

BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.00 pm
WEDNESDAY 7th APRIL 2021 via ZOOM.

Present:

Chairman	Mike Eccott
Bisley Ward	Hazel Saunders Lesley Greene Martin Brown Dave Partridge
Eastcombe Ward	Robert Brooks Jenny Exley Scott Scissons
Oakridge Ward	Roger Budgeon Denis Robbins Tony Martin

There were 2 members of the public present and Apologies for Absence were received from Mrs D. Meredith (Parish Clerk) and Tim Williams (District Councillor).

- 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the APM held on 3rd April 2019 were Approved by all members of the Council.
- 2. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 3. Ward Chairmen's Statements:** The following statements were read out by the Ward Chairmen:

Bisley Ward Annual Report 2021- Hazel Saunders

The refurbishment of the Sports Pavilion has continued. The chimney has been blocked up and missing internal doors have been replaced. The interior has been repainted throughout with the exception of the kitchen which is in relatively good condition. Quotations to replace the existing flooring have been received and we hope to proceed with this very soon.

Plans to plant some additional trees around the perimeter of the King George V Playing Field and to site a storage container on the edge of the field sparked some local interest and these plans have been modified. Local residents have expressed an interest in planting wildflower seeds on the unmown area of grass in the north west corner of the field.

The acquisition from SDC of the land adjacent to the Windyridge Play Area has been completed and the fence has been extended to enclose the whole area. We have consulted with residents of Windyridge by means of a questionnaire to find out what kind of play equipment they would prefer to see. Quotations to install new play equipment have been received and work on this should start soon.

One item of play equipment at the Vanderbreen St Play Area is in need of repair or replacement. It is at present out of use as it is unsafe. Quotations for repair or replacement have been received.

Work has been carried out on the trees in the Churchyard.

During the Covid Pandemic the allotments have been in demand and new plots have been prepared for new tenants in the Autumn and this Spring. Poultry keepers were reminded to keep their birds secure from wild birds during the recent Avian Flu season.

We welcomed the quiet roads during lockdown, but traffic is now back. The Speedwatch Group is monitoring the speed of traffic through the village and liaising with the police. We are hopeful that something can be done in cooperation with Highways to slow the traffic in the High Street.

We examined the possibility of providing an off-road path along the stretch of the Wysis Way on Cheltenham Road but it seems it is not feasible at present.

Martin and Lesley have continued to work hard on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

I would like to thank my fellow Ward members for all the work they do. Lesley for her work as Allotment Warden and Tree Warden and for her work on planning, Martin for setting up Speedwatch, liaising with Highways, assisting Lesley with planning and keeping an eye on our finances and Dave for acting as Snow Warden and checking that we were prepared for snow, which fortunately was not a problem this year.

Eastcombe Ward Annual Report – Bob Brooks

New fencing by the football pitch next to the allotments was installed alongside the track to the Scout Hall together with new gates to control access to the football pitch. This should ensure that unauthorised vehicles are no longer able to drive on to the pitch. This work was paid for out of our Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

In the Recreation Ground the planned works to address the issues raised during the safety inspections were carried out by Gardiners, most of the work consisted of replacing and relaying mats under specific items of play equipment. The Eastcombe Village Group also organised the installation of a new picnic bench, with a funding award from the Stroud Rotary Club.

In line with lockdown restrictions the play area was closed for several months during the spring and early summer. It was reopened with specific guidelines on use of the equipment, involving distancing and hand-washing following national guidance.

We have also started a rolling programme of repairing and restoring the stone walls alongside the allotments and the recreation ground.

Two new notice boards for public use one on Dr. Crouch's Road and one on Eastcombe Allotments were installed.

We are supporting and helping to fund work to enhance the bus shelter. The intention is to decorate it with local art works and plants. It is hoped that this work will be completed by this summer.

A busy year responding to planning applications, principally along Fidges Lane.

Development on land at Fort View was contested in order to retain the ambience and character of the Conservation Area. The application was refused by SDC and went to appeal which was lost by the applicant. Applications also included repeat applications for land, initially obtaining support then reapplications for larger dwellings, which did not answer our aspirations to allow more small dwellings for downsizing, for which there is a local need. We supported an application for an innovative Eco House with sustainable and ecological attributes.

With the support of the Baptist Chapel we carried out tree work in the upper graveyard to remove low overhanging branches and make the graveyard, which is part of the centre of the village, more visible and accessible.

We would also like to thank the following:

- Ian Trueman for all his hard work cutting the village green, strimming our lanes and verges, and dealing with fallen trees and other issues.
- Robert Bryant who is our Allotment Warden.

Oakridge Ward – Roger Budgeon

This year has been a year of much change, Covid has caused a review of many things, Climate Change, being the main thinking point other than adjusting to live with Covid.

As far as the Ward is concerned the main issues this year have been traffic, parking on verges, dog poo - particularly on the children's playground by the school and the playing field, apart from regular maintenance issues everything else has Climate Change implications – Tree planting, wildflower seeds, an energy plan in conjunction with surrounding parishes, traffic reduction and cycling, etc. There is much activity in the Climate Change front ongoing.

Our stone walling repair project continues.

Planning has been a concern, rural development to assist farmers or smallholders has been refused and yet village infill applications have been permitted. We have written to complain to the Local Authority about their lack of support for the rural community but have not had a response yet. A large Planning application that is ongoing is the Telecom Mast at Far Oakridge, this is not supported by the local community. We are currently in the process of strengthening our Planning Policy with our NDP.

The Parish have continued with the NDP process but this has been hampered by Covid.

There has been concerns about bonfires on the allotment but a satisfactory plan is evolving where a once a month bonfire is accepted when necessary. This only covers material arising from the site, waste must not be brought onto the allotments from elsewhere.

Emma Vickers joined the PC but has recently left to concentrate on the EE Mast issue. We thank Emma for her work, Dennis and Tony for continuing on as PC's

Neighbourhood Development Plan – Tony Martin

Annual Report – April 2021

Where we have got up to

The NDP Steering Group (NDPSG) has made some progress this year but has been heavily constrained on its activities because of the impact of COVID.

Since its inception, we have formulated a Parish-wide approach and have identified the areas of interest within the Parish where we may be able to promote policy for the benefit of all residents and the Parish.

We have managed to get a number of relevant surveys commissioned and undertaken, the data from which will be analysed and will ultimately help develop draft policies for the NDP (after further public consultation – see below). These Surveys are

1. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY – to identify if and what housing may be needed in our PARISH over the next 10 years. This was undertaken by GRCC and we have a report and

analysis of the results. We are considering the data and implications for informing further debate on Housing.

2. WILDLIFE SURVEY (to include trees and the green environment) – identifying our important wildlife priorities with information to inform policy proposals. This has been undertaken by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) and provides very useful information to help inform the public discussion of future NDP draft policies. We are at the stage of considering the report and are taking ideas from it to discuss and consult in further public meetings

3. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SURVEY– the NDPSG decided to trial the Survey within the Eastcombe Conservation Area this is currently underway. When the report is submitted, we will consider it and it will help inform the debate on the landscape and visual aspects of our environment for the NDP. If further funding is available, we intend to roll it out to other parts of the Parish.

4. NDP SURVEY – this is our largest and most comprehensive Survey to gather opinions from residents on a wide variety of subjects. We have commissioned GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council) to advise us and have sent out the NDP Survey questionnaires to all residents of the Parish. We will have all responses in by 12th April and after the report and analysis has been received, we will consider the responses in order to help inform future public consultation and draft policies we take forward for consultation.

Our hope is that data given by residents in responses to the NDP Survey will help us set up a Parish Council Residents Database so that we can keep residents informed of the results of the NDP Survey. In addition, we will be able to inform every one of the progress of the NDP and facilitate more community engagement with the NDP and other wider Parish Council matters.

What we propose to do in future and when

When the main Surveys have all been received and analysed, and when COVID regulations allow greater number public gatherings, it is our intention to recommence more physical engagement and consultation with residents in the form of Village Hall public meetings. Communication of NDP events and progress will be facilitated by our website <https://bisleyeastcombeoakridge-ndp2030.org.uk/> and buy the new database.

We want to expand the number of residents involved with the process of the NDP to both help share the work and to ensure greater participation opportunities for every resident in this exciting project.

4. Finance Statement – Mike Eccott (Prepared by Debbie Meredith, Parish Clerk)

The Parish ends the Financial Year 2020-2021 with an increase in its Bank Balances from £127,302 last financial year to £128,107 this financial year which includes Ear Marked Reserve funds of £41,205 for ongoing projects.

A precept of £67,928 was received.

Total operating income across the parish was £84,473. Total payments for running costs were £83,669.

Total income for administration was £78,357. Total expenditure for administration was £48,054 which is an increase on last year due to increased closed churchyard maintenance costs, the creation of a new Parish Council website, extended works to refurbish and replace noticeboards and unexpected additional tree maintenance works within the parish.

Total income for Bisley Ward was £3097 with an expenditure of £10,446, an increase on last year's spend due to maintenance works required on fencing and maintenance in the play areas and creating new allotments following increased demand for plots.

Total income for Eastcombe Ward was £715 with an expenditure of £16811, an increase on last year's spend due to unexpected dry stone wall maintenance costs, playground maintenance and the installation of fencing and new gates adjacent to the junior football pitch.

Total income for Oakridge Ward of £ 2304 with an expenditure of £8882, a decrease on last year's spend.

Donations and grants received:

£5549 for the second year of the Neighbourhood Development Programme in the Parish from Locality. Any unspent balance will be returned to the grant provider which currently is estimated at a small nominal amount.

£2500 was received from donations and Parish Council for provision of kissing gates.

Receipts from solar energy generation on Bisley and Oakridge pavilions is set aside for replacement tree project works due to increased ash die back in the area resulting in tree felling.

In overall terms, the expenditure of precept set by the Parish was kept within budget with additional spend taken from general reserves on maintenance and improvement of Parish Assets and increased tree management within the Parish. Some spend was taken from Ear Marked Reserves for ongoing projects such as the work to update the King George V Pavilion in Bisley and works to kissing gates in Oakridge from donations.

It should be noted that the figures are subject to final expenditures not yet accounted for prior to Year End and audit and are as at 24/03/2021.

As previously mentioned within the financial figures for administration above, the Parish Council commissioned a new website which covers the 3 Wards within our Parish and local links too. It has created new policy for stone walling and a climate change action plan, both of which are on the website.

5. Any Other Business.

There was no further business, so the APM was declared closed at 7.25pm.