

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2020 USING ZOOM SOFTWARE

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

- 2.9 1. **Apologies for Absence**
Parish Councillor Dennis Robbins.
- 2.9 2. **Declaration of Interests** – Cllr Partridge – expenses payment.
- 2.9 3. **Approval of the Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday 5 August 2020**
Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 5th August 2020 having been circulated to all councillors were approved unanimously. Jenny Exley stated that she could hear all at the last meeting but her audio link would not allow her to speak. Tony Martin stated that the minutes should be more succinct.
- 2.9 4. **Matters and actions arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered in this agenda**
9c) Eastcombe fence quote figures – Jenny Exley queried whether pedestrian gates were included and required confirmation that the trees were left intact. Martin Brown queried where the payments would be from - the general reserves. Bob Brooks proposed the quote was approved – carried.
Bisley All Saints Church tree survey - ***Clerk to contact Tree Maintenance to chase for a specific date soonest.***
Eastcombe Baptist Chapel graveyard works quotation - still waiting for the chapel to respond to sharing the funding. The Chairman proposed that this is not progressed any further until we get that.
Scott Sissons asked to join the website sub-committee. Carried.

- 2.9 5. **Public Participation via Zoom software** – There were a number of members of the public in attendance.
Oakridge residents on mast. Statement read out as received via email today and is in Annex B. Also a resident from Tunley commented on the situation of the mast and feels that the application covers the necessity for coverage but does not stand up to scrutiny when examined. The Ofcom website shows there is 4g coverage in the area and enhanced data services in the area for example, The Daneway Inn. He also thinks the blackspots are not proven. The Chairman thanked the residents for their input and reminded them that this issue will be discussed in item 9d).
An Eastcombe resident wishes to enhance the bus shelter, commented on with garden walls outside and a garden mural inside with a noticeboard and an exchange section for items such as seeds, books, dvds. He hopes there would be volunteers to operate it but would ask for some costs from the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked him for his input and said this was on the agenda in item 9e).
- 2.9 6. **County Council Matters** – **distribute a report from County Councillor Keith Rippington by email** – none received.
- 2.9 7. **District Council Matters** – **distribute a report from District Councillor Tim Williams by email** – Annex A to this document which the Clerk read out.
- 2.9 8. **Agree Parish Council response to the following Planning Applications**
- a) S.20/1505/FUL 25/08/2020 - Fennells Farm, Lypiatt, Stroud, Gloucestershire - New field access – can't see an objection, but have comments so comments only.
 - b) S.20/1592/TCA 31/08/2020 - Brewers Cottage, Eastcombe, Stroud, Gloucestershire - Leylandii (T1) and (T2) – fell – support.
 - c) S.20/1441/FUL 31/08/2020 - Catswood Farm, Stancombe, Catswood Lane - Amendments to previously approved scheme - S.18/1424/FUL - Demolition & replacement of domestic outbuildings – support.
 - d) S.20/1627/TEL 07/09/2020 - Telecommunications mast - Telecommunications Equipment Far Oakridge – object along similar lines as the well presented papers from residents, but also due to the close proximity of the heritage sites, burial sites, listed buildings, arts and crafts building, ancient woodland and ecology. The applicant's report appears generalised and possibly lifted from another application as it mentions rural Wales. The Parish Council supports Roger Budgeon's comments and the group attending. Currently 59 objections to the application with no support letters in SDC. Clerk awaiting notification to call it in to the DCC.
 - e) S.20/1615/TCA 09/09/2020 - Spring Cottage Wells Road Eastcombe - T3 Yew: reduction in size by 3m height and 2m width due to excessive shading and unsafe branches. T1 Sycamore and T2 Ash: reduction in size to previous pollarded height due to excessive shading and unsafe branches some have fallen in next door's garden previously – application by applicant, not arborist. Object. Jenny Exley wants the trees cut professionally so refer to Mark Hemmings and contact the applicant directly. Clerk to then reissue her comments to PC and submit to SDC.
 - f) S.20/1497/LBC 10/09/2020 - Rectory Farm Cottage, Holloway Road, Bisley, Stroud - Replacement windows – support.

- g) S.20/1652/FUL 15/09/2020 - Land at The Folly, Oakridge Lynch - New detached dwelling – object.
- h) S.20/1709/TCA 16/09/2020 - Hilltop, Middle Hill, Eastcombe - Trees in a Conservation Area – support.

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

2.9 9. Matters for discussion

- a) **Eastcombe dry stone walling rolling program approval – motion to continue working with a trusted contractor currently in Parish Council employ as in Financial Regulations 11.3 - Clerk** – Roger Budgeon supported this confirming that the current system works well in Oakridge. Tony Martin queried his value for money. The Chairman proposed we proceed. Carried.
- b) **Stroudwater station - motion to support the principle and write to GCC to secure its place in their transport plan – Lesley Greene** – currently there is no sustainable transport link between Stroud and Bristol. She asked the Council’s approval for the Clerk to write to the GCC. Carried. *Clerk to draft letter and issue.*
- c) **Vehicle Activated Speed Sign – Mike Eccott** – costs found to be £2600 approximately. The Chairman asks for support to approach Keith Rippington and the PCC (Martin Surl) for funding. The parish has £2500 earmarked for by County Cllr Rippington. *Clerk to produce letter to request this.*
- d) **Parishioners Queries - Fast Broadband, Parking – Mike Eccott** – inundated with queries about fast broadband in the village of Eastcombe. Bob Brooks stated that we have fibre optics to the telecoms cabinet and resident’s providers can link this to properties. Parking occurs on the junction of Wells Road and residents walls are vulnerable to damage from vehicles maneuvering past cars. Can Highways paint white lines to stop this happening. Bob Brooks informed the meeting that Highways had been approached in the past and declined.
Approached by resident about the triangular area opposite The Laurels where people park, residents are keen on landscaping to this green area and increase their ease of parking. Chairman asked *Scott Sissons to query the proposals of the green area. Clerk to check whether we own the land.*
- e) **Eastcombe Bus Shelter – Jenny Exley** – Held up an image of the bus shelter. Further to the public participation request, the proposer has a colleague who can help with the art work. She thinks possible figures will be at least £500 and has messaged The Village Group to help with costs and ownership of this project. It was suggested that the bus route is altered to go in the opposite direction than it does at the moment so that the bus shelter can be used. Lesley Greene suggested that the Parish Council donates £500. Carried. *Clerk to write to Cotswold Green*
- f) **Shed – replacement for lockup garage – Mike Eccott** – purchase of a shed to replace the garage rented currently in Eastcombe for Parish Council use. Dave Partridge volunteered to progress this. Location is to be established by Bisley Ward.
- g) **Bisley traffic calming proposals – Martin Brown** –proposed the Clerk emails a message to Dan Tiffney, as no response yet received to act upon the proposals of the trial build outs for the village and clarification of other discussed points. Hazel Saunders suggested a copy goes to his line manager and also to GCC Cllr Rippington. Dave Partridge also requested better signage to stop HGVs entering the village and getting stuck – a regular occurrence at the moment. *Clerk to email Dan Tiffney and Cllr Rippington.*
- h) **Fort View, Fidges Lane, Eastcombe, appeal – Jenny Exley** – inform PC that inspector has attended and no response to date.

i) Website update – Mike Eccott – the existing website has been migrated onto the new platform but is not yet live. Last meeting a sub-committee of Tony, Dave and Scott was agreed to address those aspects. The Chairman is keen to get the site live before the end of the month. Bob Brooks stated that the website can go live before end of month as changes can be made after but can't happen until the Clerk has another training session. The Chairman understands and agrees, but is reluctant for the site to go live until the Parish Council is happy with its content and presentation. Tony Martin commented that he does not know what is happening with the website and asked when the GDPR and Privacy/Accessibility statements will be met to Bob Brooks. Deadline for accessibility is Sept 24th. The Subcommittee is to get together soonest to agree this, either physically or remotely. Tony Martin asked Bob Brooks to confirm that the Parish Council will meet all its legal requirements for the current website and the new one as a council and was told not yet. Tony Martin stated that it needs to be on our current website if still live and should be taken down if not compliant. He then resigned from the sub- committee. The Clerk agreed to forward templates to go forward for this. Scott Sissons requested a point of clarification for the sub-committee - The Chairman stated that it is to ensure the website is compliant and then to get a website that we as a Parish Council are happy to support. This is an ideal opportunity to weed out irrelevant items from the website such as links to organisations which are no longer relevant or operating. Importantly to also determine what needs to go on it. Jenny Exley proposed Scott Sissons heads this group. The Chairman requested an update soonest.

2.9 10. Finance –

a) Approve payments of account - the following payments were approved.

September 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	56.73	11.34	68.07	y
4000	D Meredith – Clerk’s salary for August	S/O	1117.47		1117.47	y
	Clerk’s expenses for August					
4002	Clerk’s mileage/expenses		14.40			
4004	Office rent	004170	20.00		34.40	n
4000	HMRC – Tax & NI for August	004171	168.99		168.99	n
4001	LGPS - Clerk’s Pension for August	D/D	377.70		377.70	y
	R H Attwood – Grass cutting invoice 4861					
4050	Playing Fields		455.00			
4250	Teesd Rise		37.50			
4221	Bisley Allotments		32.50			
4265	Bisley play areas		73.33			
4400	Oakridge Burial Ground		80.00			
4405	Oakridge Footpaths, Greens		105.00			
4421	Oakridge & Far Oakridge Allotments		0.00			
4406	Oakridge Fountain Piece		23.33			
4407	Strim Oakridge Play Area Soft Surface	004172	20.00	165.33	991.99	n
4120	Chalford Building Supplies - Yew tree soil top up, timber for steps	card	270.30	54.06	324.36	y
4120	Chalford Building Supplies - Refund on soil bags	card	-30.00	-6.00	-36.00	y
4120	Chalford Building Supplies - Tennis court step shingle for repairs	card	5.18	1.04	6.22	y
4315	Waterplus - Eastcombe allotments invoice INV04035874	D/D	6.14		6.14	y
4222	Dave Partridge - Bisley allotments - create new plots	004173	250.00		250.00	n
4450	Hailey Wood Sawmill - timber posts for Oakridge playing field	004174	22.00	4.40	26.40	n
4009	GAPTC - councillor training	004175	50.00		50.00	n
4020	BT - office telephone and broadband	D/D	158.94	31.79	190.73	y
4222	DSG Skip Hire - Bisley allotments	004176	225.00	45.00	270.00	n
4222	Bisley Handyman Services - gate posts and new gate, allotments	004177	150.00		150.00	n
4030	CIX Ltd - web expenses	004178	65.00	13.00	78.00	n
4072	The Acorn Workshop - Eastcombe new allotment noticeboard	004179	595.00	119.00	714.00	n
4072	The Acorn Workshop - new Eastcombe Community Noticeboard	004180	840.00	168.00	1008.00	n
4075	Zoom - meeting software monthly subscription	card	11.99	2.40	14.39	y
Totals			5201.50	609.36	5810.86	

2.9 11. **Correspondence – Clerk to report – Email communication regarding business use on Oakridge playing field – ongoing.**

2.9 12. **Ward reports –**

Bisley – another slight move forward on the Windyridge play area which the Parish Council now owns. Need to get fencing moved to cover whole area. One quote received to date, needs a couple more. Recently problems with HGV coming into the village and getting stuck requires better signage for HGVs. Lesley Greene mentioned that in the past GCC undertook to contact vehicle’s companies to stop driving through the village. Bob Brooks reminded the meeting of a website called lorry watch with a link on the roads and transport page on the current website.

Oakridge – nothing apart from an item concerning use of the playing field for business use. Tony Martin hoped a potential Parish Councillor was coming forward but had no communication from the gentleman. **Ward to progress.**

Eastcombe – nothing than already discussed items. Jenny Exley is to follow up the landscape institute for landscape and visual appraisal and was asked to oversee Oakridge and Bisley too. Scot Sissons informed the meeting that the Village Group is putting a bench on the playing field. Also informed the meeting that Wicksteed who perform playground inspections appear to have closed down - **Clerk to investigate.**

13. **Date/location/format of Next Meeting – Chair - 7th October – not virtual. Explore the possibility of the village halls – Clerk to enquire about Oakridge and Eastcombe.**

Annex A to the minutes.

I hope you are well. Apologies, I haven't provided any news to share from SDC. Given it is August, the Council has been quiet of meetings.

Largely the ward news consists of several areas:

- The Mast in Oakridge. - Objectors and those wishing to ensure further consultation is undertaken.
- Drones and speeding with the police + Motor Bikes continue.
- Giffords and Environmental health impacts of their events.
- Env. Health - speaking to a resident who wanted to arrange a non-formal flower show and having not received any response, wanted me to chase. I was able to secure a response within several hours but it was too close to the weekend and it had then been decided it should be cancelled.

Thank you,

Tim

Annex B to the minutes.

Stroud District Council's Conclusions on Pre-Application, within 'Supplementary information'

Having read the SDC response to the pre-application and referring to EE's application statement, we have found the concerns as set out below. Furthermore, our understanding is that the application is misleading, contradictory and has not satisfied the requirements SDC set out at pre-application stage.

Stroud District Local Plan References

CP14 - high quality sustainable development

CP15 – a quality living and working countryside

ES3 – maintaining quality of life within our environmental limits

ES4 – water resources, quality and flood risk

ES6 – providing for biodiversity

ES7 – landscape character

ES12 – better design of places

1. The pre-application was for a 15m mast. The application itself is for a 20m mast. This 33% increase in overall height fundamentally changes the parameters as set out by SDC in their consideration of ES7.
2. EE have submitted a map showing 4G is not currently available within Far Oakridge. First of all, the map itself DOES NOT show Far Oakridge. Please reference the map to gain a true representation of the whole village. 4G coverage with Vodafone, O2 and Three is operational throughout Far Oakridge. Please see OFCOM mobile network Coverage Checker results. Therefore the 'public benefit' is only to have a further provider to offer this service, not to introduce this service to the area as EE state in their pre-app. Many local residents run successful businesses from home, including ourselves using good phone reception, 4G and benefiting from the recently installed Gigi Clear fibreoptic broadband.

3. As of 1st September, EE have failed to supply an Ecological Assessment of the area. They state a preliminary ecological assessment was undertaken and submitted as part of the application documents, but these are not uploaded on the SDC website for the public to see. 'Ecological Assessment including the impact of any potential lighting (eg. Bats)' is required by SDC, as stated in the pre-app feedback. This area is teeming with bats and badgers, and Country File have even filmed Dormice in the adjacent Ancient Woodland. The application itself makes no confirmation if the structures would have any lighting attached.
4. SDC Local plan 2015 core policy CP15 p.153 (in relation to this application) officers believe that principle 6 – it will involve essential community facilities (Public benefit). As we have almost 100 % support in objecting to this application (See objections and petition), as well as already benefiting from 4G and fast fibre broadband, we believe Far Oakridge will not benefit from the erection of this enormous construction in our peaceful and unspoilt village.
5. SDC have asked any application up be supported by a 'justification' of why this location over any other. I understand the mast would cover a very small section of road for the ESN network. However the fact that the map of 4G coverage submitted did not include the correct area in question, and the area in question in fact does have 4G coverage I do not believe there is a true 'justification' that this location is an 'area of need' I conclude that this is not the correct site for the mast. There is no evidence that other sites using more discreet apparatus have been explored. EE are obligated and this would surely be expected when proposing a mast within an AONB?
6. Within SDC's conclusions from the pre-app, it is mentioned that the mast, ground equipment and road would be 'kept as tight as possible to the tree line' and 'the application does not represent excessive encroachment into the countryside'. My observation from this is that by keeping it tight against the treeline, which is actually the Far Oakridge side of the tree line, and not 'behind' as EE have said it is, it must be considered against the NPPF that states that a 15m buffer zone should be used for any ancient woodland or veteran trees. The root systems that are extensive and generally match the canopy spread would surely be fatally affected with ground works for both the mast and the road which extends all the way to the entrance. In paragraph 175c It also states that 'development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland or ancient veteran trees should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons..' and in footnote 58 'for example infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the transport and works act and hybrid bills), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat'. I have shown in point 2 that public benefit is limited to providing an alternative provider for a provision that already exists.
7. Towards the end of the document, it says 'Due to the edge of field location, the 15m mast would be viewed in the context of the tree canopy, also approx. 15m, meaning that the mast would not protrude or appear incongruous with any footpaths or vehicular access being the other side of the wood, therefore the development would not be considered to be particularly visible in the landscape'. Contrary to this statement, and to the photos submitted by EE in the application, the mast is very visible as it is in fact proposed against the lower trees on the treeline, which

according to the tree survey are 7m High. Please see photos attached. The fact that the mast and ground equipment are the Far Oakridge side of the trees and not in fact 'the other side of the wood', and the mast is going to protrude 13m above all adjacent trees, it is clear that EE have been misleading in the pre-application as well as their application. It was using our own drone, based on the measurements of the new road as stated on the application that the true site of the mast was determined. This was later confirmed to us by two EE engineers who were marking out the exact site of the mast in order to check satellite coverage. The application shows various 'approximate sites' that work in favour of the applicants argument the mast and ground equipment would be discreet. The mast and ground equipment are in fact in full view of many houses, 3 (very well used) footpaths and the main lane through the village towards Sapperton. I therefore vehemently disagree that the mast and equipment does 'not have excessive encroachment into the countryside'. Please see photos and map supplied by villagers of how the mast would be visible in the landscape.

8. No consultation of any kind was held with any villagers in Far Oakridge or any correspondence with the Parish Council, and as of 1st September, no letters have been received notifying us of this application. I would also point out that still there is no notice of the application at the proposed site. As a community, we only became aware of the application due to a neighbour who stumbled across this application and kindly notified us all on 15th August.