nine further companies provided quotes. A Tender Board consisting of Bisley Ward Councillors considered these on value and expertise and a quote of £2,950 was accepted.

When tiles were removed further damage to the roof was revealed and an additional cost of £600 was approved.

Within two days of completion, guttering was vandalised and the contractor completed repairs at no extra cost.

Mr Utley reported that there were extreme problems getting local tradesmen interested in quoting for this work. Councillors suggested that notice of forthcoming contracts should be advertised on the Parish website with the hope that local tradesmen would respond.

g) Planning Applications.

It was proposed that Planning Applications (Hard Copies) should only be retained for one year and then be shredded, following planning approval or recommendations.

Ward Planning Councillor to decide if it is necessary to maintain copies for longer e.g. If building not completed. This was adopted by the Council.

h) Parish Planning Panel

After a brief discussion it was agreed that Planning ward Chairmen should remain as panel to discuss any contentious issues.

i) Oakridge BT Box

This item discussed at length and covered in item 3 Public Participation.

11.4 9. **Finance**

Receipts March 2011

Bank Interest	£ 2.51
Burial Ground Fee	£100.00

Total Receipts **£1,536.32**

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

	£	VAT	Total
SDC (Eastcombe P Field contribution)	998.00		998.00
Mr Rex Clack (Eastcombe Allt. Maint)	20.00		20.00
Mole's Services	200.00	40.00	240.00
Wicksteed (Insp Eastcombe Play Area)	365.00	73.00	438.00
SDC – Election expenses	765.01		765.01
Clerk - refund Internet Security	32.49	6.50	38.99
Gardeners – Eastcombe Play Area	120.00	24.00	144.00
W Davis Eastcombe Dry Stone Wall	385.00		385.00
C R Pulley - Stones Eastcombe Green	345.00	69.00	414.00
J M Ryder – Bisley Pavilion	125.00	25.00	150.00
Clerk Salary - February & March 2011	1705.54		1705.54
HMRC – Tax/NI February & March 2011	430.66		430.66
JNC Fire Protection Bisley Pavilion	22.95	4.59	27.54
Mr R Utley – Bisley Pavilion	71.69	3.94	75.63
GAPTC – Annual subscription	437.32		437.52
Berryman Lace Mawer – Vat on Insurance Claim		388.42	388.42
Totals	£6,023.86	£634.45	£6,658.31

Petty Cash Payments – March 2011	£66.48
Cash Balance as at 31 March 2011	£24,001.81
Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 March 2011	£2,139.20
Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 March 2011	£10,000.00
Parish Office Reserve as at 31 March 2011	£17,000.00
Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 31 March 2011	£1,391.38
Capital Projects Reserve as at 31 March 2011	£6,250.00

11.4 10. **Planning**

Bisley Ward

No: S.11/0035/LBC- Magnet Cottage Wells Road Bisley GL6 7AG - Replace staircase and kitchen floor. Decision. Support

Oakridge Ward - No reports

Eastcombe Ward

S.10/2262/FUL 2529 - : land at Gladstone Cottage Eastcombe Stroud - Full Planning Permission. Comments only
Reasons / Comments: The Planning Sub-committee stands by the initial comments submitted in regard to observing the planning recommendations outlined in the Village Design Statement, as adopted by Stroud District Planning Authority.

No: S.11/0158/VAR PP-013606328115 - Bismore Farm Bismore Stroud GL6 7DG - erection of extension and insertion of dormer window.
Decision: 1 No observations

11.411. **Correspondence**

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

Cotswold Lion Newsletter

CPRE Newsletter

11.412. **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley Ward**

Bisley Pavilion Working Group has selected scheme 4, reference renovation to Sports Pavilion and will prepare report prior to reporting to full PC at next meeting.

b) **Eastcombe Ward**

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

c) **Oakridge Ward**

Water supply has been completed to Far Oakridge Allotment site. Request that Clerk write to individuals thanking them for their financial contributions.

11.413. **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday 4th May commencing at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm hours.

ANNEX A TO

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 2011

District Councillor's Report to Parish Council Mar 011

Feb meeting of Council

At the Council meeting in February the administration's budget proposals were approved. Council tax has been frozen, some reserves have been applied to capital expenditure and the search for economies continues. The next major item on the Forward Plan is the renewal of the contract for the Leisure Centre.

Taxi and Private Hire policies and conditions

Following consultation the revised terms for taxi and private hire licences have been approved and will come into force on 1 April.

Planning

Gladstone Cottage, Eastcombe: for decision by DCC on 8 March

Springbank House, Tunley: I note that the revised application has been lodged.

Hillcroft, Oakridge: I have received complaints about this development

SDC Youth Council

The Youth Council's Litter Recycling Project ('bins at grot spots') has won a prize for the best recycling project in the County.

Work Experience/Apprenticeships

To assist with local youth employment the Council has arranged 6 NVQ apprenticeships and 37 work experience placements.

Daniel le Fleming

Mar 011

ANNEX B TO

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 2011

March 2011 County Councillor's Report.

Budget Meeting in February. I have reported to Parish councils which met late in the month, for the early month meetings I can report that most of the issues I have reported through the last months have been confirmed. The County part of the Council Tax is frozen for the coming year. Savings have been made mostly in the areas of Libraries and Youth Service. Good news was that £500,000 was reinstated into the Library budget from extra Council Tax received from new builds in the Stroud District. The Youth Service has a complete re-organisation, with the Outdoor Centres no longer to be run by the County Council and most resources being targeted towards vulnerable and "at risk" young people. Other areas of Council spending will have to be restrained and there will have to be less spent on roads and traffic schemes. Altogether a difficult time to come and a concern for the staff and services delivered by the County Council across Gloucestershire.

Transfer of buildings to Communities. There have been 43 expressions of interest from Communities who wish to take over buildings. Business plans need to be submitted to the County council by 30th June and during July the council will assess the business plans and determine which groups have been successful. Exact dates for transfer will vary, but new services will be introduced as soon as possible.

Road damage and repair. The backlog of road repairs has been reduced in the past few months but still stands at about £90 million. The County maintenance budget is currently £8 million, plus £14 million for capital schemes such as major resurfacing schemes. A recent inspection has found that an additional £3 million is needed to repair damage from the freezing winter conditions. A cash grant from Government of £1.6 million will be used, and the remainder taken from the capital schemes budget. As there will be no money available to transfer from other County budgets in the foreseeable future it is going to be difficult to maintain our 3500 miles of county roads.

Home Fire Safety. A reminder that Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service offers FREE Home Fire Safety checks and fits smoke alarms FREE of charge for elderly and vulnerable people in the Community. If Parish Councillors know of any resident who may benefit from this service, please speak with the resident and if agreeable to a check, call Freephone 0800 180 4140.

Joan I Nash Holcombe Farm, Painswick. 8131

ANNEX C TO

Parish Council Minutes April 2011

Sustainable Energy Strategy – A Background Paper:

Last month the Energy Working Group which was formed in mid-2010 attempted to present long-overdue Terms of Reference for the Group to the Parish Council for approval. In the meantime, however, some concern had been expressed from other quarters about the creation, function and legitimacy of the Group.

This came on the heels of previous external questioning by a member of the public about the Group's link or otherwise, to the Parish Council. Councillors will recall that I raised that issue under Correspondence and amendments to the wording on the website were agreed by Council to clarify this situation.

I think it is appropriate to provide some historical background on how the Working Group (whose title we will ask you to approve) came into being. This should reassure you that it was formed with the full authority of this Council and that its existence, roles and responsibilities are entirely legitimate.

Policies/Strategies:

For many years the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council has promoted sustainable, energy reducing/saving concepts from which the general community can benefit. A number of public discussion documents have been placed on the Council's website and the Parish generally (spurred on in no small measure by Parish Councillors acting as individuals) has a good track record of involvement in organisations such as the Bisley Community Composting Scheme and initiatives such as Gloucestershire County Council's "Zero Waste Week" (2009).

However the items on the website were not actually moving us forward or making any tangible difference to how we were going to change our environment in a beneficial way in terms of energy usage/conservation.

Opportunities:

In August 2009 we discussed "Access to Funding for Energy and Sustainability". This acknowledged our lack of local resources not just financially but more importantly in skills and raised the possibility of pooling resources perhaps with neighbouring Parishes and drawing in expertise from outside our Parish through the communities at large.

Our County Councillor had become aware of other Parishes within her Division that were having similar thoughts to us. We also suggested that the Parish

Council's Sustainability Policy should not just function as a Policy but should be part of our Service Delivery mechanism enabling all residents to be able to obtain information and benefit from a sustainable lifestyle.

The following month we heard that Joan had written to other Parishes and a number of positive responses had been received.

In October we supported "Love Food, Hate Waste" to highlight the problems of sending food waste to landfill.

At that month's meeting (under 8 (e) "Energy, Sustainability and Waste") we decided that a longer term strategic view was required and that parishes had an important part to play in local promotion of sustainable activities/initiatives including local power generation. Continued consideration of joint ventures with one or two other Parishes were felt to be beneficial.

It was therefore agreed that 4 Councillors (not individually identified) would form an initial study group and report back to Council.

In December 2009 we signed up to the Government's Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill.

In April 2010 the Council discussed ways not just of reducing our Carbon Footprint but also of securing future energy supplies. We noted that national energy supply organisations estimated UK supplies would begin to struggle to meet demand as soon as 2015. New nuclear facilities would certainly not be available until at least 2019, and in the intervening period gas/oil supplies would become scarcer and our reliance upon resources from abroad would increase. Renewable technologies would become the only alternative to assist local energy reliance.

Wind, solar and biomass were suggested as the main renewable alternatives with wind being the easiest to translate into useful, portable energy. It was believed a suitable site within the Parish could be found to provide a level of community income.

As we are in an AONB then we needed to be mindful/sensitive of planning issues and any proposed scheme would have to be sensitively handled and, above all, supported by the community. This last point was amply demonstrated by the VDS Questionnaire, which showed deeply divided opinions on wind turbines.

Councillors agreed that a working group be set up to consider the issues arising from the presentation/proposals (bearing in mind that this proposal had emerged from the initial study group of 4 councillors). The continued intent to approach neighbouring Parishes was agreed. It was also agreed that there should be

some parishioner representation and two members of the public who were present that night offered to be involved on the working group.

It was intended that Terms of Reference should be presented to Council at its May meeting. This, however, was deferred pending the outcome of the Parish Council Elections and the possibility of some changes in the Council's membership.

In August and September reports back from the Working Group demonstrated that progress was being made and at the September meeting there was more information about possible wind turbine sites, although it was noted that more discussions needed to take place. Also in September, members of the Working Group (referred to as the Energy Working Group) attended the Fetes in Bisley and Oakridge to seek general public reactions to the outline Energy Strategy. There were no negative responses from the public at these events.

The Energy Working Group held a Public Meeting in Bisley on 24 November 2010 at which it gave a presentation about energy supply issues and how communities might respond. The meeting included a question and answer session and was attended by 74 people. Although the intent was to provide an overview of the problem and potential solutions a number of attendees became quite vocal about wind turbines and went on to form the Save Our Skylines (SOS) action group.

Tonight we return to Council to ask your approval of the long-awaited Terms of Reference.

You will note there are the 4 Parish Councillors you first agreed should serve on this group (although as stated earlier you did not agree to them by name). Two of the Parish Councillors on the Group (Roger Budgeon and Derek Hunt) have business interests in the renewable energy field. This is no secret and they will, as they always have in the past, declare such interests if any specific technology is being discussed at Council.

There are also a small number of members who are energy practitioners and who have been co-opted to assist our work. Their expertise is essential to the work of the Group and it would be unable to make meaningful recommendations without their input. There are no conflicts of interest as far as those individuals are concerned; they are at great pains to ensure their relationship with the Council remains one of transparency and probity.

Politically we are all neutral when engaged on Parish Council work and the inclusion of a Stroud District Councillor on the Energy Group is another example of us utilising an individual's vast local knowledge and experience with no regard to his political allegiances.

Two further parishioners have recently offered their services/input to the group. This is entirely consistent with the Parish Council's intent as expressed in April 2010 and we welcome their participation.

The Working Group has met 6 times between July 2010 and February 2011 and Minutes of those meetings will be made available on the Parish Council website via the Sustainability link.

As Councillors will note the intention is for future Minutes to be approved by the Parish Council before being made public.

I trust that this Report has demonstrated how you have given authority for the establishment of what we propose should from now on to be known as the Bisley Community Energy Project (BiCEP), its membership, Aims and Objectives. All these are contained in the Terms of Reference.

I will ask the Clerk to make this a standing item on Matters for Discussion although I ask Councillors to appreciate that there will not always be anything to report between Parish Council meetings.

I must also stress that no decisions will ever be made by BiCEP outside this Council forum.

I should also make it clear that, although in the early stages of the Working Group's existence it included Thrupp (and Brimscombe) in its title, the potential for joint working has not come to fruition. Accordingly, BiCEP has removed all reference to this from its publicity materials.

Following on from the Public Meeting in Bisley in November we will be carrying out similar events in Eastcombe (26 April) and Oakridge (6 May).

Bisley-with-Lypiatt Community Energy Project

Constitution and Terms of Reference:

Constitution:

The Bisley-with-Lypiatt Community Energy Project (BCEP) is an initiative of the Parish Council. The Project working group will comprise:

Elected Members of B-w-L Parish Council

- Roger Budgeon
- Derek Hunt
- Peter Thorp
- Roger Utley

Renewable Energy Advisers

- Jamie Baldwin
- Corin Hughes
- Dave Judd
- Martin Whiteside

Members of the Public who reside within B-w-L

- Lyn Hemming
- Oliver Kirkham
- Stephen Trinder
- Mike Waite

Other individuals may be co-opted on to the BCEP as deemed necessary.

The BCEP will be chaired by Peter Thorp. It will meet as required, and report to the Parish Council.

Aim of the BCEP

The Aim of the BCEP is to research and recommend ways in which the Parish can work as a community towards a lower carbon footprint and improved energy resilience.

Terms of Reference:

The BCEP will:

1. Research technologies which could be adopted within the community to lessen reliance upon traditional energy supplies.

2. Arrange public meetings to share knowledge, promote the need for future resilience and consult on potential use of renewable technologies.
3. Provide information to individual parishioners on energy-saving technologies, especially insulation.
4. Present fully-costed proposals for Community Energy Projects to the Parish Council for action.
5. No later than one week after each meeting, provide the B-w-L Parish Clerk with formal Minutes of the meeting for circulation to all Parish Councillors.
6. Once the Minutes have been accepted and approved formally at a subsequent Parish Council meeting they will be placed on the Parish Council website.