

**MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 2021 USING ZOOM SOFTWARE**

Present	Chairman	Mike Eccott	ME
	Bisley Ward	Martin Brown	MB
		Lesley Greene	LG
		Dave Partridge	DP
		Hazel Saunders	HS
	Eastcombe Ward	Bob Brooks	BB
		Jenny Exley	JE
		Scott Sissons	SS
	Oakridge Ward	Roger Budgeon	RB
		Tony Martin	TM
		Dennis Robbins	DR
		Emma Vickers	EV
	Clerk	Mrs D Meredith	

1. **Apologies for Absence**
County Councillor Keith Rippington.

2. **Declaration of Interests**
DP, payments list.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday 3 February 2021**
The minutes of the meeting were approved.

4. **Matters and actions arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered in this agenda**
Letters to SDC and our MP regarding planning - No response to date from SDC, so we will now write to the MP with our thoughts on the SDC letter.
RB to put together and Clerk will issue.
Stroud Taskforce – TM and EV attended the meeting with Siobhan Bailey along with Parish Councils and representatives of county operations – discussion of ongoing projects from walling to charities took place. EV felt it was a useful meeting. Our MP seems involved and alert to issues eg Climate Task force and is prepared to help. TM said it was informative and useful to see what goes on in other parishes and feels it would be useful to send her our letter regarding planning. Meetings are quarterly or half yearly. ME asked if one can keep this going and alert council of pertinent issues. *EV said minutes were issued and will pass to Clerk for distribution.*
MB reminded the meeting of our MP's cycling forum and notes were written up. This was the 2nd meeting and highways and police attended. The notion of safe and social streets was viewed.

JE stated that DP was going to look at stonewall grants, who confirmed that no grants are available unless you are a major land owner.

5. **Public Participation via Zoom software** – There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

An Oakridge resident talking on item 9a), has already sent an email to us and highways re- playing field verges at Oakridge. Highways have asked for more photographs showing cars parked on the corner of the road causing obstructions and damage. Suggestions on how the problem can be addressed welcome, Highways can finance a marker post to stop parking on the corner there. The residents feels this is not safe for children or animals leaving the park. He suggested that Highways asks the PC to request that residents park on their property. Slimbridge PC has used council land to create parking off of verges. Also suggested was to add soil and marker posts to allow grass to regrow and prevent vehicles parking in that area, then tarmacking it all. The question is whether the Parish Council can write to the owners of the cars in that area, who have built on to their property and lost parking spaces. ME thanked him for his input. TM asked the resident for his solution which was to have the area planted and bollards put up, and asked about car ownership. It was stated that some residents choose not to park outside their properties, but park on the verge. ME said Oakridge ward will discuss this further under item 9a) of this agenda.

An Eastcombe resident also despairs about verges in the village. On 31st March there is a meeting with Highways on this issue where ME is hopeful of a solution to the Fidges Lane problem.

A third member of the public informed the meeting that he was merely observing with a view to become an active part in the village, having a lot to offer and skills in various areas. He stated that it was nice to meet the PC and looks forward to attending meetings in the future.
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** – Annex A to this document.
8. **Agree Parish Council response to the following Planning Applications**
 - a) **21/0122/HHOLD** - Extension requested - Church House, Dr Crouchs Road, Eastcombe - Proposed garage conversion, revised parking/turning area and new summer house & shed. **Support with comments.**
 - b) **S.21/0120/HHOLD** - Extension requested - Bisley Farm, Cheltenham Road, Bisley - Conversion of part of existing outbuilding to home office. **Support with comments.**
 - c) **S.21/0231/TCA** – Extension requested - Mount Pleasant Cottage, Wells Road, Eastcombe - T1 and T2 Ash - Fell. T3 Sycamore -2m reduction of westerly side

and crown raise by 2m. **Support but already decided by SDC prior to this meeting.**

- d) **S.21/0296/HHOLD** - Whitespring, The Broadway, Oakridge Lynch - Replacement of existing garage and loose box with new garage and pellet store. **Support.**
- e) **S.21/0308/TCA** - Prospect House, Church Hill, Bisley - T1, T2, T4 & G1; All common Lime trees - Remove all epicormics growth from the ground up, back to previous pollard points approx. 10-12 years old. T3, T5 & T6; All Yew trees - Crown lift by 2 metres and reduce west facing Lateral limb weight back to boundary by 2-3 metres. **Comments only.**
- f) **S.21/0392/HHOLD** - Bridleway, Oakridge Lynch - Removal of conservatory and construction of new single storey extension. **Support.**

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) **Oakridge verge damage** – Roger Budgeon has received numerous emails on this topic from residents, who have also sent in photographs. One property was converted into 3 executive homes with numerous cars and insufficient parking. Oakridge is suffering with parking on Broadway or in front of the sports pavilion. RB responded to the suggestions and solutions with the issue of who pays, for example, tarmacking and making car park spaces. Additionally there's an issue with getting county approval. RB feels a letter to residents concerned would be a good start, asking why they park there. DR said there is a wide verge opposite this area, so why not park there when grass removed and shingle added. Properties have been extended and have removed their parking spaces. ME agreed with canvassing vehicle owners and asked for solutions to the problem which the PC can support. DR remarked on the notices the Parish Council erected to stop parking on the playing field pull off where there were 13 cars at one time and 8 or 9 on the verge, so then where do users of the field park? TM said this is a ward issue but occurs in other wards too. RB said when an event was on the field, users parked elsewhere causing a different issue in the village. RB proposed a village response to the issue and perhaps they will have good ideas and be on board with it. MB stated that cars are the problem and how to encourage people to have fewer cars.
- b) **Tree quotation KGV – Lesley Greene** - Ward discussed local consultation for this which became embroiled with siting of the proposed shipping container. A quote was received for planting 4 sweet chestnuts. The location of the proposed hedgerow was opposed by two residents whilst supported by others, however it is too late to plant now. The Ward will complete the current round of local consultation and LG will produce an autumn planting plan with quotations. Likely costs to be £3000 including the trees and she asked for allocation for next financial year.
- c) **Approve hedgerow policy – Dave Partridge** - Copy distributed – DP is passionate about hedge laying and maintaining an old fashioned hedge. It's cheaper than stone walls and a strong edge around buildings. Thorns give security too and if

maintained properly will last a long time. Parish Council Policy is to object to a planning application if a hedgerow is to be reduced or felled. Also the policy is to commend planting of hedges in applications instead of walling and fencing. Stock fencing can be added to assist with security and animal safety. The Parish Council has proposed three POLICIES:

- POLICY: Object to the planning authority if a hedgerow is to be reduced or felled as part of a planning application,
- POLICY: Commend hedgerow planting in all appropriate planning applications
- POLICY: Plant hedgerows on allotments and on Parish Council owned or managed land where appropriate and particularly where a hedgerow helps enhance existing wildlife corridors or enriches habitat. Every small mixed hedge can help pollinating insects and provide food and shelter for birds and small mammals.

These policies will enhance existing wildlife. Flaying has no real benefit to hedges and wildlife. LG said objections to planning is in the 1997 hedgerow act is meant to prevent them being reduced or felled, so it is Parish Council responsibility to watch out for. Additionally neighbouring farmers have flaying done but leave a 2m area above the hedge which is NFU advice to encourage wildlife. DP hedges will still need to be cut field side and road sides of course. SS feels this is an excellent policy but is concerned whether the skills exist locally and whether there is training available. DP confirmed this. MB is in support and remarks that hedges around Bisley have been flayed brutally. The impression is that this doesn't encourage the thickening of hedges. However laying will have a shortage of skills and times to do this. DP suggested that some could be left wild in suitable places. JE thought it was a good policy and is supportive whilst mentioning promoting 'A' based hedges for strength and snow proof. LG said that Tunley has a dead hedge on Siccaridge wood, interesting type of hedge. DP asked for further comments outside the meeting to himself and LG. ME thanked DP and LG for their work on the policy.

- d) **Dog bins – Mike Eccott/Clerk** – As mentioned last month ME asked if other wards have additional requirements for new bins or signage. HS invested in 6 new bins about 5 years ago, so doesn't have a huge demand. 1 bin is still in the garage which Bisley paid for and they would like to see that on the playing field now dogs can be exercised there. Of the 2 bins side by side, one could be moved elsewhere in the village, perhaps in the Bear car park which would need consent. RB said residents suggested 2 in Far Oakridge but when he mentioned costs to them, enthusiasm waned. DP said bins used lots atm for lockdown walkers. ME asked Wards to send requirements to the Clerk. Eastcombe would like to move the Fidges Lane bin to be replaced and moved to the viewpoint – no additional collection cost would be incurred. An additional bin is suggested at Accommodation lane. **Clerk to investigate and determine whether new bins can be collected by Ubico and costs.** DP asked for signage in the pavilion car park to ask people to use the appropriate bins.
- e) **Speed sign purchase – Mike Eccott** - Send prices around, had different company in touch who will supply costs next week. Options are Traffic Technology sign as in Chalford for ease of data exchange, a Smartgroup one is almost identical but

data handling is different. Funding – the PC was hoping to get Police Commissioners funding but this is not available at the moment. Money from SDRSG refund and maybe some of the Bisley film fund could be utilised. MB said still hoping traffic calming and trial in Bisley with possible shared costs. He asked about installation and training costs. ME said this is not required as we could liaise with Chalford PC. SS said Chalford have 8 fixed posts around their parish. We wish to have one near Brockley Acres and on Vatch Lane in Eastcombe and a tripod. MB said highways approved use of the repeater signs in Bisley. DP reminded the meeting that County Councillor Keith Rippington had said he had funding available. ME hopes to take Harriet Osbourne to chosen post sites for approval. Purchase of a sign awaits approval pending a 3rd quote. ***Clerk to email HO about county funding.***

- f) **Pubs and community value status – Tony Martin/Dave Partridge –** £150 million are available to purchase community assets which HS confirmed is up to £250000 matched funding. ME asked for clarification on the pubs in question. DP stated all pubs in the parish, not just The Bear and asked for PC support. HS previously looked into this about 4 years ago and the first step is to register the site as a community asset via SDC, so that if the asset comes on the market the community has 6 months to raise the money to take it on. Forms to be completed and an outline business plan produced. Thought is for both Bisley pubs and the village shop to be registered however to take on as a community which is a huge burden. DP said it would protect assets for a while. BB said one issue to take up is change of use which is a planning application and policy that they won't give it up if last pub in the community and asked for this be added to the NDP for local assets and get SDC to commit that they won't allow it. TM said the questionnaire is about to be issued and specifically asked about this so will provide a good response for policy development. JE mentioned The Lamb in Eastcombe and asked about the car park area which is always busy. BB informed the meeting that the pub is owned by Punch and the tenant is a competent landlord of a normally busy pub. TM mentioned that The Daneway is in our Parish too. TM stated that the results of the NDP survey would give good evidence of residents asset opinion.
- g) **Shipping container/parish storage siting – Mike Eccott –** DP informed the meeting that objections were received about the siting of the proposed shipping-container. Following a lengthy conversation with Clerk it was felt that these problems will be the same in either ward. If salt is in one location then it may be hard to get. They discussed purchasing of 3 steel low maintenance sheds to be sited in each ward and split the salt between them. ME queried the other contents of the garage which are 3 spreaders, lots of pallets, one new dog bin and one salt bin. Pallets could be disposed of on allotment sites for use as compost bins. ***Clerk to circulate information about sizes and bases with DP and obtain lead times. For next month Bisley and Oakridge to provide suitable locations for the sheds. DP to measure up and assess the size required and confirm. Clerk to ask SDC if we can retain the garage and give notice when required.***
- h) **Climate Action and change of electricity supplier – Martin Brown –** has been working on this based on last month's decisions. Changing of light bulbs in the

pavilion with RB and fittings and bulbs have been ordered. The preferred electricity suppliers are shortlisted as Ecotricity and Good Energy but quotes cannot be obtained until the current contract is closer to end date in autumn 2022. Changing water supplier and bank is also to be investigated. *Areas in Wards to reduce mowing where possible could be considered.* A meeting with our contractor to discuss would be relevant. SS and ME have walked around Eastcombe and determined that there is very few places that can have less mowing. MB added that there is a meeting tomorrow with someone from GWT in Bisley churchyard for ideas there and Teeds Rise to make a nature reserve.

i) Windyridge play apparatus and KGV wobbly bridge – Hazel Saunders

The Wobbly Bridge at KGV play area has a rotted cross pieces and is dangerous. DP has taped off the item. The quote from Playforce recommend removal and replacement at high costs. Greenfields could remove and replace for less cost of or repair the single rotten slats £673. HS feels it could be sensible to repair once and then if required replace it. DP suggested a change to a new, simple item of play kit for less money. ME stated that this is a Bisley ward matter and *HS agreed and will produce an updated proposal.* Windyridge play area has 4 quotes for new equipment, 2 are way over budget, 2 within budget but a choice has not yet been made. *This will be an item on next month's agenda.*

j) Eastcombe Recreation ground tree works quotes – Clerk

JE stated that after considering the 3 quotes, Tree Maintenance was her recommendation. The Ward agreed. *Clerk to authorise Tree Maintenance.*

k) BHIB Insurance renewal as per 3 year programme for approval – Clerk

The renewal quote for £1213.55 was approved.

l) Pavilion flooring quotes – Hazel Saunders – this item is deferred to the next meeting pending the re-quote requested from one of the original companies.

10. Finance –

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

March Payments 2021						
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 February	S/O	1319.59		1319.59	y
	Clerk's expenses for February					
4002	Clerk's mileage/expenses		8.10			
4004	Office rent	004249	26.00		34.10	n
4000	HMRC – Tax & NI for February (Clerk)	004250	184.60		184.60	n
4001	LGPS - Clerk’s Pension for February	004262	387.96		387.96	y
	R H Attwood – Grass cutting invoice 4954					
4050	Playing Fields		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	004251	20.00	171.83	1030.99	n
4264	R H Attwood – Windyridge fencing invoice 4955	004252	817.86	163.57	981.43	n
4261	R H Attwood - Bisley Pavilion fencing invoice 4956	004253	669.80	133.96	803.76	n
4040	Zoom - remote meeting software	D/D	11.99	2.40	14.39	y
4201	D Partridge - KGV pavilion roof and gutter repairs	004254	190.00		190.00	n
4222	D Partridge - create 6 new allotments at Bisley	004255	240.00		240.00	n
4020	BT - telephone and broadband	D/D	155.97	31.19	187.16	y
4006	GWT - NDP wildlife silver service invoice 11497	004256	666.67	133.33	800.00	n
4116	Five Valleys Arbor - Eastcombe cemetery trees	004258	455.00		455.00	n
4116	Tom Organ Arboriculture - Eastcombe cemetery trees	004259	455.00		455.00	n
4116	Ian Trueman - Eastcombe cemetery trees	004260	490.00		490.00	n
4401	Adrian Montague - Oakridge allotment wall repairs	004261	1600.00		1600.00	n
4200	Waterplus - KGV pavilion - INV04602355		40.14		40.14	y
Totals			8634.57	647.62	9282.19	

11. **Correspondence – Clerk to report** – Letter received from Beryl Freebury on closure of the village newsletter and distribution of remaining funds. ME - item received from Cotswold Wardens working with CPC agreed footpath improvements in our parish at far end of Accommodation Lane and can we support it financially. He is keen to set up a volunteer group and this seems an ideal vehicle to progress on this. This will be an *agenda item for next month* for Footpath Improvements and Footpath Volunteer Scheme.

12. **Ward reports –**

Bisley – Hazel Saunders reported that more controversy than expected was received following local consultation on trees, hedges and container siting. There has been a lot of correspondence with residents over that.

Eastcombe – Bob Brooks had nothing to report but we need to get together to talk about an Eastcombe Newsletter to replace the one that is finished. ME asked for suggested dates to meet. JE has asked for a TPO on pines opposite TK school which has gone to SDC. Landscape appraisal consultants have sent a vista from below Wells Road up the hill which shows the trees are a skyline barrier. She is awaiting response from SDC. The school Operations Manager discussed the situation about

building site lorries passing the school. The village bus shelter is progressing nicely. The landscape appraisal is a massive task but progressing. She has suggested a wavy linear copse on the village side of the junior sports pitch where a row of large conifers is by planting 25 native trees and shrubs and is liaising with the school and volunteers.

Oakridge – Roger Budgeon informed the meeting of the ongoing situation with the closed churchyard at Oakridge. Prices for wall and tree works have been obtained, but a discussion on whether to fell the tree or not continues. Costs involved are thousands and our responsibility. *Ward to respond with a decision by the next meeting.*

- 13. Date/location/format of Next Meeting – Chair - Wednesday 7th April by Zoom. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the same date at 7pm with the Parish Council meeting following at 7:30pm. Ward reports, financial report from the Clerk and an NDP process report required for this.**

Annex A to the minutes.

Hello Parish Councillors,

Carbon Strategy and our Community.

The genesis of all these discussions was Stroud's declaration of a *Climate Emergency* two years ago. As you know, and will see on the SDC website, there is a draft of the Climate Strategy which is presently being completed by the Carbon Neutral Officer and her respective team(s). This will be sent for proofing, prior to being presented to members later this month (March).

You will recall that in both the pre- and post-Christmas additions of the Bisley News I referred to the fact that I was talking to Agri-Governing bodies and the Senior Carbon Neutral Officer about how I felt the Carbon Strategy (and related discussions in the Env. Committee) were geared to put a large proportion of the blame at the door of the farmer. My actions following that discussion were to work with the officer and (once given the go-ahead) create a group of members (landowners/farmers) who could help contribute to the strategy's evolution. Noting that the vital thing was to understand what they are doing, rather than make assumptions as to what they are not.

This is ongoing following several more conversations with the officer (most recently 23rd Feb).

Interestingly, as a side note, I heard that this was indeed one of the points raised in the Climate Action Group call, where one attendee raised concern about what farmers were doing, but had never asked them.

Ice

Following the cold snap, I was approached by a resident who raised major concerns about a blocked set of drains that were causing surface water to freeze and make the road an ice rink. I spoke to Highways who originally were only able to meet in April (for obvious reasons this was unacceptable), so I proposed an initial call that day, pending further review of what needed to be done via email. Within 4 hrs we had a jet washing team scheduled as soon as they were free, to clear the drains and remedy the situation!

Planning

Limited planning news this month. I was asked to investigate the reason for an application withdrawal and whether this then removed another application the applicant made at the same time about the building's classification (listed).

Waste Bins

I have had calls from 4 residents (3 X bins 1 X garden Waste) asking for support in obtaining new bins – these are being resolved as we speak.

In anticipation of one member of our parish council, I have referenced our own composting scheme which we are incredibly lucky to have, but the rationale behind the request for the garden Waste bin was as a long-term solution for a resident who no longer drives.

Litter Picking

I spoke to SDC this week about the collection of litter picking waste that needs to be collected from my house – it is an astonishing amount of waste in several large bags. However, SDC advised me that at this moment the resources are limited for extra collections and as such, members should not collect more than they can put out with their own collections- which seems quite odd and something I am going to raise at the Env. Committee given the fact that when locals go out to litter pick they are reducing the demand on the council's services. I have been granted an exception this week but want to understand more.

UBICO

You may have seen on the SDC website that we have extended our 5-year waste and Recycling partnership with UBICO.

Full council meeting

On Thursday 25th we had our full council meeting which I will not discuss in detail but will note some of the key points below:

- Whilst some other councils around the country are going bankrupt, we as a council are doing 'well'- IE stable with positive returns on our investments.
- Council Tax is going to increase again. As usual, every year I do not vote in support of this motion. We already have some of highest council tax rates and we are not seeing an increase in services to match the additional expenditure that the community is being asked to pay, but it was passed by majority vote.
- SDC council houses are under review and efforts made to retrofit energy saving devices (Solar, Heat pumps, better loft insulation etc). It was raised that there is not a line in the budget allocated for this, so it will now be reviewed to avoid the Sept. meeting agreeing steps, but being unable to do anything until the following financial year begins.
- It was agreed that the tax support scheme for members of the community would remain for the time being. It was due to be reviewed this year but in light of COVID-19, this was not the time to be doing so – review does not mean remove, it just meant to review what was put in place and ensure it still meets the needs of the community and offers the right level of support as sometimes the spirit of these schemes is not aligned with the reality.

- SDC undertook a review of the IT infrastructure for members to see whether it was still fit for purpose. To save cost and expense, when asked to comment and advise what I would prefer, I suggested a council managed laptop which is handed back at the end of a term. This saves lots of extra money being spent unnecessarily. From a security perspective, this can also be wiped remotely by the council should it be stolen.

Motorbikes

Since the announcement of lockdown easing roadmap bikes/ quads have been starting to use the Green Lanes again. Although many of the steps put in place to reduce the trespassing appear to have worked.

One instance on Saturday saw 4 quads (2 unlicensed, 1 untaxed) riding up and down the lanes of Througham and Sydenhams. The police were called but never arrived and subsequent emails have also gone unanswered – I have contacted Siobhan to manage this matter with us.

As an observation: I cannot say I am that surprised, having reported theft of our fuel on the farm to 999, I never received any follow up and from June 2018-now, have never received a visit or letter in respect of the report. I doubt I ever will.