

**MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE 2020 USING ZOOM SOFTWARE**

Present	Mike Eccott		Chairman
	Martin Brown	}	
	Lesley Greene	}	Bisley Ward
	Hazel Saunders	}	
	Dave Partridge	}	
	Bob Brooks	}	
	Jenny Exley	}	Eastcombe Ward
	Scott Sissons	}	
	Roger Budgeon	}	
	Tony Martin	}	Oakridge Ward
	Mrs D Meredith		Clerk

- 3.6 1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Parish Cllrs Dennis Robbins and County Councillor Keith Rippington.
- 3.6 2. **Declaration of Interests** – Lesley Greene, expenses.
- 3.6 3. **Approval of the Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday 6th May 2020**
Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2020 having been circulated to all councillors were approved unanimously.
- 3.6 4. **Matters and actions arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered in this agenda**
6.5 9. Match funding request was submitted to County Councillor Keith Rippington.
- 3.6 5. **Public Participation via Zoom software** – There were 3 members of the public in attendance.
One member read out a statement Annex A to this document.
Martin Brown stated that he has contacted Highways regarding this and is awaiting a response. The Chairman thanked the public for his input which the Parish Council supports.
Roger Budgeon feels that traffic needs to be calmed with build outs and planting at various points in Bisley which then gives pedestrians the ability to cross on slower, narrower roads. The priority on the Cheltenham/Stroud road could also be

changed to slow traffic. Council felt it will be difficult to get funding from Highways for works due to the lack of accident history and their regulations. The Chairman asked Martin Brown to put a paper together to prioritise the proposals and circulate.

Two members highlighted to the Council their issue with epicormic growth from trees in All Saint's Churchyard, Bisley which affect their properties. Their statement is Annex B to these minutes. They welcome the work that Lesley Greene and Martin Brown are doing to mitigate their complaints. The Parish Council is preparing a strategy for tree maintenance in the churchyard which both parties wish to see to comment on. They demanded works commence as soon as possible on the trees. Martin Brown confirmed that work will commence in the near future when the arborist is able to fit it in. The Clerk will confirm the date when she is informed of it. The strategy mentioned is item 9b) on the agenda and the Chairman confirmed when it is approved, a copy will be issued to the residents. Lesley Greene stated that the Parish Council are volunteers and the council operates by residents informing them of issues. Helpful suggestions are always welcome.

- 3.6 6. **County Council Matters – distribute a report from County Councillor Keith Rippington by email** – none received. Clerk received telephone call from Cllr who stated he is contactable and confirmed verbally his contribution to fix/replace railings in Eastcombe and is in discussion with Councillors and Highways on possible traffic calming measures in Bisley.
- 3.6 7. **District Council Matters – distribute a report from District Councillor Tim Williams by email** – Annex C to this document.
- 3.6 8. **Agree Parish Council response to the following Planning Applications**
- a) **S.20/0840/FUL - The Old Vicarage Oakridge Lynch Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 7NS -**
Change of use from residential annexe to holiday let accommodation.
Decision: 3 Support
Reasons / Comments: As there is no material change to the building we support this application. We would like to think this change could revert back to a dwelling house when the need arises.
- b) **S.20/0671/FUL – Ferris Court Farm Lypiatt Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 7LN -**
Construction of 3 no. agricultural buildings, 2 no. silage pits and the demolition of 2 no. steel framed barns with ancillary site improvements
Decision: 4 Comments only

Reasons / Comments: While we would support in principle this application to develop an agricultural business, we have several concerns about the application as it stands:

1. One of the proposed new cattle barns - Unit 1 - is within 30m of Home Farm, a separate inhabited dwelling. This is not referred to in the application. Concerns for these immediate neighbours include possible noise, smell and run-off pollution.

Furthermore, the application does not adequately (or at all) explain how waste or run-off from the cattle barns or the new silage pits would be controlled potentially contravening SDC Local Plan Delivery Policy ES3 2. There is no biodiversity report or plan. Do the old buildings to be demolished have, for example, bat populations? Would the new buildings pose a threat to any protected species? We would like to see relevant requirements of SDC Local Plan Delivery Policy ES6 incorporated into the proposed redevelopment 3. The Parish Council would also request a clear lighting plan. We request a condition of no intrusive floodlighting or similar lighting that would harm the dark skies at night; and that the work minimise light pollution to maintain tranquillity and dark night skies (Bisley with Lypiatt VDS Policy L3). This requirement to respect the quality of the night skies in our local countryside has been strongly supported in the 2019 Neighbourhood Development Plan consultations with the parish residents.

The Cotswold Conservation Board's policy for the AONB has recently been strengthened to enhance dark skies at night <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Cotswolds-Dark-Skies-Artificial-Light-Position-Statement.pdf>

4. SDC Local Plan Policies in Core Policies 6 all stress high quality developments that do not have an adverse impact on the natural landscape CP15(ii) 2. The Parish Council strongly supports SDC's climate change agenda and would welcome the opportunity to install renewable energy such as solar on (for example) the south west facing **roofs**

- c) **S.20/0986/TCA - 1 Model Cottages Eastcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 7DN** - 4x sycamores (G1) - pollard to a finished height of 2.5m to increase light to top end of garden, minimise weight build-up on the bank forming the property's upper boundary and facilitate future maintenance

Decision: 3 Support with comments.

The application to pollard a group of sycamores to a height of 2.5m at the above property, is acceptable, subject to their loss not causing wind throw to the immediately adjacent landmark ash. The sycamores, of which I only saw three and not four* as indicated by the application, include two of some considerable height, a feature in this hilltop location. One of these appeared to have been previously coppiced.

I was pleased to see that pollarding was the approach to be taken and not felling.

*Noted that some trees had already been felled further along the boundary of the access lane to Troops Hill Cottage.

- d) **S.20/0980/HHOLD - 1 Througham Court Cottages Througham The Camp Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 7HG** - Erection of single storey extension to rear

Decision: 3 Support

- e) **S.20/0981/TCA - Martlets Manor Street Bisley Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 7AX** - Ash trees (marked as A1 and A2) – Fell

Decision: 3 Support

Reasons / Comments: The applicant has not consulted an arboriculturist but it very clear that both trees are suffering from ash dieback. A1 is particularly severely affected; A2 less so, but as is surrounded by properties, and is a very large tree, it poses a

potential risk to properties and individual residents.

To mitigate against climate change the Parish Council's Tree Replacement policy requests replacement of each felled tree by another.

PLANNING APPLICATION DISCUSSION ONLY REQUIRED IF COUNCIL MEMBERS DO NOT AGREE WITH THE DECISION/COMMENTS CIRCULATED PRIOR TO THE MEETING

3.6 9. Matters for discussion

- a) **Verge cutting – Roger Budgeon/Lesley Greene (document to be circulated)** – The Chairman asked for comments on this document prepared by Lesley Greene and proposed we only cut verges from 15th July each year. Bob Brooks wants the wording in the 2nd paragraph changed to remove village greens. Tony Martin felt verges should be left uncut as long as possible. The Chairman queried the strimming of footpaths which Lesley Greene felt are good habitats and have the notion of wildlife corridors. Jenny Exley suggested a future survey on this. The Parish Council agreed to adopt the document once the changes are included by Lesley Greene. Carried.
- b) **Recommendations for tree maintenance strategy Bisley Churchyard – Lesley Greene (document to be circulated)** – The Parish Council unanimously agreed to adopt the strategy.
- c) **Eastcombe garage replacement – Mike Eccott** – The Chairman has inspected the rented garage and its contents and feels they can be accommodated within a good sized shed. Dave Partridge is to repair the mower/trimmer. Bisley Ward is to have the dog waste bin. The Bournes Green sign is to be passed on locally. There is one grit spreader for Eastcombe Ward which the Chairman agreed to store. Two spreaders are for Bisley Ward and will be relocated once a suitable site is agreed on.
- d) **Parish wide draft tree maintenance strategy – Lesley Greene (document to be circulated)** – Lesley Greene stated that the programme as detailed is to minimise the risks and costs borne by the Parish Council. The draft document is to be read and commented on for approval at the July Parish Council meeting. She added that the Parish Council could produce an annual budget for a rolling programme for ongoing tree issues and emergencies within the parish.
- e) **New noticeboards quotes received for Eastcombe – Clerk (documents to be circulated)** – the Clerk informed the meeting that quotes received to date are quite high but is still awaiting one more before putting to the Council. Lesley Greene reminded the meeting that in her experience noticeboards costs are high. Clerk to produce proposal for next meeting.

3.6 10. Finance –

- a) **Approve payments of account** – Approve S137 payments (details to be circulated) – carried.
- b) **Approve payments of account** - the following payments were approved.

June Payments 2020

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	1117.47		1117.47	y
	Clerk’s expenses for May					
4002	Clerk’s mileage/expenses		13.05			n
4004	Office rent	004122	20.00		33.05	n
4000	HMRC – Tax & NI for May (Deborah Meredith)	004123	168.99		168.99	n
4001	LGPS - Clerk’s Pension for May	D/D	377.70		377.70	y
	R H Attwood – Grass cutting					
4050	Playing Fields		455.00			
4265	Bisley play areas		73.33			
4250	Teeds Rise		37.50			
4221	Bisley Allotments		32.50			
4400	Oakridge Burial Ground		80.00			
4405	Oakridge Footpaths, Greens		105.00			
4421	Oakridge & Far Oakridge Allotments		32.50			
4406	Oakridge Fountain Piece		23.33			
4407	Strim Oakridge Play Area Soft Surface	004124	20.00	171.83	1030.99	n
4072	Deposit for noticeboard work - Bisley Carpenter	004125	200.00		200.00	n
4075	Rialtas RBS software support and maintenance	004126	124.00	24.80	148.80	n
	S137 Community Grant payments					
4045	What’s On Magazine Oakridge	004130	150.00		150.00	n
4045	Bisley News	004131	150.00		150.00	n
4045	Bussage, Brownhill & Eastcombe Newsletter	004132	150.00		150.00	n
4045	Eastcombe Scouts and Guides	004133	500.00		500.00	n
4045	Stroud Citizen’s Advice Bureau	004134	250.00		250.00	n
4045	Royal British Legion	004135	150.00		150.00	n
4045	Stroud Valleys Project	004136	150.00		150.00	n
4045	Great Western Air Ambulance	004137	150.00		150.00	n
4045	Cobalt Unit	004138	150.00		150.00	n
4045	Stroud Hospital League of Friends	004139	150.00		150.00	n
4045	Longfield Hospice	004142	250.00		250.00	n
4045	Sue Ryder Hospice	004143	250.00		250.00	n
4008	Lesley Greene - Allotment expenses	004127	37.95		37.95	n
4010	Petty cash transfer		20.00		20.00	y
4315	Waterplus - Eastcombe Allotments INV03785128	D/D	5.93		5.93	y
4116	Tree Maintenance - parish tree works from survey 4/9/10/12	004128	677.25	135.45	812.70	n
4070	BT - office telephone and broadband	D/D	155.97	31.19	187.16	y
4036	Viking - office equipment - reissue - cheque 004120 destroyed	004129	55.17	11.03	66.20	n
Totals			6338.95	385.56	6724.51	

Cheques will be taken to Mike Eccott for signing, then Bob Brooks, who will return them to the Clerk.

3.6 11. Correspondence – Clerk to report.

An email was received from a resident who had a fall on the footpath from Bisley to Nashend which is always affected by running spring water. Clerk has reported the path and incident to GCC/PROW.

Letter from our MP – Mike Eccott – The Chairman read out a letter from our MP thanking our community’s volunteers and business who have supported residents during these extraordinary times. She additionally thanks the Clerk and Councillors.

3.6 12. **Ward reports –**

Bisley – Hazel Saunders

The editor of Bisley News reported the loss of advertising funding and asked if the Parish Council could help in any way.

Martin Brown reported that the speedwatch group is to go out again with volunteers to monitor speeding in Bisley. He confirmed that the Clerk has sent a letter to David Hawker and Martin Surl re-requesting traffic enforcement.

Eastcombe – Bob Brooks

The stone walls around the playing field have been inspected following a report of damage and areas of concern. A quote has been obtained and the potential of a rolling programme of repair is ongoing.

Jenny Exley reported that the asbestos at Fort View has been removed professionally but neighbours are concerned as possible bonfire material is building up on site. An appeal for planning on the property has been received with comments by 1st July. If any further comments are necessary, please circulate or submissions by individuals can be made.

Oakridge – Roger Budgeon

Parking is an on-going issue in Oakridge, particularly around the playing field where Cllr Robbins and the Clerk have erected no parking notices.

He proposed an ordinary Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall next month following any government guidelines. Clerk is to check whether public can be excluded for safety reasons. The Clerk noted that the primary school is also using the village hall for Y6 lessons so could affect safety. If it is unavailable, the Pavilion room could possibly be used.

3.6 13. **Date of Next Meeting – Chair**

- a) Date – 1st July 2020
- b) Format – to be confirmed

1. With the Schools now going back, there is an Urgent Village need for a Pedestrian or Zebra crossing, from the bus stop opposite the Stirrup Cup pub.
2. 5 Roads merge here! It is at the heart of the village. There is a huge volume of vehicles now. Cars regularly exceed the 20 mph speed limit. Top Road residents tell me cars travel at least 50 mph towards this 5 road junction!
3. In 2005 Harry Shankar was knocked down and injured by a speeding van when crossing here. His mother and the 2 Police Officers in the village have reported this to me.
4. Bisley Primary School has again today stressed the Urgent need for a pedestrian crossing here. They have confirmed that others have experienced near misses.
5. Children from Archway School, Marling, The High School, Thomas Keble and Cirencester College also get on and off buses here, and must cross these roads safely.
6. Incredibly, cars try to Force their way through the line of Primary schoolchildren and staff, while crossing the roads in hi-viz jackets!

NB. Therefore cars must be made to actually STOP by LAW, in order to allow people to cross safely. Traffic calming would not make cars stop. Thus a pedestrian or zebra crossing is essential, as cars must then stop by law.

7. With the need for 'Social Distancing', the Primary School has said it will need to use the Playing field up Van der Breen Street more than before (plus the Village Hall). This involves crossing these dangerous roads.
8. I understand such a pedestrian crossing has been requested for many years.
9. Many other residents, including Slow Old people, must cross these roads, to get to the Shop, other bus stops, etc.
10. People sitting outside the pub are also at risk.

Annex B to the minutes.

Extremely Large and Fast Growing Trees All Saints Church, Bisley

Impact Statement:

For too many years the trees in the Churchyard at All Saints Church in Bisley have been neglected. The tree survey which is carried out every two to three years, only identifies two trees requiring maintenance. However, there are many more trees in the Churchyard, of which eight line the properties of two Grade II listed buildings. These trees are extremely large and fast growing and have not benefited from any appropriate maintenance regime. The two trees that are included in the survey were due to be pollarded in 2018 but no action has been taken.

The maintenance of the trees is now urgent as the impact on the two neighbouring properties and surrounding area is significant as follows:

Damage to property:

1. Epicormic growth growing through dry stone walls
2. Roots growing into cellar
3. Branches overhanging and brushing against stonework
4. Fallen leaves blocking drains and guttering
5. Excessive shading of properties resulting in cold stone, exacerbating damp and inhibiting ability to breathe and dry out

Damage to the environment

1. Interfering with efficiency of chimneys causing excessive and unnecessary smoke
2. Black mould circulating throughout the area
3. Lack of airflow causing damp to linger
4. Branches falling from the trees
5. Fallen leaves smothering plants
6. Obstructing rainfall
7. Sticky sap killing everything underneath
8. Sticky sap coating everything including buildings and windows

Risk to health

1. Excessive shade and blocking of sunlight
2. Branches falling from trees
3. Anxiety caused through fear of damage
4. Stress caused through inability to adequately insure properties

Since the trees were planted, the impact of climate change has resulted in more extreme high winds and storms affecting the area. Being one of the highest points in the Village the location is no longer suitable for extremely high trees due to the risk of damage. The latest advice from insurance companies states any fast growing tree over 10m high within 5m of a property should be reduced in height. Failure to follow this advice risks policies being annulled or paying an inflated premium (latest quote in excess of £1000).

To reduce the risks and minimise the impact of the trees, urgent maintenance is required to remove the epicormic growth, reduce the height and remove unhealthy branches. The trees should also be adequately insured. In our opinion, the long term strategy should consider removing the extremely large trees next to our Grade II properties and replacing with more suitable garden trees.

Annex C to the minutes.

Hello to you all,

I cannot believe it has been 4 weeks since we all last met on the first Parish council zoom session!

Bonfires

As explained in my May submission, bonfires have become a real issue since the lock down. I understand from the Clerk that complaints have been made about Parlour Farm and that Paul Bowden is managing this matter. Key information required includes: Who is undertaking the burning, the contents being burnt and if there is contractor doing the work (the legislation and approach would be different). I will take any guidance on this matter..

Drones

We have been working with the police to discuss an increase in drone incidents. It could be harmless fun, but we cannot overlook that, in my case, the drones hover over our buildings rather than all the fields -Why? Cranham have seen drones shortly before experiencing burglaries. Chalford / Bussage have also experienced this. In one incident, the drone took off back to its owner. The young chap rode off on a bike before changing into a hoody and helmet and riding back up past.

Easement rights

After we were all contacted by the clerk vis a vis Old Pound Cottage Bisley, I have been working with the son to understand what information can be provided to help support the sale. Whilst not typical, I am happy to support any resident by providing an objective explanation of our local plan, development plans to meet the district housing needs and look into how planning would view a development which would prevent access to a garage of another resident.

Motorbikes

I have raised this many times but have received more complaints about motorcyclists using fields and footpaths. We have involved PC Tom Coombs and PCSO Charlotte King on the matter from Glos police; the MP Siobhan B.; as well as engaging the police commissioner. Sunday (31st May) resulted in a very abusive interaction between some families and green-laners. (will forward you the emails of their report / photographs.

Boy Racers

Continuing the thread of vehicular danger, I have reported a number of cases where boy racers are still using Bisley-Stroud as a drag strip. Police suggested the use of drones and

request reg plates but as of yet, the varied times / days make it difficult to monitor.

St Mary's

I was approached again by Cllr. Bob Brooks about St Mary's. I would imagine these would be brought up / discussed between Parish ward members, but the summary is that the building does not presently have a protection listing registered to it. I was also told that *Local Listings* are a desired initiative, but something not yet implemented by SDC as it is contained with the local plans submitted by wards. The conservation team will be notified when/ if an application is registered with SDC, but I was told I cannot get a jump start on the above by speaking to the conservation team sooner - sadly.

Full Council

SDC have done a fantastic job getting all council members together on zoom calls. We had our first full council meeting on Tuesday 19th which entailed agreeing to use zoom to make democratic decisions. There was also a lengthy debate about whether the quorate figures should be reduced.

Trees, Eastcombe

Coincidentally, when councillor Brooks approached me about the woodland area below Thomas Keble, I also noted a *For Sale* sign had been erected that same day. I have checked with Geraldine, left a message and am waiting a response.

Council Grants

I am managing two grant concerns, one of which still isn't resolved from last month and one who has got in touch in response to my district news article. I am working with members and officers to see if we can find a resolution to these matters.

Next meeting: Env. Committee meeting 4th June 2020 (Tomorrow)