

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
5 JUNE AT BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

Present	Mike Bell		Chairman
	Martin Brown	}	
	Dave Partridge	}	Bisley Ward
	Hazel Saunders	}	
	Mr R Brooks	}	
	Mike Eccott	}	Eastcombe Ward
	Scott Sissons	}	
	Roger Budgeon	}	
	Dennis Robbins	}	Oakridge Ward
	Tony Martin	}	
	Mrs D Meredith		Clerk

- 5.6 1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Jenny Exley, County Councillor Keith Rippington, Lesley Greene.
- 5.6 2. **Declaration of Interests** - None.
- 5.6 3. **Approval of the Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 1st May**
Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2019 having been circulated to all councillors were approved unanimously.
- 5.6 4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings**
Enquiry regarding the future planning for a book of condolence for the Head of State – Cllr Tim Williams will ask Stroud District Council for the protocol regarding this. The Clerk confirmed that a leather bound book could cost approximately £35.
- 5.6 5. **Public Participation** – Members of the public are invited to address the Council.
A member of the public commented on a procedure for going to DCC development control committee regarding the planning application for the Dutch Barn, Bisley. Cllr Tim Williams informed the meeting that there is now a new chairman of the committee. The member of the public asked if this can go on the agenda for next month as the Dutch Barn application is to be reapplied. Roger Budgeon commented that material changes to the application need to be made prior to resubmission. The Chairman commented that the DCC chairman had refused to speak to us regarding this application process. Cllr Tim Williams confirmed that Martin Baxendale has now taken over the role of DCC chairman.

5.6 6. **County Council Matters – (Councillor Keith Rippington)**
County Councillor Rippington confirmed verbally with the Clerk that he welcomes email correspondence on issues that may arise.

5.6 7. **District Council Matters – (Councillor Tim Williams)**
To receive a report from District Councillor Tim Williams Annex A.
The Chairman raised the issue of road sweeping around the green by Oakridge church. Cllr Tim Williams will follow up with the relevant department in SDC.

5.6 8. **Agree Parish Council response to the following Planning Applications**

S.19/0900/FUL - Highdown Farm Catswood Lane Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 7NG

New access track (388828 - 207346)

Decision: 3 Support

Reasons / Comments: We welcome the fact that the applicant has consulted with SDC Planning Office.

There are no objections from statutory authorities or neighbours.

Whilst this Parish Council supported the previously rejected application, this application is an improvement as the track route has been revised to mitigate against SDC's concern about potential impact on open countryside.

The existing opening will be closed and the Parish Council welcomes the planting of a native hedgerow there, providing a continuous hedgerow corridor (and covering the current inappropriate wooden fencing). We also welcome proposed additional hedgerow planting along the south west boundary, again enhancing habitat and hedgerow corridors, strengthening key characteristics of this area. We trust these will be conditional under any permission granted. We note that the hedgerow at the NE boundary edge of the field is a Priority Habitat regulated under 2007 Hedgerow Regulations.

S.19/0907/TCA - Todsbridge Far Wells Road Bisley

Tree works

Decision: 3 Support

Reasons / Comments: Support conditional on all works being carried out outside the bird nesting season. The Parish Council recommends suitable tree replacement planting in line with their tree replacement policy

S.19/0871/HHOLD - Torbank, Eastcombe

A small area of raised decking in rear garden (part retrospective).

Decision: 3 Support

Reasons / Comments: It is in reality a small area which would be a good viewing point for the applicant to distant views of the valley. It does though overlook The Yews obliquely on the other side of The Street.

A question that should perhaps be addressed by Building Regulations, is the potential for structural damage to the exceptionally high and major retaining stone wall's foundations that run between Fairview and Torbank on the boundary. It has been totally rebuilt c 2016.

VISUAL IMPACT AND SCALE:

The dimension of the length running parallel to the high stone wall is 3.8m, which is the maximum of this rectangular raised deck, and does not constitute a visual intrusion. The timber should tone down with age.

S.19/1022/HHOLD - Fort View Fidges Lane Eastcombe Stroud Gloucestershire

Two storey rear extension.

Decision: 3 Support

Reasons / Comments: The parish would prefer to see policies upheld to use timber windows rather than the continued use of UPVC.

S.19/0231/HHOLD – Seaview, The Broadway, Oakridge Lynch

Revised application - Above ground garage, conversion of basement garage into habitable accommodation, rooftop terrace, external steps and landscaping.

Decision: 3 Support

S.19/1084/HHOLD - Stokyes Close, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud

Single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to play room and store. Resubmission of S.18/2195/HHOLD and S.18/2196/LBC.

Decision: 2 Object

Reasons / Comments: We have concerns about the large roof light that will have an impact on our "dark sky" causing light pollution. We would need to see changes to deal with this issue. The "dark Sky" principle is one we fully support.

S.19/1085/LBC - Stokyes Close, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud

Single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to play room and store. Resubmission of S.18/2195/HHOLD and S.18/2196/LBC.

Decision: 2 Object

Reasons / Comments: We have concerns about the large roof light that will have an impact on our "dark sky" causing light pollution. We would need to see changes to deal with this issue. The "dark Sky" principle is one we fully support.

S.19/1091/HHOLD - Dunelm, Far Oakridge, Stroud, Gloucestershire

Single storey rear extension.

Decision: 4 Comments only

Reasons / Comments: We see no reason to object to this application, but we find it an inappropriate extension.

5.6 9. **Matters for discussion**

a) **Ward Appointments – Ward Chairmen**

Hazel Saunders for Bisley Ward confirmed that Martin Brown and Lesley Greene will now share the planning role. All other roles remain the same.

Roger Budgeon for Oakridge Ward confirmed that Tony Martin will be the snow warden and work with What's On. All other roles remain the same.

b) **NDP Area Designation Application to SDC – Martin Brown – a formality as the Parish Council is aiming towards a NDP, the council needs to approve the formal letter which has been circulated and will be sent to SDC to request that they designate the area being the**

same as the Parish. This was carried.

- c) **The Tree Warden's suggested tree replacement policy** – Jenny Exley requested that the item is deferred to next meeting in her absence. This was carried.
- d) **Dark Skies – Roger Budgeon** – information circulated to NDP group. Roger Budgeon stated that already lots of precedents have been set including no street lighting. He gave the meeting information that the Astronomer Royal once lived in the parish and is keen on dark skies. He has also spoken with a consultant of CPRE and dark sky projects who keeps Roger Budgeon informed on the topic. Our Parish fits a lot of the criteria and he will send round information as it is very appropriate and interesting. The Chairman wondered if dark sky policies will go into Local Plans and Roger Budgeon confirmed this. He also commented that LED street lights affect wildlife as the frequency emitted can disrupt animal behaviour.
- e) **Planning procedure with late respond by dates – Roger Budgeon** – Stated that the Parish Council needs a procedure to deal with applications with too short a deadline when SDC planning refuse a time extension for responses. The proposal for planning councillors to agree decisions at ward level, then planning leads agree those decisions for feedback to the Parish Council and to Stroud District Council was carried.

5.6 10. Finance –

a) Approve payments of account

June Payments 2019						
The following payments were approved by the Parish Council						
Cost code	Details	Payment	£	VAT	Total	Paid?
4070	Stroud District Council – Garage Rent	D/D	56.31	11.26	67.57	y
4000	D Meredith – Clerk’s salary for May	S/O	1077.50		1077.50	y
	Clerk’s expenses for May					
4002	Clerk’s mileage/expenses		4.50			n
4004	Office rent	003971	20.00		24.50	n
4000	HMRC – Tax & NI for May (Deborah Meredith)	003972	158.45		158.45	n
4001	LGPS - Clerk’s Pension for May	D/D	378.29		378.29	y
	R H Attwood – Grass cutting					
4050	Playing Fields and Bisley play areas		540.00			
4221	Bisley Allotments		32.50			
4250	Teeds Rise		37.50			
4405	Oakridge Footpaths, Greens & Waterlane play area		131.25			
4421	Oakridge & Far Oakridge Allotments		32.50			
4400	Oakridge Burial Ground		80.00			
4406	Oakridge Fountain Piece		23.33			
4407	Strim Oakridge Play Area Soft Surface	003962	20.00	179.42	1076.50	n
4320	R H Attwood - Weed control Eastcombe Cricket Field	003961	290.00	58.00	348.00	n
4045	BCCS - composting loo grant S137	003960	200.00		200.00	n
4120	Clubtags - replacement tennis court tags	003959	16.33	3.27	19.60	n
4201	Homefree - Bisley Pavilion cleaning (inv 41178, 41225)	003958	62.00		62.00	n
4315	Robert Bryant - Eastcombe allotment plot numbering	003957	25.35		25.35	n
4020	British Telecom - office phone and broadband (11/05)	D/D	211.04	42.21	253.25	y
4315	Waterplus - Eastcombe allotments INV02474135	003956	4.73		4.73	n
4220	Waterplus - Bisley Chestergate Allotments INV02565437	D/D	16.38		16.38	y
4045	Community Grants					
	Eastcombe Newsletter	003963	150.00		150.00	n
	Eastcombe Scout and Guide Group	003964	500.00		500.00	n
	The Frith Youth Centre	003965	500.00		500.00	n
	Citizens Advice Stroud	003966	250.00		250.00	n
	The Royal British Legion	003968	100.00		100.00	n
	The Bisley News	003967	150.00		150.00	n
	What’s On	003969	150.00		150.00	n
4010	Petty Cash	003970	50.00		50.00	n
4075	Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd - Accounting software	003973	121.00	24.20	145.20	n
4200	Npower - Bisley Pavilion electricity 2 Mar - 22 May 2019	D/D	61.79	3.09	64.88	y
4120	Mr A S Clayton Alpha Locksmiths - new tennis code	003974	35.00	7.00	42.00	n
Totals			5485.75	328.45	5814.20	

b) **Approve Annual Governance Statement section 1** – carried. Recommendations noted and report approved. Councillor Scott Sissions nominated to action quarterly bank reconciliation checks for the next 2 quarters.

c) **Approve report to external auditor section 2 of the AGAR** – carried.

5.6 11. Correspondence – Clerk to report

Magazines distributed.

An email request has been received for the snow plough to be removed from its storage location at Oakridge Farm.

A request has been received for a memorial bench on the playing field at Oakridge.

A query was received regarding lack of goals for children at Oakridge playing fields and clarification of its use by cricketers.

5.6 13. **Ward Reports – Ward Chairmen to report on Ward matters**

Oakridge Ward – Roger Budgeon commented on The Village Hall Trust use of electricity. He has investigated use of a diverter to heat the water from the solar panels. Has sent a quote to submit a meter to see what the pavilion is taking from the Village Hall and to fit a diverter to heat the water in the pavilion from the surplus electricity. The advantage is that the excess can be used in winter to heat the building. Also, if we install a two way meter was purchased, the council could monitor what is given to the pavilion from the generation. The quote is for approximately £580 plus vat which was proposed and carried. Roger Budgeon also suggested that Bisley Pavilion could use a diverter to heat their water too and Hazel Saunders requested a quote.

Eastcombe Ward – Bob Brooks had nothing to report.

Bisley Ward – Hazel Saunders reported that Bis'up was peaceful and a success with a small profit made. The Chairman asked who benefits from the profit and was told that the committee has set up a charity 'Bisley Community Group' to ensure all net profit goes back into the community. Generally there has helpful response from SDC property services regarding the Windyridge play area. SDC want us to nominate a solicitor to act on our behalf and Hazel Saunders asked if anyone has any contacts to please let her know. There has been littering in Hayhedge Lane due to residents leaving bags out many days before collection which are ripped open by wildlife. The Chairman commented that Oakridge use bins and the Scrubs has a large wooden box for bag storage. The Neighbourhood Warden was contacted by Lesley Greene but no feedback has been received to date.

5.6 14. **Date of Next Meeting –**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bisley WI Village Hall on **Wednesday 10th July 2019** commencing at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Annex A to the minutes of Parish Council Meeting 3rd June 2019

Report from Councillor Tim Williams

Good Evening Parish Councillors.

On Thursday 16th we had our full council meeting. Its primary purpose was to assign members of the council to their committees as well as electing the relevant Chairs and V.Chairs.

Highlighted below

- Audit and Standard
 - o Chair: Nigel Studdert Kennedy
 - o Vice Chair: Tom Williams
- Community services
 - o Chair: Mattie Ross
 - o Vice Chair: Jonathan Edmunds
- Development Control Committee
 - o Chair: Martin Baxendale
 - o Vice Chair: Miranda Clifton
- Environmental Committee
 - o Chair: Simon Pickering
 - o Vice Chair: George Butcher
- Housing committee
 - o Chair: Chas Townley
 - o Vice Chair: Jennie Miles
- Strategy & Resources
 - o Chair: Doina Cornell
 - o Vice Chair: Martin Whiteside

You will note that Tom Williams is no longer the Chair of the DCC. Whilst Tom did a good job as the DCC chair, Martin will adopt another approach to 'Call ins' to ensure further transparency and process. This will make it easier for Parish and District councillors for items to be called in on the either planning grounds or public interest.

I think it is fair to say 'public interest' justifications often fell of deaf ears so I welcome Martins appointment and look forward to working with him in the coming months.

Civic Calendar

We have also formalised our Civic calendar. A small point was noted on the dispersal of the meetings and ones that fell around the school holidays. The Chief Executive said SDC try and ensure school holidays and family life aren't interrupted but sometimes that is the only way a meeting is able to be scheduled.

Last month's reference on the Dutch Barn

I know the parish were writing to SDC and the monitoring officer in relation to the recent Dutch Barn planning application refusal. Whilst appreciating the frustration and feeling that the planners were narrow and limited in their application of the planning laws, planners and the Chair have the final say.

The point, made by the applicant's agent, was that there were no planning grounds for them to be able to put this to the planning inspectorate which is why DCC was so important to them.

This was then used to fuel the decision to reject the DCC request. On behalf of the applicant and the parish I spoke SDC. They pointed out that, without livestock or a genuine need to be closer to the farm, it was difficult to argue. It was further raised that both the footprint and AONB designation was the sticking point.

I did suggest using the pre-existing footprint is surely more favourable than further development on that site and that the application would enhance, rather than have any detrimental impact, on the area or its AONB classification.

With a change of leadership in the DCC, I think we are going to see a lot more calling-ins.

Peer Review

A peer review was conducted for Stroud district council with the objective of understanding how we operate compared to other councils of similar size and construction. You will note some of the concluding thoughts from the review below.

Concluding comments below

All the best,
Tim