

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2013 AT BISLEY WI  
VILLAGE HALL**

<b>Present:</b>	Mr R Utleby		Chairman
	Lesley Greene	}	
	Mr P Thorp	}	Bisley Ward
	Mr P Nairn	}	
	Val Nairn	}	Eastcombe Ward
	Mr R N Budgeon	}	
	Mr C Stoker	}	Oakridge Ward
	Mr M Bell	}	
	Mr P M Morris		Clerk

13. 10 1. **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies for absence were received from Bob Brooks, Gareth Newton, J Ellis and Jane Walker.
13. 10 2. **Declaration of Interests**  
No interests were declared.
13. 10 3. **Co-option of Parish Councillor**  
Eastcombe Ward has been functioning with only three Councillors from its complement of four. Mr R Utleby proposed that Peter Nairn be co-opted as a Councillor to Eastcombe Ward. Mr P Thorp seconded this proposal and Peter Nairn's co-option was carried unanimously. The Chairman warmly welcomed Peter Nairn to the Parish Council.
13. 10 4. **Open Forum with Neil Carmichael MP**  
Mr Carmichael failed to attend the meeting.
13. 10 5. **Public Participation**  
Three members of the public attended.  
Concerns were raised regarding planning application S.13/1791/FUL, Througham Slad Manor, Bisley.

13. 10 6 **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 September 2013**

Amendments to the draft Minutes of the previous meeting were discussed and it was agreed to incorporate these amendments and re-present the Minutes for approval at the November Parish Council Meeting.

13. 10 7 **Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted SDC Planning and raised the question why he had not received a notification on Grambler, S.13/1725/MINAM. It was explained that Planning Applications relating to Minor Amendments are not forwarded as they require no input from Parish Councils.

13. 10 8. **Planning Applications\_**

**S.13/1791/FUL** – New Conversion, Througham Slad Manor, Bisley, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7AW

Description: Extensions to the existing dwelling (including removal of conditions on approval S.03/1172).

Decision: **2 Object**

Reasons / Comments: We have concerns that the proposed extension harms the significance and setting of this Grade II\* Listed building and contravenes the NPPF (para 132) and Policy BE12 of the Local Plan. Furthermore we believe that the removal of the conditions S.03/1172 will create unsustainable additional development in this isolated area, generating more traffic, and contrary to the sustainability principles of the NPPF.

Interests declared: No

**S.13/1839/HHOLD** - Covie, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud GL6 7NR

Description: Erection of replacement garage.

Decision: **3 Support**

Reasons / Comments: We support this application but we would like to comment that we think wooden windows would be a more sustainable, longer lasting material than PVC.

Interests declared: No

**S.13/1886/VAR** - 2 The Laurels, Eastcombe, Stroud. GL6 7DN

Description: Replace extant planning permission S.10/1488/VAR.

Decision: **1 No observations**

**S.13/2044/LBC** - 2 Church Hill, Bisley, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7AB

Description: Replace modern timber frame dining room window with traditional metal frame and install leaded lights to the new frame. Install metal opening frame in main bedroom to match other stone mullion window.

Decision: **3 Support**

**S.13/1854/FUL** - The Paddocks, Lower Nashend, Bisley, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7AJ

Description: Erection of replacement dwelling

Decision: **2 Object**

Reasons / Comments: There is a single storey low impact wooden building on the land adjacent to the single track road. It has a Certificate of Lawful Use (granted 10 May 2012). It has been in permanent residential use. The proposed replacement dwelling is a two storey stone and partially timber clad slate roofed house. It will be located diagonally opposite the current low impact dwelling across the yard/parking area. We understand part of the agricultural barn will be taken down to accommodate the proposed dwelling. The Certificate of Lawful Use regularised a Low Intensity Development of the site. What is now proposed is a new dwelling outside the settlement boundary. We are concerned that this replacement house will harm the character of the countryside by contravening Policy HN14 (para 2, which requires that: "the replacement dwelling is smaller than, or of a similar size to the existing dwelling and does not detract from the character or appearance of its surroundings") and permission may create unhelpful precedents for other dwellings established with a Certificate of Lawful Use.

13. 10 9. **District Council Matters – (Councillor Daniel le Fleming)**  
The Clerk reported that Daniel le Fleming had been taken ill and was currently in hospital. Councillors expressed unanimous appreciation of all the hard work he had done on behalf of Bisley-with-Lypiatt and wished him a speedy recovery. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to his wife on behalf of the Parish Council.
13. 10 10 **County Council Matters – (Councillor Jason Bullingham)**  
A copy of County Councillor Mr J Bullingham's report to the meeting is at Annex A to these Minutes
13. 10 11 **Matters for Discussion**
- a) SDC Pre-Submission Local Plan**  
Agreed Clerk to write indicating acceptance of Plan
- b) S106 request Eastcombe Pavilion**  
It was agreed to accept recommended tender supported by Eastcombe Ward at a cost of £6,895.
- c) Low Impact Development – Planning Considerations**  
Roger Budgeon had raised this matter with Planning officials at Stroud District Council and it was agreed to defer further discussion by the Parish Council until SDC had responded formally.

**d) Tracks & Trails Group Meeting**

The Council received a report of the meeting from the Parish Tree Wardens. A copy is at Annex B to these Minutes.

**e) Bank Interest Rate**

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had been contacted by the Bank and offered the opportunity to ring fence a sum of money within the Council's existing account for a set period of time and thereby receive an improved interest rate. It was agreed unanimously to request further information, including Terms & Conditions, from the Bank and also to investigate interest rates available from Building Societies.

**f) Tree Surveys**

Having formally taken over responsibility for the maintenance of the closed churchyards in Bisley and Oakridge, the Parish Council was now responsible for the safety aspects of a large number of mature trees. Councillors discussed the potential legal liability in the event of any accidents and agreed unanimously that the Clerk was to obtain tenders for carrying out any safety-related work required to trees in the churchyards and playing fields/play areas, together with the allotment areas in Oakridge & Waterlane.

**g) Preparation of Budget for FY2014-15**

Wards agreed to present their proposed budgets for FY2014-15 at the next Parish Council meeting.

**h) War Memorials in Eastcombe & Bisley**

Both War Memorials are listed and the proposed modifications to highlight the recorded names by painting require Planning permission. It was agreed unanimously that the Clerk should submit a planning application on behalf of the Parish Council.

13. 10 12 **Finance**

**Payments for October 2013**

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

<u>Cost code</u>		£	VAT	Total
4223	C R Signs – Bisley Allotments	15.00	3.00	18.00
4455	Broxap Grit bins - Oakridge	234.98	47.00	281.98
4050	T W Hawkins – Grass Cutting	772.80	154.56	927.36
4450	D Magee – Maintenance Oakridge	211.75		211.75
4040	Glos Playing Fields Assoc. Annual subs.	50.00		50.00

4000	Clerk's Salary – September 2013	860.97		860.97
4000	HMRC – Tax & NI	221.05		221.05
4320	I Trueman – Grass Cutting Eastcombe	258.00		258.00
4221	Grass Cutting Bisley Allotments	120.00		120.00
4055	Stephanie Foley – Travel expenses	8.10		8.10
4325	Eastcombe Pavilion - Cleaner	350.00		350.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,752.65</b>	<b>204.56</b>	<b>2,957.21</b>

### 13. 10 13 **Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence had been received since the last Parish Council Meeting:

Clerks & Councils Direct

Gloucestershire Constabulary response to Parish complaint regarding 101 emergency number

Gloucestershire Highways – Public Rights of Way, new contract

Neil Carmichael MP – Stroud Festival of Manufacturing & Engineering

### 13. 10 14 **Ward Matters**

#### **Bisley**

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

#### **Oakridge**

Two trees on the track to Waterlane allotments are overhanging a neighbouring house. The Ward would engage a tree specialist to investigate, propose and cost remedial work. Roger Budgeon also noted that a tree near to Dora's Cottage at Oakridge required attention. He would get the same contractor to report on this tree.

#### **Eastcombe**

Welcomed new Councillor Peter Nairn.

### 13. 10 15 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday **6<sup>th</sup> November 2013** commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm

## **ANNEX A TO**

### **PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES SEPTEMBER 2013**

#### **County Councillor's Monthly Report - Sept 2013**

##### **Javelin Park Incinerator Project - Update**

A venue has been set for the crucial planning inquiry into the Javelin Park incinerator project. Urbaser Balfour Beatty's appeal will be heard in public by a Government-appointed planning inspector at the Hallmark Hotel in Matson, opposite Gloucester Ski Centre.

It will get underway on November 19 and will be held over 20 days, with the final session taking place at the end of January 2014. A pre-inquiry public meeting was held at the same venue on Wednesday 25th September.

##### **Free early learning childcare for two-year-olds - Update**

Gloucestershire has received £4.78million to support more two-year-olds to access early education and families on a low income could be entitled to 15 hours of free childcare a week.

We are well on the way to achieving the target of 2,400 new free early education places for two-year-olds in the county by 2014. While 20% of two-year-olds are eligible now, 40% will be eligible in September 2014.

We will now be targeting the remaining Government funding to increase the number of places available in areas where there are high numbers of eligible two-year-olds but a limited number of pre-school places.

If you are contacted by any parents asking about this new funding or if you know any families you think could be eligible, please ask them to call the Family Information Service on 01452 427362 or FREEPHONE 0800 542 02 02 (calls to this number from a mobile may be charged at a higher rate). They will need their National Insurance number to hand. Family Information Service will then be advising them on their eligibility and where places are available.

There is more detailed information at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/Achieving-2-Year-Olds](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/Achieving-2-Year-Olds)

##### **Big Community Switch Auction: October 16th**

The council is again supporting the Big Community Switch collective energy switching scheme. The help of Members is requested to encourage residents to register their interest in switching energy supplier.

The Big Community Switch is bulk buying - if a large number of people want to change supplier together they are likely to get a better deal than just one person shopping around and switching on their own.

And the more households that register their interest in switching, the more attractive it becomes for an energy supplier to offer a competitive price and the more likely consumers are to achieve significant savings.

Residents need to register their interest with the Big Community Switch in the next few weeks. They can do this either online at

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bigcommunityswitch](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bigcommunityswitch) or by phoning the council on 01452 42 57 57 between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday (between 3rd September and 15th October). By doing this, they are under no obligation to switch supplier.

People only need to provide basic information at this stage: name, address, contact details, an indication of their energy consumption and whether they wish to consider switching for both gas and electricity or electricity only.

Please advise residents that It's a good idea to have a recent bill to hand as it makes registering easier, and more accurate registration means a more accurate offer.

Residents who have registered their interest will receive a personalised energy offer during late October or early November. Although this is likely to be lower than their current bills, there is no guarantee of this, but there is also no obligation to accept the offer and switch supplier. People only need to sign up to the scheme and make the switch if it works for them.

Those wishing to take part in the scheme must register by 23:59 on Tuesday 15th October.

Cllr. Jason Bullingham - Phone 01452 810958  
Email: [jason.bullingham@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:jason.bullingham@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## ANNEX B TO

### PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OCTOBER 2013

#### Report on the Mid Cotswold Tracks and Trails Group Meeting: 'A Talk on Bridleways' by John Lane of Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way Dept. Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 2013

Mr. Lane began with an introduction to the PROW dept. , the different categories of rights of way and their legal uses. He mentioned that staffing levels had dropped from 26 in 2007 to 6<sup>1/2</sup> at present and their budget works out at £60.00/mile of right of way, which includes all stiles, bridges, gates etc. as well as labour.

He then said that the present network of bridleways was in places disjointed and the PROW was helping the MCTTG create the circular routes which it wanted. This could be done by, in effect, creating new bridleways using 'Express Dedication on Common Law', forming new links across land in private ownership with the owner's permission. As this process does not result in public rights of way, an agreement can be made between the landowner and the PROW, which, after an audit of each bridleway by PROW, means that it will be included on the definitive map and be maintained by PROW.

Mr. Lane raised the point that 90% of rights of way problems are caused by drainage. If this can be put right, then the surface will become more user 'friendly'. PROW now use recycled Type 1 as surfacing material, which is more durable and costs less than half the amount of fresh quarried Type 1. The material is laid about 15cm thick over membrane to a width of 3-4m on a bridleway and this costs a great deal.

Those landowners who receive a single farm payment through the Agro-Environment Agreement, which covers the maintenance of footpaths, can lose a significant amount if rights of way crossing their land are not maintained. Pat Harris of MCTTG said that there is a need for self-help to create these links, involving fund raising for gates etc. to assist landowners and raising community interest can lead to grants becoming available. These projects can come into the ownership of a community which can often make things happen.

In the second part of the talk, Mr. Lane told us about the new maintenance contract which will be put in place from April 2014 and will include rights of way with highways . Four companies have expressed interest and submitted detailed bids based on schedule of rates. These companies are: Amey, Balfour Beatty, Ringway and Skanska. The preferred bidder will be chosen at the end of October and will then work alongside the existing contractor until March 2014. The specification for rights of way maintenance, which was written by Mr. Lane himself, contains all existing points. GCC will retain a PROW work commissioner, while other members of the team will transfer employment to the new contractor.

The bids are being checked to the following criteria:

45% on deliverability



45% on cost  
10% on believability

Quality control will be the responsibility of the work commissioner. There was much concern about the future maintenance of all rights of way, especially about the involvement of volunteers. Mr. Lane was of the opinion that arrangements between the contractor and volunteer groups would continue, although nothing is yet known about budget arrangements. The meeting ended with questions, the majority of which were concerned with specific rights of way access and worries about the future contractor's involvement with rights of way, as they will become a very small percentage of the general highways budget. Mr. Lane concluded by saying that PROW were not 'attention grabbing' but the changes in contract has led to many concerns being voiced, thereby raising awareness with councillors, which can only be good.