

**MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY 2021 AT BISLEY VILLAGE HALL**

Present	Chairman	Mike Eccott	ME
	Bisley Ward	Martin Brown	MB
		Lesley Greene	LG
		Dave Partridge	DP
		Hazel Saunders	HS
	Eastcombe Ward	Jenny Exley	JE
		Louie Wilkes	LW
	Oakridge Ward	Roger Budgeon	RB
		Dennis Robbins	DR
	Clerk	Mrs D Meredith	
	District Councillor	Martin Brown	MB
	County Councillor	Sue Williams	SW

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Parish Councillor Tony Martin.
2. **Declaration of Interests**
None received.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 2 June 2021**
The minutes of the meeting were approved.
4. **Matters and actions arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered in this agenda**
JE asked about the situation with policies on the website. ME said these were being addressed. Due to the complaint by Mrs Ogden, Oakridge Ward will not co-opt councillors until this is resolved.
5. **Public Participation** – one member of the public arrived but after this point, although the Chairman did give her the opportunity to speak, however she declined this offer.
6. **County Council Matters** – County Councillor Sue Williams produced a report which the Clerk distributed and is in **Annex A** to these minutes. She stated that she is looking into footpaths informing the meeting of one going onto the definitive map. Signs are erected once a week and removed within a few hours which interferes with the democratic process, but not the legal aspect as replaced weekly .
Also working on a query re-kissing gates being changed for motorised scooters,prams etc . PROW confirmed that the gate would then need to be widened. Also stating that as a footpath, it may then be used by motor bikes. Needs to speak to owner of the land. She also asked the PC

requirements for information on her county notes. The Chair replied a broad brush on what's going on at county level and to raise issues for county on the PC behalf. She informed the meeting of free counselling support being set up for teachers.

7. **District Council Matters – distribute a report from District Councillor Martin Brown – see Annex B.** MB congratulated the newly appointed County Councillor Sue Williams and confirmed that they have started to work together. He confirmed that his own position will be on the Environment Committee and Development Control ie planning and waste, canals, carbon management. He still hopes to be able to support this council's positions but is limited on cases which come before the committee with predetermination ie he cannot write in personal support and cannot validate roles on the committee. SDC runs on the committee system rather than the executive cabinet system at GCC. Real decision making happens at SDC. He has arranged a meeting with Neighbourhood Warden, Craig Fellowes on Tuesday 15th at 11am at Bisley Village Hall to discuss his role, all welcome. RB asked about the land at Limekiln Lane – MB confirmed no other complaints have been received. Two parishioners have asked RB about it so he has passed on to environmental health, including use of the plot which was a nursery. MB confirmed that staff are returning to Ebley offices.

8. **Agree Parish Council response to the following Planning Applications**
 - a) **S21/0737/FUL Land At Middle Hill, Eastcombe** - Construction of 3 detached dwellings and associated parking – support with comments.
 - b) **S.21/1461/TCA Brittany, Wells Road, Eastcombe** - T1 Ash - Ash dieback to be removed to 3m monolith. G1 Ash x6 - Ash dieback to be felled – SDC Mark Hemming has stated that we don't need to react to tree applications and we just accept his decisions. LG suggested in the past that we DO respond to TCAs and MH is correct but as we receive the application, we should respond. JE made no comments but would have supported this application. MB asked about the right for consultation on TPOs.
 - c) **S.21/1478/AGR Land At, Middle Hill, Eastcombe** - Construction of agricultural building – support.
 - d) **S.21/1393/TCA Martlets, Manor Street, Bisley** - Mountain Ash (Rowan) – Fell – support.
 - e) **S.21/1521/TCA Jaynes Court, Back Lane, Bisley** - T.1 T.2 - hazel - coppice. T.3 - Viburnum, Holly, dead elder - fell. T.4 - cherry - fell - dead. T.5 - hazel - coppice. T.6 - tree of heaven - fell. T.7 - 2x lawson cypress - fell. T.8 - holly - fell. T.9 T.10 - Quercus ilex/laurel - fell. T.11 - ash (small) - fell. T.12 - Cherry - remove the top branch. T.13 - winter walk - clear the understory. T.14 - evergreen laurel – fell – support.
 - f) **S.21/1560/AFP A Catswood Farm, Stancombe, Catswood Lane** - Prior Approval - Agricultural/Forestry - - Steel framed dutch barn – approval not required but support.

- g) **S.21/1540/LBC Lion House, Holloway Road, Bisley** - Internal alterations and installation of flue – don't have qualifications about the precise details so reliant on Kate Russell's input from SDC.
- h) **S.21/1352/HHOLD - Old Pound Cottage, Stroud Road, Bisley** - Installation of windows, doors and pitched roof, erection of porch – object.
- i) **S.21/1537/TPO Bowns Pool, Bournes Green - Ash (T1)** - removal of significant dead wood (>40mm dia.) overhanging the road – support.
- j) **S.21/1573/FUL - Frith House, Far Oakridge** - Erection of stable block, installation of bore holes with below ground energy plant room – support with comments, but disappointed that a large heat pump to be installed and no renewables within the development.
- k) **S.21/1589/HHOLD - Whitespring, The Broadway, Oakridge Lynch** - Removal of garage and timber loose box, erection of outbuilding. (Resubmission of S.21/0296/HHOLD)- 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) **Royal British Legion, Bisley – Dave Partridge**

The National level of the RBL has told local groups that they wouldn't organise the remembrance day events if they are public in the street, so have passed responsibility to Parish Councils.

DP has called specialist remembrance day companies for insurance quotes for this event. £168 basic insurance or £280 for £5 million cover, but no written quotation has been received to date. This was discussed at Ward level for the potential of PC funding, however the meeting wondered why the RBL doesn't provide its own risk assessment to allow the event to take place. There are few member numbers in Bisley RBL now and there is a possibility of merger with another group. It was felt that the existing group could amend past risk assessments to submit to insurance companies. A normal event would hope for a maximum of 500 people and police would be in attendance. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council fund the insurance if the local group organises it. ***Clerk to draft a letter to David Morgan to state this. DP to get written insurance quotes.***

b) **Oakridge allotment police incident – Clerk – to write letter regarding the Parish Council stance on this even and the tenant's potential eviction in the agreement is not adhered to in the future.**

c) **Parliamentary boundary changes – Martin Brown** – confirmed that this is not about the district council, but parliamentary. It will provide a new Cotswold constituency excluding Cirencester. MB proposed drafting a PC response to object on historical, geographical, and social and cultural grounds. HS stated that this is a national drive to even out the constituent numbers based on the last census and complications will arise if we remain in Stroud as another area will have to lose out. ***Clerk to submit on receipt.***

d) **Skateboard ramp Oakridge – Clerk (letter circulated)** - letter received from a young Oakridge resident requested a skateboard ramp in Oakridge. RB stated

that the budget could be large for this request and for the Clerk to ask the young man what he has in mind. If it is physically quite large, is it appropriate for the playing field? JE commented that Rush Skatepark at Brimscombe is closing and that Frithwood has a good skate park. ***Clerk to contact him and ask about using Frithwood.***

- e) **Agree minutes and the financial sub-committee actions – Clerk** (*details circulated*) - carried.
- f) **Verges policy approval – Lesley Greene** – was awaiting Highways response to query about obstacles on verges – objects cannot be placed on or in the Highway and is an offence. Can apply for a licence for planting. The Highway goes in one meter from the road. The Chairman asked LG to list Conservation Road Verges at Waterlane, Tunley and Siccaridge Wood. ***Carried pending additions by LG.***
- g) **Parish Office – Mike Eccott** – interest was raised by HS for purchasing the Old Courthouse in the High Street, Bisley which was a public building in the past. HS believes it was used by the villagers. Reports of the cricketers having their baths then sloshing the water down the external stairs was told to the meeting's amusement. This might be an opportunity to bring the building back into public use. Downstairs is an office but the present owners are applying for planning permission to convert to residential use. Upstairs is residential and could be let out although a disadvantage is lack of parking and the building is grade II listed. Parish Councils can take out a mortgage and then cover the cost of it by doing so. ME reported several aspects to this suggestion – firstly that there is not a centre where people go for information in the Parish and whilst the current Clerk is happy to work from home, future clerks may not be. Also many items and units are storage in Eastcombe Village Hall. Other options could be use of the Annex at Eastcombe Village Hall which will have internet access in the future. HS asked for a sub-committee to be set up to explore this possibility, although she reminded the meeting that this has been investigated before for an extension to the KGV pavilion which the PC decided not to do. The group volunteers are HS for Bisley, LW from Eastcombe, and the Chairman will contact TM to ask if he is willing to represent Oakridge.
- h) **Approve Parish wide tree survey costs – Clerk** (*quote circulated*) – carried – ***Clerk to confirm with Tree Maintenance.***
- i) **TPO St Mary's Eastcombe – Jenny Exley** – Provisional TPO added this group by Mark Hemming who has chosen 5 trees to keep - the developer had axed approximately 13 to date. A formal comment was submitted to him which he asked to be made more succinct. JE has actioned this and asks the PC to agree this. Carried. ***Clerk to submit on receipt.*** MB asked if JE is to speak at the DCC on 20th July on this matter – he will speak as part of the debate.
- j) **Bisley Churchyard/Teed's Rise Nature Reserve – Martin Brown** – proposed that the PC declares Teeds Rise/Lower Churchyard as a Nature Reserve and erect signage to say it is managed by the BWL PC. A small group of people are tidying it up. Carried. ***Clerk to arrange signage.***
- k) **Electric Vehicle Charging Points – Martin Brown** – SDC has a plan – PC to submit ideas for sites of EV points for public use. ***MB to come back to us on this.***
- l) **Second VAS for Bisley (from Film Fund) - Martin Brown** – Clerk chased the company again for the one ordered and company still awaiting a chip. Promised

for June but awaiting reply. MB proposed that Bisley buys another one with the filming monies when Eastcombe confirm it works well on receipt. Also wonders if we could get another one at the same reduced price. He reported to the meeting that the Police Mobile camera unit is in Eastcombe at the moment.

10. Finance –

a) Approve monthly payments of account (*details to be circulated*) – carried.

July 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	D/D	57.59	11.52	69.11
4000	D Meredith – Clerk’s salary for June	S/O	S/O			1140.14
	Clerk's expenses for June					
4002	Clerk's mileage/expenses		1.35			
4004	Office rent	004308	26.00		27.35	n
4000	HMRC – Tax & NI for June	004309	183.31		183.31	n
4001	LGPS - Clerk’s Pension for June	D/D	372.13		372.13	y
	R H Attwood – Grass cutting invoice 5013					
4050	Playing Fields		455.00			
4250	Teeds Rise		37.50			
4221	Bisley Allotments		32.50			
4265	Bisley play areas box mow		73.33			
4400	Oakridge Burial Ground		80.00			
4405	Oakridge Footpaths and greens		105.00			
4421	Oakridge & Far Oakridge Allotments		32.50			
4406	Oakridge Fountain Piece		23.33			
4407	Strim Oakridge Play Area Soft Surface		20.00			
4215	George Street Bisley	004310	10.00	173.83	1042.99	n
4116	Tree Maintenance - works in Eastcombe Recreation Ground	004311	3712.00	742.40	4454.40	n
4264	Windyridge updated play area - from EMR	004312	9975.00	1995.00	11970.00	n
4120	Tennis court latch replacement	004313	54.92	10.98	65.90	n
4055	Glasdon - new/replacement dog bins	004314	948.58	189.73	1138.31	n
4075	Zoom remote meeting link	D/D	11.99	2.49	14.39	y
4315	Waterplus - Eastcombe allotments INV04898521	D/D	31.88		31.88	y
4315	Waterplus - Eastcombe allotments INV04724869	D/D	247.24		247.24	y
4315	Waterplus - Eastcombe allotments INV04982263	D/D	40.11		40.11	y
4410	Waterplus - Oakridge allotments INV04899419	D/D	358.83		358.33	y
4220	Waterplus - Bisley allotments INV04898999	D/D	426.54		426.54	y
9500	Chalford Parish Council footpath contribution	004315	500.00		500.00	n
Totals			17759.04	3172.02	20884.40	

- b) Chairman to sign External Auditor Section 2 Account statement which was approved and minuted in the June meeting (*details to be circulated*) carried.
- c) Approve Annual Governance Statement (*details to be circulated*) carried.
- d) Approve report to external auditor (*details to be circulated*) carried.
Clerk to submit to external auditor tomorrow.

11. Correspondence – Clerk to report – Thank you letters received from some of the S137 charitable donation organisations.

12. Ward reports –

Bisley – HS reported that the Windyridge play area was installed last week and finally finished on Monday with children playing nicely on it. The official opening is on Saturday 17th July at 4pm if anyone wishes to attend they will be very welcome

for squash and biscuits. A date for the flooring in the sports pavilion of the week beginning 17th August has been confirmed. Uplift of the existing tiles and fixtures need to take place prior to this.

Eastcombe – JE asks if a gifted memorial bench in Swedish redwood, which is a softwood, could be upgraded to a similar design in English oak using the refunds from the newsletter application which is to be used for the benefits of the residents. *JE is to follow up.* The TPO on St Mary's has been mentioned but there is the issue of Thomas Keble's school's new development losing trees at the front. Marti Baxendale, chair of DCC and Mark Hemming have asked her to write a TPO application and proposed that the Parish Council issue it. She reported horror this morning with a 5 day notice from SDC that Redwood, Dr Crouch's Road is planning to fell 4 lime trees at the back of Bracelands. The notice is something we are not familiar with. MB will contact Mark Hemming about this for clarification. JE feels the replanting options given are not suitable. Fort View appeal – all information is in, planning inspector has been to site and she is awaiting decision. A good team meeting was had with Simon Maher, MB and TM about the next steps for the NDP. Simon Maher stated that the landscape appraisal was encouraging and felt we are on the right track. LG asked when the next NDP meeting is? TM to be contacted regarding this. LW has offered to assist JE with the graphics on the document and add footnotes. ME informed the group that following break ins at Eastcombe Allotments, the allotment warden has asked for a padlock on the 5 bar gate at the start of the allotment road. *Clerk to purchase.*

Oakridge – Sapperton PC have responded about the EE mast planning who officially know nothing about it and will keep us informed. LG knows that Emma Vickers is looking at Waterlane playing field and plan there for tree planting but no meeting date yet.

13. Date/location/format of Next Meeting – Chair.
Next full Parish Council meeting is at 7:30pm on 4th August at Bisley Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9pm.

Annex A to the minutes.

County News

It has been a busy month for county Councillors as we return to holding meetings in a socially distanced council chamber although Full council which can also be viewed on-line continue to be held in the large tennis centre in Gloucester.

Council Funding additional Wellbeing for School Staff

The county council is giving all schools, academies, MAT's and independents in the county, free access to specialist support to look after their staff wellbeing over the next twelve months.

We recognise what a challenging time this is for schools and for all staff across each school community, who have continued to support the county's children throughout an unprecedented, ever-changing and demanding period.

With effect from 1 May 2021 and for the coming year, all staff in schools across Gloucestershire will be able to access support from a 24-hour Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) provided by Health Assured, one of the UK's leading providers of Employee Assistance. Working with the county council since 2016, their counselling service is the only one accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Cabinet doubles holiday hunger fund to more than £2.7m

At its meeting on Wednesday 23 June, the county council's Cabinet approved a £2.7m fund to support vulnerable children during the school summer holidays. The cabinet agreed to allocate £1.39m of funding from the Department for Education to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) which will be available throughout Gloucestershire during August and at Christmas.

Regular rapid testing remains vital to slowing the spread of COVID-19

Around 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms at all. Rapid tests help to detect the virus in people who might not know they have it, so that they can self-isolate quickly to prevent passing Covid on to their family, friends and work colleagues.

Since the Government first announced that rapid testing was available to everyone in England, the way you can get your free test kit in the county has changed to make it even easier to access.

Here is how you can get yours:

- Pharmacy Collect. There are more than 100 pharmacies county-wide that have rapid testing kits in-store for people to collect and use at home
- On-site pharmacy testing. Some local pharmacies have come on board to offer on-site testing for people who haven't yet used a rapid flow test, or residents who would like some support and guidance to take the test. For a full list of which pharmacies you can collect your kit from or where you can get support to take your test on-site visit: [NHS Site Finder Map](#).
- Community Collect. You can pick up your rapid test kit from Hempsted Meadows, Cheltenham, High Street Car Park and Stratford Park Leisure Centre testing centres. Collection is available Monday-Sunday at Gloucester and Cheltenham between 2.30 pm to 8pm and Monday-Sunday between 1.30pm and 7pm in Stroud. You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go

Fire and police leaders pledge new spirit of partnership

Chris Nelson, Gloucestershire's new Police and Crime Commissioner, and Cllr Dave Norman, Gloucestershire County Council's cabinet member with responsibility for the Fire and

Rescue Service and road safety, held their first official meeting at Waterwells, where the fire and police headquarters are based.

Mr Nelson was elected to the post in May, while Cllr Norman was re-appointed to his cabinet member position following the local elections.

They are both looking forward to using their roles to promote a closer working relationship between GFRS and the OPCC.

Some of the areas for greater collaboration will include:

Road safety - developing closer working through community safety partnerships

Training and development – sharing of leadership and management programmes and use of facilities to provide training for crews and police officers

Shared access to premises

Annex B

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT JULY 2021

The Annual General Meeting of the Council took place at Stratford Park Leisure Centre on May 20th - there rather than at Ebley Mill to comply with Covid restrictions. Councillor Doina Cornell (Labour) was re-elected as Leader of the Council, Cllr Catherine Braun (Green) elected as Deputy Leader of the Council - a new position. The Labour, Green and Liberal Democrat groups (which together have 31 of the 51 SDC seats) have agreed to continue to lead Stroud District Council for the next three years, as they have since 2012.

Appointments to committees were made. I am on the Environment and Development Control (i.e. planning) Committees. The Environment Committee is responsible for a range of matters including waste and recycling, canals, and the 2030 Strategy - the ambitious plan to achieve carbon-neutrality for the District (not just the Council's own activities, which are already net carbon-neutral). At the June meeting of this committee, we had a presentation by County officers of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This is a plan for new and improved cycle and walking routes in and around Stroud, including the Golden Valley Route between Stroud and Chalford. The plan doesn't yet extend to hilltop places like ours - but I think is a good start on the framework of a more comprehensive network. It will be the basis for seeking funding from other levels of government.

The Development Control Committee reviews - and decides on - controversial and significant planning applications. The only one at the June meeting was for change of use of a former garden centre to light industrial use, on the A38 in Slimbridge Parish. Permission was refused on the advice of Highways because of safety concerns on the main road. I understand their recommendation carries significant weight with the planning department.

The TPO application for St Mary's, Eastcombe, will be on the agenda for the July meeting of the DCC.

I'm pleased to say that I have been collaborating with County Councillor Sue Williams, on such matters as road safety - including safety for hedgehogs, an issue in Bisley - where our District and County responsibilities meet.

Martin Brown