

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST 2011
AT BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

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

In attendance: County Councillor Mrs J Nash and District Councillor Mr D le Fleming.
Mr Kierson Wise Severn Wye Energy Agency and Mr John McLaughlin Gloucester Environment Trust.
Twenty two members of the Public also attended.

11.81. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Newton and Mr P Bradley

11.82. Declaration of Interests

Mr R Utley declared an interest in item 10 – receipt of cheque as reimbursement of items purchased on behalf of Bisley Ward.

11.83. Severn Valley Energy Report

Kierson Wise provided an overview of one aspect of Severn Wye Energy Agency’s current work. This relates to funding which is available via a European Covenant of Mayors. This is a commitment from towns and cities throughout Europe to achieve energy/CO2 saving targets of 20% by 2020 through creation of Sustainable Energy Plans.

Around 3,000 signatories have been achieved so far although there are few within the UK. KW’s role is to get more communities signed up. A Template is used to create an Assessment of each community’s energy consumption and carbon footprint. This then provides a basis on which to make informed decisions about

reducing energy use. He also mentioned that there were no "Rural Parish Scale signatories" and he thought we were in a good position to pioneer this.

John McLaughlin indicated that the Gloucester Environment Trust would be interested after a plan had been decided and will then accept applications for funding - £20k for small projects and from £100k to £200k for flagship projects.

11.84. Public Participation

Twenty two members of the Public attended the meeting, the majority of which were Eastcombe residents that wished to emphasise their concerns over the proposed development of Woodlands Yard. Councillor Anna Bonallack informed the meeting that the application had been withdrawn temporarily following a meeting between the Architects and Stroud District Council Planning Department. There is some doubt whether the site is agricultural or brown field status.

Councillor Joan Nash provided a summary of Gloucestershire Highways Authority concerns regarding the parking layout.

A Bisley resident had major concerns that the development would increase traffic flow through the already congested narrow streets within the village, also, as the site is outside the Eastcombe settlement area it would set a precedent for future development.

Attendees were informed that the definition of Agricultural/Industrial sites is available on SDC website.

Councillor Roger Budgeon informed the meeting that SDC would take account of the Parish Plan when considering the application.

A resident indicated that they are not aware of planning applications in other wards which may affect their conditions, councillors agreed with these concerns; however, planning application information is available on SDC Planning website by entering a postcode of area you wish to search.

A Parishioner enquired if e-mail and letter correspondence were treated the same. It was confirmed that this is the case, although hard copy was being abolished, everything will be available on the SDC website.

Bisley residents had concerns about the application exceeding the Village Envelope. Lesley Greene informed the meeting that she had raised these concerns at the Eastcombe Public Meeting and to the PC Planning sub committee.

11.85. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 July had been circulated to all councillors. An amendment was required to delete the second occurrence of the words “to continue” in para 11.7 8 e of the Minutes. Subject to this manuscript change, the Minutes were approved unanimously and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

11.86. Matters Arising

In response to the question raised last month “is all correspondence received by the Parish Council available to the Public?” the Clerk has received the following definition from Gloucester Association for Parish and Town Councils. Any correspondence addressed to the Parish Council should be available to the public. If the signatory requests anonymity then this should be respected and if there is any doubt, individual cases can be referred to GAPTC for guidance.

Winter Grit Supplies: Gloucestershire Highways confirmed that there are no plans to remove grit bins unless requested to do so, in this instance they would not be replaced.

11.87. District Council Matters

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

11.88. County Council Matters

Councillor Nash reported that there had been an attempt to steal horses locally and residents should be aware.

Several changes to local bus services had been proposed and Councillors agreed that Mr P Thorp should attend the SDC meeting to share concerns regarding some of the proposals.

11.89. Matters for Discussion

a) BiCEP

Minutes of June and July meetings presented to full Council. Developing fact sheets with pro’s and con’s for each process, will present to Parish Council for approval prior to making them available to the public. Councillor R Brooks suggested that wood chip burner technology should be considered (village near Cirencester using this system).

b) Stancombe Triangle

Bisley Ward suggested that the Parish Council should adopt the Stancombe Triangle. It was agreed that the Clerk should request the relevant documents from Gloucestershire Highways.

c) Tree Warden

A draft of the Terms of Reference was presented to the Council and after a discussion several amendments were proposed. It was agreed that a modified version would be presented at the next Parish Meeting. Councillor R Brooks strongly recommended that an application for the Tree Warden to join the Royal Forestry Society should be made.

d) Housing and Employment Survey

It was agreed that the Parish Council should meet the cost of postage for distributing this survey – however, Parishioners would be asked to place completed forms to local shops.

e) SOS Correspondence

The Parish Council had received two letters addressed to the Chairman from the Save our Skyline group which required a response and Councillors had been informed of the contents of these letters. The Chairman provided copies of his response and these were approved by the members present.

f) Diamond Jubilee

Councillors were asked for their views on how the Parish might wish to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee next year. Eastcombe Ward indicated that there were plans already for a street party in the village. It was suggested that the Parish might build a Diamond Jubilee Beacon on one of the high points overlooking the Slad Valley. Councillor R Budgeon commented that incurring any major costs might involve increasing the annual precept.

It was also brought to member's attention that the celebration might be when the French visitors were present.

It was suggested that Wards should discuss at their meetings and report to the Parish Council meeting in September.

11.810. **Finance**

Receipts July 2011

Bank Interest	£ 3.26
Allotment Fees	£ 40.00
Tennis Court Fees	£135.00
Total Receipts	£ 178.26

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

	£	VAT	Total
Ian Trueman – Grass cutting Bisley	125.00		125.00
Ian Trueman – Grass cutting Eastcombe	96.00		96.00
T W Hawkins – Grass Cutting	772.50	154.50	927.00
Cotswold Skip Hire – Bisley Allotments	195.00		195.00
B T – Internet Services	45.00	9.00	54.00
GAPTC – Councillor Training	80.00		80.00
Ecoarborist – Tree report	180.00		180.00
R Utley – Screwfix	96.51	19.29	115.80
Pipeline Logistics Ltd – Bisley Allotments	752.94	150.59	903.53
D Richards – Grass Cutting Bisley	183.00		183.00
Clerk’s Salary – July 2011	900.85		900.85
HMRC – Tax & N I	100.06		100.06
T Bryant – Grass Cutting Oakridge	540.00		540.00
W Davis - Repair N-board Eastcombe	50.00		50.00
Totals	4,116.86	333.38	4450.24

Petty Cash Payments – July 2011 **£45.32**

Cash Balance as at 31 July 2011 **£34,618.72**

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 July 2011 **£2,139.56**

Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 July 2011 **£10,000.00**

Parish Office Reserve as at 31 July 2011 **£17,000.00**

Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 31 July 2011 **£1,266.38**

Capital Projects Reserve as at 31 July 2011 **£9,250.00**

11.8 11. **Planning**

Planning Applications

Eastcombe

S.11/1266/hhold - 1 Cotswold Cottages GL6 7DN - single storey extension - Decision: 4 Comments only. - Reasons / Comments: It is a shame to lose the original stone mullion window and attractive view of building from the road, and to compromise the living room space, considering that there is an alternative solution - to build along the existing kitchen extension - providing a porch and potentially larger extra living space.

Bisley

S.11/0872/COU 377 - Bathurst House, Bisley Road, Bisley, Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 NH Description: Change of use from Office B1 to residential. - Comments only

Reasons / Comments: The Parish Council is aggrieved at being placed in an invidious position of receiving an application for change of use that will create the loss of an employment site in the Parish, because the planning authority made an error of judgement and agreed a building that, whilst permitted as 'B1' commercial, in effect was not designed as an office but as a domestic building - premises designed in fact as a house. It was only a matter of time before function would inevitably follow form.

If permission is granted the Parish Council have significant concerns that we might lose more employment facilities than simply the Bathurst House site. In a small rural parish this employment site is one of a conglomeration of 3 small employment sites on the edge of the village, so the 'conglomeration' is key (Policy EM3). The Parish Council has concerns that future owners of Bathurst Lodge as a residential property may well complain (on the basis of possible noise or similar) about the remaining neighbouring manufacturing and business units, thus placing 2 more employment sites in this rural parish in jeopardy. We therefore request that, should change of use permission be granted to the applicant, the District Council designates the remaining neighbouring business sites as Locally Important Employment Sites in the Council's Employment Planning Strategy. In this way the Parish Council hopes that some protection will be afforded to continuing and future opportunities for rural workplaces and local employment on the edge of Bisley's settlement boundary. Furthermore, if permission is granted, the Parish Council requests a condition on the change of use to ensure that any new owners of Bathurst House are fully aware that there is adjacent small business units/small manufacturing and clarifying the importance of these neighbouring employment sites to the parish.

Finally the Parish Council is concerned that should permission be granted the size of this residential property outside the village boundary does not deliver identified national and local needs for affordable housing. There are already far more detached houses in Bisley than the district (69%; Stroud District Parish Profiles 2004). The Parish Plan (2006) states (p12) "Support for small scale housingwas evident and that it was genuinely affordable and remained that way"... "encouraging younger people to remain in our villages was essential to maintain a balanced population. Affordable housing would facilitate this". The Village Design Statement (2010) reiterates this view in favour of affordable housing and maintaining a mixed community. The Parish Council argues that PPS3 - support for mixed and sustainable communities - provides a strong policy argument for encouraging more affordable housing for young families in Bisley and not another presumably expensive executive-style residential unit.

11.812. **Correspondence**

Councillors were informed that the Stroud News and Journal intend to transfer the printing of the newspaper from Stroud to Tewkesbury. A copy of a letter from SDC member Mr J Marjoram objecting to this was presented to members. Councillors were asked give this consideration and report back at September meeting.

District Councilor D le Fleming informed the meeting that SNJ will retain reporters in Stroud and Dursley and that the newspaper had stated that it is not cost effective to maintain the printing process in Stroud.

11.813. **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley Ward**

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

b) **EastcombeWard**

Ward chairman Mr R Brooks informed the meeting that Councilor V Nairn had received a handmade card from children of Eastcombe Primary School, thanking her for all the effort she had made in organizing the completion of the refurbishment of the local play area.

All Councillors read the card and agreed it was a wonderful gesture by the children and concurred with their thoughts.

c) **Oakridge Ward**

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

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

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday **7thSeptember** commencing at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

ANNEX A TO PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES August 2011

District Councillor's Report to Parish Council August 2011

Cabinet meeting on 21 July 2011

- Carbon Management Plan Update: a report was presented setting out the projects completed in 2010/11 and the revised plan for 2011/12, for which capital funding of £200,000 has been allocated. A response from the County on the Stratford Park anaerobic digester proposal is awaited. Stroud ranks highly in the southwest for renewable schemes completed and savings so far since the start of the programme in 2007/8 now total 30%.
- Housing requirements to 2026: a new report proposes 9350 dwellings as the district-wide requirement for 2006-2026, prior to the adoption of a final requirement figure to be included in the Core Strategy. There will now be consultation on this figure. A requirement of 3119 dwellings for which land needs to be found in the next five years has been identified, and the report sets out the position on current sites.
- Planning scheme of delegation, public speaking and application fees: it is proposed that the recent changes should be confirmed and that public speaking at DCC be introduced (ward member, parish council, applicant, opposers).

Fees for planning applications will be set at a rate to cover the cost of the process.

Emergency Planning

Councillors recently had a seminar on 'Emergency Preparedness'. A risk register has been produced and response plans are in place in conjunction with service providers (eg electricity suppliers). Some parish councils have developed their own response plans.

Planning:

Woodlands Yard, Eastcombe
Gladstone Cottage Eastcombe

Daniel le Fleming
July 2011