

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2013 AT BISLEY WI
VILLAGE HALL**

Present:	Mr R Utleby	Chairman
	Mr P Thorp Jane Walker	} Bisley Ward }
	Mr R Brooks Val Nairn Mr J Ellis	} Eastcombe Ward } }
	Mr R N Budgeon Mr C Stoker Mr M Bell	} Oakridge Ward } }
	Mr P M Morris	Clerk

District Councillor Nigel Cooper, Ward Member for Painswick attended the meeting and kindly offered his services whilst Councillor Daniel le Fleming continues to be incapacitated due to poor health. The Chairman thanked him for this very generous gesture.

13. 12 1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from L Greene, P Nairn and G Newton.
13. 12 2. **Declaration of Interests**
Mr C Stoker declared an interest in item 6c on the Agenda and will not participate in this item.
13. 12 3. **Public Participation**
One member of the public attended.
- Q.** Having expressed concern regarding motor vehicles speeding through Bisley, the question raised "What is the Parish Council doing about it"?
- A** Parish Council is working hard behind the scenes to resolve this issue.
13. 12 4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 November 2013**
The Minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 6 November 2013 having been circulated to all councillors were approved unanimously and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

13. 12 5 **Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

13. 12 6. **Planning Applications_**

S.13/1791/FUL – Delegated to Bisley Ward Meeting to meet response deadline.

S.13/2311/LBC

The Coach House, The Old Vicarage, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7NS

Description: Single storey oak framed conservatory.

Decision: **3 Support**

Reasons / Comments: We think this addition will add valuable space to this small dwelling. We support this application.

Interests declared: Yes

Details of any interests declared: One councillor is helping the owner with the application

S.13/2293/HHOLD

The Coach House, The Old Vicarage, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7NS

Description: Single storey oak framed conservatory.

Decision: **3 Support**

Reasons / Comments: We think this addition will add valuable space to this small dwelling. We support this application.

Interests declared: Yes

Details of any interests declared: One councillor is helping the owner with the application.

S.13/2319/HHOLD

Lismore Cheltenham Road, Bisley, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7BJ

Description: Proposed extensions and alterations to the side & rear consisting of 2 pitched roofed conservatories.

Decision: **1 No observations**

S.13/2451/OUT

Bisley with Lypiatt Parish Council **OBJECTS** to this development because fundamentally we believe it is not sustainable and therefore contravenes the 'golden thread' running through the National Planning Policy Framework. We oppose it for the following more detailed reasons:

1. EFFECT ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER: GLOUCESTERSHIRE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT:

The Slad Valley is a key example of one of a very small number of Gloucestershire's Landscape

Character Assessment Areas (27) “Secluded Valleys”. This proposal will have a deleterious effect by intruding into the Slad valley with development, radically reducing the quiet and remote character that defines a unique landscape character.

This area has additional importance in that it helps define the locally distinctive characteristic of Stroud as a Town at “The Heart of the Five Valleys”. Stroud is defined by naturally landscaped valleys (not parkland as is proposed) that run like green fingers into the HEART of the town. This proposal destroys a key characteristic of Stroud’s character.

STROUD LOCAL PLAN: POLICY NE8:

This development affects the AONB. It will be visible from the Slad Road and Swifts Hill (an internationally renowned SSSI) and by extending and thickening residential development closer to the AONB reduces the quality of the landscape setting and the character of the local landscape.

We believe that the lighting in this development will impact negatively on the night sky, and on the quality of the AONB.

The NPPF expresses concern about the protection of scenic beauty in Paragraph 115.

2. **ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: SDC LP POLICY BE14** The County Archaeologist suggests that the proposal could negatively affect significant archaeological remains.

3. **ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: SDC LP POLICY NE5 and 6** There is extensive evidence of bat activity in the applicant’s report and a number of bat species active. We believe that most of these will be roosting further up the Slad Valley, but unimproved pasture is significant in support of bat foraging and bird life (swifts and swallows whose numbers have declined radically). We believe overall this application, by interrupting reducing wildlife corridors, diminishing foraging opportunities, and introducing additional light pollution, will have a negative effect on the future of wildlife especially local bat and moth populations

4. **FLOODING:** This area has a history of flood risk. Developing the hillside down to the valley bottom will create severe problems on the landscape’s ability to absorb rainfall particularly given climate change. It will do nothing to assist the already high risk water flow down the Slad Brook. Serious water engineering work will be required to reduce the already critical risk in the lower valley. The NPPF is very clear about ensuring that all development is flood resistant and flood risk is mitigated (paragraph 100).

5. **SUSTAINABILITY:**

We believe four issues compromise sustainability in this development proposal:

(1) The access via Summer Street is totally inadequate for this number of extra houses, it is single track traffic calming in some places and single track

due to narrowness and parking in others. Access towards Slad is too narrow, rural and provides no services, and access across the valley onto Slad Road will exacerbate the already difficult passage to Stroud. The access issues do not fulfil the NPPF Paragraph 32 & 35 for 'safe and suitable access' and developments designed to minimise conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and traffic. Public transport is poor, thus sustaining the use of the car.

(2) The proposal is too far out of town to be considered as "sustainable" as far as shops and supplies are concerned, any food or essential supply purchase will involve a car journey, see Paragraph 37 of the NPPF.

(3) We see no proposal or justification for job provision within this proposal, therefore it cannot be considered "sustainable" in economic terms – NPPF Paragraphs 21 and 22.

(4) The plan is not led by local people enabling them to take a leading role in shaping their surroundings – a Core Planning Principle of the NPPF.

6. NPPF and CULTURAL WELLBEING:

We believe this development negatively effects cultural wellbeing.

Cultural well-being is new to national planning policy. Its inclusion within the

NPPF as a Core Planning principle (Paragraph 17) means that local planning

authorities should plan for "cultural well-being for all" as a material

consideration of the planning system. There is flexibility re defining cultural wellbeing at a local level. The Slad Valley has a national and internationally important cultural significance in that it was the home of Laurie Lee, poet and writer, and author of "Cider with Rosie". This development intrudes into the Slad valley, intensifying the density of urban development and creeping into an area that is renowned for its literary and visual romance, with descriptions of quiet, idyllic, and historically typical Cotswold countryside that is dark at night, and defined by an internationally renowned artist.

Another renowned writer Susan Hill CBE wrote a book called 'The Spirit of the Cotswolds' in 1987. Having covered the whole of the Cotswold area, the last chapter covers Bisley, Miserden, Sheepscombe and the Slad Valley, and she says 'I have saved the best till last... I know more spectacular bits of the Cotswolds, more obviously pretty, but I know nowhere that gives me such complete joy, that is quite so flawless, and yet real, living, not artificially preserved.'

'For what after all could ruin Slad. They could be allowed to build too many new houses...'

'I have stood in the lane that runs beneath Swift's Hill... the long valley sweeping down and away towards Stroud, the meadow slopes nearer at hand

rising and falling, one upon one, soft as breaths. "I think I could end my days in this little [Slad] valley as anywhere on earth... I knew for certain, in this magic spot, I had found what I had been looking for, the place where the pure spirit of the Cotswolds bubbled up out of the ground like spring. And I knew that it would always be here for me to drink deep and be refreshed, renewed, restored.'

13. 12 7. **District Council Matters** – (Councillor Daniel le Fleming)
No report submitted.

13. 12 8. **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. 12 9 **Matters for Discussion**

a) Parish Budget FY2014/15

The Section 137 payments and Budget for FY2014/15 were approved.

b) Sports Ground Maintenance

The contracts for the maintenance of the Sports Grounds, Oakridge Burial Ground and Tennis Court were approved.

c) Clerk's Delegated Financial Authority for Churchyard Maintenance

It was agreed to extend this authority until the AGM.

13. 12 10 **Finance**

Payments for December 2013

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

Cost code		£	VAT	Total
4020	BT – Telephone	69.02	13.80	82.82
4320	Chalford Parish Council – Grass Cutting Fourways Crossroads Eastcombe	30.00		30.00
4000	Clerk's Salary – September 2013	840.97		840.97
4000	HMRC – Tax & NI	221.05		221.05
4320	I Trueman – Strimming - Eastcombe	138.00		138.00
4200	Npower – Bisley Pavilion	88.23	4.41	92.64
4230	P Thorp – Salt Spreader – Bisley Ward	207.45	41.49	248.98
	Totals	1,594.72	59.70	1,654.42

13. 12 11 Correspondence

The following items of correspondence had been received since the last meeting:

Allotment & Leisure Gardener

War Memorial Trust – Bulletin

Neil Carmichael MP – Letter of apology for non-attendance at October Parish Council Meeting.

13. 12 12 Ward Matters

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

13. 12 13 Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday **8th January 2014** commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm

ANNEX A TO

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES DECEMBER 2013

County Councillor's Monthly Report - December 2013

County Council Winterbourne Response Praised

Gloucestershire County Council has been rated as one of the top six local authorities in the UK for its 'ground-breaking' quality programme checking care services for vulnerable adults

The county council was identified by government as one of the top six 'Winterbourne Best Practice' sites nationally following a Department of Health inspection earlier this year.

At a meeting of the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee on 6th November, members heard how the county council, working in partnership with Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, had proactively put in place a rigorous action plan in direct response to government Winterbourne recommendations.

These actions include a review of all adults with learning disabilities placed outside of Gloucestershire, with plans put in place to bring as many back as possible.

Other actions include launching a dedicated quality programme to check care services, with some checks being led by service users themselves alongside regular unannounced visits to care settings.

The county council has also responded strongly to Department of Health requirements to support individuals with challenging behaviour, introducing a Challenging Behaviour Strategy to help people take their rightful place in local communities rather than being marginalised in care homes.

As part of this strategy, a new challenging behaviour team will work alongside service providers to support individuals in the community, with additional help also given to family members.

The work has led to a national body set up following the Winterbourne Review commenting that the work in Gloucestershire 'goes to the very heart of what needs to be developed to really change services' and that it 'supports the already ground breaking work on quality that you are already doing.'

The county council plans to build on this success by extending its quality programme to mental health and physical disability services. It also plans to widen the remit from residential and supported living services to other kinds of health and social care services.

Later this year the county council will be ranked by government on its performance in this area now and again in a year's time to help show progress.

New Strategy To Buy Better Care

Gloucestershire County Council is looking to improve the way it buys care for elderly and vulnerable people.

In Gloucestershire, the way the council buys residential care services – provided for younger people with a physical disability and older people – hasn't been reviewed for over a decade.

Since then a lot has changed and the council now needs to focus on providing better quality of care for the people who really need it.

With an ageing population and people with complex needs living longer, the council and the NHS, which commissions these services from the council, have to plan for the future and ensure that the right people are receiving the right services.

On 27th November cabinet will be asked to approve a consultation to talk to care providers and start a conversation about how future services could be shaped, including how the council pays for them.

The council aims to focus on providing residential services for people with higher needs while helping those who want to remain independent to stay in their own homes as long as possible.

Part of the consultation will include plans to standardise the fee structure, which could generate savings that can be ploughed back into providing services for those who really need them.

If cabinet agree the consultation, it will take place from the New Year, however people who receive the services will not be affected in any way.

Free Parking To Support Local Businesses

On-street parking and park and ride buses in Gloucestershire will be free on 7th December as part of a campaign to support local businesses.

Gloucestershire County Council is supporting Small Business Saturday, the national campaign taking place across the UK.

The event is aimed at encouraging people to support their local retailers and highlight the services they provide.

It's thought that Saturday 7th December is one of the busiest shopping days of the year as people stock up on their Christmas presents.

To back the campaign, the council will waive charges for on-street parking county-wide and park and ride buses in Gloucester.

Park and ride services start at Waterwells and travel through the Quays and onto the city centre. It is normally £2.50 per adult to park your vehicle and use the bus service, which runs every 10 minutes, but there will be no fee on 7th December.

The council also manages on-street parking which is managed through pay and display for up to two hours at a time, with an average cost of £2.70. On 7th December, it will be free to park on-street for up to two hours at a time.

For park and ride bus timetables visit

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/parkandride.

For on-street parking details, visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/parking.

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