

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

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**

County Councillor Keith Rippington, who is unwell and unlikely to attend in the near future. The Parish Council sends him their good wishes. *Clerk to send him a card.*

2. **Declaration of Interests**

Bob Brooks declared that the planning applicant at Will's Orchard is a friend.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday 4 November 2020**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 having been circulated to all councillors were approved unanimously.

4. **Matters and actions arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered in this agenda**

**9d)** Garage replacement update –a quote for the container base works has been received for £495 which was approved. Works are to proceed after Christmas. Cllr Partridge is to meet the Ward to establish the final position of the base and Jenny Exley requested that tree roots should be considered by the Ward and Tree Warden when doing so. *The Clerk will update the position of the garage lease with SDC at the end of January.*

To date there is no paperwork for the tree works at the Baptist Church in Eastcombe, the *Clerk is to investigate.*

**9a)** Stonewalling policy – comments were received and the document is to be published on the *website by the Clerk.*

9e) The new Parish Council website is now up and running. The Chairman thanked Bob Brooks for all his works on the previous website in the past which, it should be noted, was one of the first in the country. Scott Sissons reported that the Ferris Court View floodlight is still shining across the Toadsmoor Valley. *The Clerk is to follow up with District Cllr. Tim Williams.*

5. **Public Participation via Zoom software** – There were 8 members of the public in attendance.

One Oakridge member of the public informed the council of ash tree dieback where works are to take place by Western Power to cut trees below the power lines. There may be some disruption in the lane.

Members of the public were attending to reinforce objections to the proposed Telecommunications Mast in Oakridge. See Annex A.

In response another member of the public stated that the Parish Council had been put in an impossible situation when asked by the applicant to find alternative sites. Points are to be sent to Roger Budgeon in order to put together a constructive comment from the Parish Council. The public member informed the Parish Council that the applicant's briefing is an aged, invalid document. It was noted that the proposed mast height is 19.97m which is just under the planning height. Another member of the public thanked those in attendance for covering the points within the detailed document.

A member of the public attended to oppose the planning application at The Lodge, Througham Manor which will compromise the Grade 2 Listed Manor buildings and are against planning principles. He also reminded the meeting that the stables are not modern as described and have some period features. He is to send Lesley Greene his document.

6. **County Council Matters** – distribute a report from County Councillor Keith Rippington by email – none received.

7. **District Council Matters** – distribute a report from District Councillor Tim Williams by email – none received. Cllr Williams reported that there is not much to discuss at the moment. Ongoing issues are with motor bikes, rights of way and drainage on paths in the parish. District Council is reviewing the issue of waste bags at the moment.

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

- a) **S.20/2361/FUL** - Windmill Cottage, Througham, The Camp, Stroud. Change of use of land to garden and the creation of a natural swimming pond in association with Windmill Cottage (change of use retrospective). **Support.**
- b) **S.20/2367/HHOLD** - Upper Barn Farmhouse Van Der Breen Street Bisley Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 7BP. Loft conversion with roof lights and rear facing window. **Support.**

- c) **S.20/2398/TCA** - Helenswood Cottage, Wells Road, Eastcombe, Stroud. Trees in a Conservation Area. **Support.**
- d) **S.20/2359/FUL** - Land At Will's Orchard, Fidges Lane, Eastcombe. Erection of a two-bed dwelling. **Object.**
- e) **S.20/2413/HHOLD** - Stick Heaven, Eastcombe. Proposed lean to outbuilding. **Support.**
- f) **S.20/2414/LBC** - Stick Heaven, Eastcombe. Listed building application (see above). **Support.**
- g) **S.20/2409/HHOLD** - Tunley Barn House, Tunley, Sapperton – Alterations to the existing stone barn and side extension within the curtilage. **Support.**
- h) **S.20/2440/TCA** - Puck Mill House, Frampton Mansell. Trees in a Conservation Area. **Support.**
- i) **S.20/2288/REM 29/11/2020** - Land At The Folly, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud, Gloucestershire. 1.5 storey dwelling. (revised drawings received 19.11.20). **Comments only.**
- j) **S.20/1011/FUL** New dwelling Land At 2 Model Cottages Eastcombe Stroud Gloucestershire - revised drawings on website – no notification received, only SDC update. **Comments only.**
- k) **S.20/2438/FUL** - Lower Barn, Througham Slad Manor, Bisley - Conversion of a traditional stone stable with extension to it, and the removal of a modern timber-framed stable. **Object.**
- l) **S.20/2439/LBC** - Lower Barn, Througham Slad Manor, Bisley - Conversion of a traditional stone stable with extension to it, and the removal of a modern timber-framed stable. **Object.**

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

**9. Matters for discussion**

- a) **Parish Climate Change Action Plan/Policy for Planning Application responses – Lesley Greene/Roger Budgeon/Martin Brown** – document distributed which is intended to clarify the Climate Emergency Declaration and changes the Parish Council can make to practices and policy. Grants will be available to actively support climate change mitigation. Plans to start an independent climate action group in the parish are underway. This would benefit from grants and hopes to engage with the community to encourage and promote change. Lesley Greene asked whether the Parish Council be supportive in principle of the need for an action plan for development. Mike Eccott stated that this is on-going. Roger Budgeon/Martin Brown/Lesley Greene will produce a series of policies for action to be worked on. Scott Sissons commented that other areas have similar action groups and how a Parish Council working with those groups creates capacity to impact the community.  
Martin Brown also reminded the meeting that the Stroud District Council's 2030 (Climate Action) Strategy consultation closes in the middle of next month and asked permission to respond on behalf of the Parish Council. Carried. Individual responses can also be submitted.
- b) **Proposal for joining new Gloucestershire Tree Group – Bob Brooks** informed the meeting that the Cotswold Tree Warden group is sadly to be disbanded. They were a very useful group for tree wardens. The new Gloucestershire Tree

Group is being formed and is in its infancy. He proposes that the Parish Council joins as a corporate member and Tree Wardens join as individual members, membership is free of charge. Agreed. *Clerk to set up.* Any meetings, when running again, are chargeable. Lesley Greene commented that the CTW training was really useful.

- c) **Solar Streets community pv scheme for discussion/vote – Martin Brown** – The Greengroup UK has now pulled out of the scheme so not applicable.
- d) **Report on the joint parish wind turbine project – Roger Budgeon** – reported that the joint proposal between Chalford, Bisley-with-Lypiatt and Thrupp Parish Councils is progressing and wind generation is part of the new structured plan. A few sites with 7.5m/second wind have been identified in our Parish. Minchinhampton Parish Council is also keen on this project. He reported the The Camp sub-station is too small and would be too expensive to connect to the grid. Energy generation in the future will not be enough post 2030 as fossil fuel changes come in to play. Mike Eccott suggested that opposition to this idea could be tremendous. Roger Budgeon stated that they are waiting for reviewed AONB policies and the changing government standpoint on wind generation. The NDP also needs to ask questions on this topic.
- e) **Report on the Far Oakridge Telecom Mast and agree our response to send to Norman Gillan – Roger Budgeon** – much of this is covered by the detailed proposal within the public section of the meeting. *The Clerk will send a formal response when drafted and sent to her.*
- f) **Oakridge allotment feedback - Dennis Robbins** reported that an email has been received from SDC Environment Health with regard to smoke nuisance from the allotment site. He wishes to meet with the officer on site to discuss the situation with him and to clarify actions taken by the Parish Council on this matter. Roger Budgeon supports this action as the situation has become unreasonable. Tony Martin queried whether the officer is aware of our changes in policy for bonfires on the site. *The Clerk agreed to arrange the meeting and attend with any appropriate documents.*

The Clerk fed back relevant correspondence also received at this point praising Cllr Robbins in his management of the site and the help given to tenants when needed. The letter also mentioned that it is ‘unfortunate that there seems to have been a misunderstanding about this topic of bonfires’.
- g) **All Saint’s Churchyard tree tender response and approval – Mike Eccott** – only one quote has been received for works to the trees in the churchyard. Parish Council approved this quote and the *Clerk will inform relevant parties when a date for works is received.*
- h) **Stroud Cycling Forum** – Scott Sissons and Martin Brown attended this forum which was organised by the MP for Stroud and Chris Heaton-Harris, Minister of State responsible for rail, Crossrail and Crossrail 2, East West Rail, cycling and walking, accessibility, corporate. Positive about increasing cycling and reducing energy use. Half of town journeys should be walking or cycling. £2 billion is committed to this, however £27 billion is committed to roads. There is to be a quarterly forum and next time will include police and highways. Martin Brown has met with Chalford Climate Action Group and Chalford Parish Council to collaborate on travel and transport.

## 10. Finance –

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

<b>December Payments 2020</b>						
<b>The following payments were approved by the Parish Council</b>						
<b>Cost code</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Paid?</b>
4070	<b>Stroud District Council – Garage Rent</b>	<b>D/D</b>	56.31	11.26	67.57	y
4000	<b>D Meredith – Clerk’s salary for November</b>	<b>S/O</b>	1139.54		1139.54	y
	<b>Clerk’s expenses for November</b>					
4002	Clerk’s mileage/expenses		7.20			
4004	Office rent	<b>004216</b>	26.00		33.20	n
4000	<b>HMRC – Tax &amp; NI for November (Clerk)</b>	<b>004217</b>	184.60		184.60	n
4001	<b>LGPS - Clerk’s Pension for November</b>	<b>D/D</b>	387.96		387.96	y
	<b>R H Attwood – Grass cutting invoice 4904</b>					
4050	Playing Fields and Bisley play areas		455.00			
4250	Teeds Rise		37.50			
4221	Bisley Allotments		32.50			
4265	Bisley Pavilion and Windyridge Play Areas		73.33			
4400	Oakridge Burial Ground		80.00			
4405	Oakridge Footpaths, Village Greens		105.00			
4421	Oakridge Allotments		32.50			
4406	Oakridge Fountain Piece		23.33			
4407	Strim Oakridge Play Area Soft Surface		20.00			
4320	Grass cutting and footpath clearance Eastcombe	<b>004215</b>	60.00	183.83	1102.99	n
4020	<b>BT telephone and broadband</b>	<b>D/D</b>	155.97	31.19	187.16	y
4040	<b>Bisley Royal British Legion - wreaths</b>	<b>004218</b>	60.00		60.00	n
4030	<b>Ethical Internet - NDP web hosting</b>	<b>004219</b>	60.00		60.00	n
4275	<b>Arbvision - newly planted copse maintenance</b>	<b>004220</b>	160.00		160.00	n
4116	<b>Arbvision - Eastcombe allotment - fell ash tree</b>	<b>004221</b>	350.00		350.00	n
4467	<b>GCC - installation of kissing gate project Strawberry Banks</b>	<b>004222</b>	1127.69	225.54	1353.23	n
4345	<b>Mike Dorey - Eastcombe defibrillator electric contribution</b>	<b>004223</b>	20.00		20.00	n
4300	<b>David Cridland Contracting - fencing Eastcombe football pitch</b>	<b>004224</b>	2560.00	512.00	3072.00	n
4320	<b>Ian Trueman - strimming</b>	<b>004225</b>	232.50		232.50	n
4050	<b>Chalford Parish Council - Strimming verge at Fourways</b>	<b>004226</b>	32.00		32.00	n
4330	<b>Robert Bryant - Yellow rattle seed for wildflower area EA</b>	<b>004227</b>	75.05		75.05	n
4300	<b>Adrian Montague - Eastcombe playing field walling</b>	<b>004228</b>	2190.00		2190.00	n
4200	<b>Npower - KGV pavilion electricity</b>		65.20	3.26	68.46	y
<b>Totals</b>			<b>9809.18</b>	<b>967.08</b>	<b>10776.26</b>	
4202	<b>Michael Harter - advance for paint for KGV pavilion</b>	<b>004229</b>	308.00		308.00	n

## 11. Correspondence – Clerk to report –

An email from SDC environmental health requesting a contribution for emptying of dog bins was received. The Ward offered to pay half the sum of £325.80 requested for the 6 bins in the Ward. Council agreed.

2 emails within matter 9f) as discussed.

An email requesting works to the trees overhanging Thomas Keble school was received. Clerk to arrange a site meeting to discuss and assess with Scott Sissons and Lesley Greene.

## 12. Ward reports –

**Bisley** – Hazel Saunders reported that decorating is progressing in KGV Pavilion. The Ward is having difficulties in obtaining fencings quotes for the play areas. We will attempt to obtain an additional quote, otherwise 2 quotes will be submitted for discussion next month. Lesley Greene reported that the BCCS is 15 years old and celebrated with a cake from Hazel Saunders.

**Eastcombe** – Bob Brooks had no comments. Mike Eccott has had discussions with Chalford Parish Council and with regard to speeding, they have kindly offered to

lend us their VAS this month to try out with a view to purchasing our own. Fencing has been completed alongside the football field. Scott Sissons stated that the '20 is plenty' signs are good and are up in the village.

**Oakridge** – nothing to report.

**13. Date/location/format of Next Meeting – Chair - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January by Zoom.**

The Finance Sub-committee is meeting on Monday 7th December to agree precept figures – proposals please to be circulated to the Wards before that date.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm and the Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to stay safe.

**Annex A**

Thank you for inviting us to attend your meeting this evening to discuss the letters sent recently to Roger by Norman Gillan and Simon Hawksley, both representatives of EE, seeking your help in connexion with their plan to submit a second application for a mast in Far Oakridge.

We remain enormously grateful for the support you gave us in our fight against the first application, and we realise that you could respond to their recent letters simply by reiterating your original objections to the proposed siting - and leave it at that. However we'd like to suggest that it might make more sense not to close the door too tightly on EE in your reply to them. Otherwise EE could claim that their chances of finding possible alternative sites were diminished by the Parish Council's refusal to offer any sort of cooperation, leaving them no alternative but to force through their application for Sue Casey's land.

Before we make a suggestion about what might be an appropriate response, we thought you might find a timeline of recent events useful.

The Parish Council will be aware that landowner Sue Casey withdrew from negotiations with EE in mid September, while the application was still live. Neither EE or SDC formally responded to her decision, despite the fact that her withdrawal fundamentally undermined EE's position in seeking to build a mast on her land. EE did however threaten Sue with legal proceedings before they withdrew their application.

On 28 September EE unexpectedly withdrew their application, a few days before SDC were due to give their verdict. A week later District councillor Martin Baxendale said that EE would be submitting a second application with "further information". Norman Gillan then wrote to Sue on 17 Oct saying EE had withdrawn because SDC wanted more information on bats and trees.

On 20 October Sue received notice from EE's solicitors that she had 28 days to agree to their terms, or they would proceed to take her to Land tribunal to gain rights to her land.

On 22 October surveyors for EE trespassed on Sue's land - the site of the original application - and conducted drone surveys.

On 9 November we engaged solicitors to defend Sue's rights to her land. We told EE that Sue would not sign any agreements granting access to, or use of her land. Legal action from EE is still pending. And to date, they have not told Sue whether they intend to take her to Land tribunal or not.

Also, in early November, Sue received out of the blue a notice from BT Openreach that they would be surveying her land on 12 November. They provided no explanation or justification. We refused permission, making clear however that should EE provide us with a good reason why Sue should consider granting access to her land -while she is kept in the dark about pending legal action, and whilst no new application has been submitted - then we will consider their request.

Throughout this time, we have been writing to Siobhan Bailie our MP to tell her about how EE and Norman Gillan and Simon Hawksley have been bullying Sue. And to keep her informed about the level of opposition to the mast in the local community. We held a Zoom meeting with Siobhan on 12 November during which she pledged her active support particularly with regard to what she considered to be bullying behaviour by Telecoms companies. She wrote to us yesterday to confirm that she is writing to EE and to SDC to express her concerns about how this application has been handled and to tell us that she will also be taking the matter to Parliament. We are grateful to Tim Williams for his active engagement with our campaign, and for facilitating our contact with Siobhan.

So you might say that the main themes that run through this time line account are the bully boy tactics of EE, Norman Gillan's- let's call it- "economy with the truth" and our local MP's admirable dynamism.

Regarding your potential response we have these thoughts:

Caution is required. Dealings with Norman and Simon are not straightforward.

We are clear that contrary to the tone of these letters to Roger the onus remains absolutely on EE to :

1. Prove that there is need for a mast.
2. Select potential sites.
3. Demonstrate that they have chosen a site that has minimal impact on our AONB and not least on bats and ancient woodland.

It is not the responsibility nor indeed the skill set of the local community to identify and suggest sites. And it is not in the remit of the parish council to facilitate this.

Furthermore we are surprised that Norman Gillan should be communicating in this manner when two members of our community are being threatened with legal proceedings.

So, as we have earlier suggested, rather than refusing to cooperate in any way at all, we wonder tentatively whether the parish council, as representatives of the community, should consider suggesting that they could be willing to have a meeting with EE to consider their site suggestions some time in the new year. This would allow EE plenty of time to find alternative sites themselves, and to carry out the necessary surveys. It would not allow them to complain that their well-meaning attempts to consult the local community had been deliberately sabotaged.

And Roger further to your exchanges with Simon today- we feel that our suggested approach still applies.