

**MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT BISLEY VILLAGE HALL**

Present	Chairman	Mike Eccott	ME
	Bisley Ward	Martin Brown	MB
		Lesley Greene	LG
		Hazel Saunders	HS
	Eastcombe Ward	Jenny Exley	JE
	Oakridge Ward	Roger Budgeon	RB
		Tony Martin	TM
		Dennis Robbins	DR
	Clerk	Mrs D Meredith	
	District Councillor	Martin Brown	MB

1. **Apologies for Absence**

County Councillor Sue Williams, Parish Councillors, Dave Partridge and Louie Wilkes.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

None received.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4 August 2021**

The minutes of the meeting were approved.

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

ME raised the issue of Public Liability insurance on the allotments and apologised to LG regarding the decision made to implement this at the last meeting. He reminded the meeting that it was agreed in January to go to consultation on this matter. He suggested that the PC response would go with the majority. Carried. ***LG and the Clerk are to draft letter to go out to all allotment holders with available options.***

ME raised the suggested Code of conduct review. The Clerk found an additional document based heavily on the one that the monitoring officer sent to us. ***Ward chairs to examine and, if appropriate, incorporate in the Standing Orders at the next meeting.*** The Standing Orders also need reviewing for typing and formatting. ***Clerk/ME to discuss with the administrative assistant.*** The Clerk investigated any possible discount for purchasing multiple benches. None were available. RB instructed the ***Clerk to order 3 benches to stand on plinths.***

5. **Kathy O’Leary, CEO of Stroud District Council** – introduced herself saying she has been CEO for 2 half years. Currently out of 51 district councillors, 24 are new and wanted ward walks with new councillors. Brendan Cleere (Strategic Director of Place) joined her and he started 6 weeks before lock down - a challenge for the new team.

She informed the meeting that she has been spending time on the pandemic, a big issue for SDC with a lot happening in the South West this week as infection rates are high. The Afghan resettlement scheme with the District Council in partnership with GCC has 35 families currently in quarantine with some 10,000 people nationally. Find housing is challenging as some are large extended families requiring properties up to 7 bedrooms. SDC is about to submit the local plan after the final consultation process. She stated that she has enjoyed being here today and delighted that MB showed them around Eastcombe and Bisley, having visited Oakridge previously. She met the Chairman and JE and was impressed with BCCS and mentioned the fantastic allotments. She gave huge credit to the Parish Council seeing some of the work being done and that it means a lot to see and hear things via the District Councillor and thanked the meeting for having them. Questions or views to take back to District were invited, but not detailed matters. The Chairman invited the PC to speak and thanked KO’L and BC for attending.

LG is interested in the local news on COVID and how it has affected SDC financially. KO’L stated that the DC is being supported somewhat by the government with some reimbursement of expenditure. Currently it is standing a loss of £2 million but being managed financially has healthy reserves, however it is not sustainable. Leisure centres have caused particular concerns with Pulse having a £1 million loss through COVID. Stroud Leisure Centre has a management contract with no reimbursement to them giving rise to a difficult position for SDC. Sites have been used for community COVID projects.

LG asked about museum in the park. KO’L said it’s creative and has done lots online through lock down and managed well. SDC subsidises it to a quarter million per annum as an important arts facility and a jewel in the crown for the district.

TM commented on the frustration about the local plan coming out and that our NDP will have to align with this – when responding to local applications, our voices are not heard with some locally supported applications flatly refused by SDC. RB remarked that a community view should have a higher profile in planning and power, not top down from an urban planning point of view. KO’L heard this earlier today and felt that SDC can do better. More engagement is required with Parish Councils to gain an understanding of each other’s position and policies with explanations of why a decision has been made and that a Development Control Committee call-in is the chairman’s prerogative. The Committee can ask for items to be taken up but they are still considered by the chairman.

LG informed KO’L that the PC is pursuing its NDP and is in its last year with speed needed, so requested as much support as possible from officers and

issues coming out of this discussions to get it right for the community and align with the SDC. RB supports the use of farm buildings and buildings in open countryside.

LG queried about this area becoming a national park, is there any strength to that? KO'L informed the meeting that a document was leaked then retracted but that SDC is not in favour of this as planning control is lost.

However South Downs delegated control back to their DC. Additional awareness of the government White Paper which might mean a wholesale change in planning and the SDC and PC voice could be greatly reduced. Also watching out for a levelling up White Paper which might raise the spectre of local government organisations along with the local spending review as the government want less councils to deal with now.

MB informed the meeting that 35 Afghan families are shared amongst district councils in the county. SDC will accommodate around 6 but could be rather more. A government scheme to offer accommodation in private homes and private renting sectors is happening with a huge draw on council property. MOD properties are also being investigated.

The Chairman thanked Kathy O'Leery and Brendan Cleere.

6. **Public Participation** – 2 Members of the public were invited to address the Council. The Chairman reminded them that this is the only opportunity to speak during the meeting and they will be excluded from speaking after this item.

A resident had hoped the new County Councillor would be here GCC here but stated that he has spoken to District Council this evening on the huge shortage of those who provide care in this country. A message needs to be given to change the law to allow EU carers back into the country and also more worldwide. He has a personal interest in this as his disabled daughter cannot return to her home without carers. He also mentioned that some Afghan refugees are highly educated and qualified and will be looking for jobs and promotion of this sector would be extremely welcome and additionally for lorry drivers. He also queried the property Shermershill which has erected a triple garage and expressed interest to know how this is permitted development and complies with policy and permitted development rights. ***Chairman asked LG to follow up.***

Another resident disagreed with the July minutes which stated that whilst she was late at that meeting, she was invited to speak. The Chairman disagreed with her comment and the minutes, as agreed by full council, stand. She also queried the use of oak for new benches as the trees are endangered. She also disliked the proposal of a memorial bench for a late councillor suggesting planting a sapling instead. She expressed concern about the quotation costs for new noticeboards, suggesting one could be manufactured locally from spare wood. The Chairman responded that it is not just a noticeboard, but reflects the standard that parishioners expect. The resident suggested that parishioners are astounded at this potential cost, not everyone is well off in this area and this is not the Parish Council's money. The Chairman stated that her

comments will be noted and the PC will explore local craftsman. She also feels the idea of buying the Court House as a Parish office with no parking or disabled access is equivalent to the HS2. The Chairman stated that the previous minutes state that the Parish Council was exploring all possibilities relating to a possible parish office. The Chairman asked the resident whether she was satisfied with the outcome of the monitoring officer's report to her complaint. The resident is not and stated she was going to the Ombudsman. RB stated that he was satisfied with the report. LG commented that we plant a lot of trees and every planning application involving trees is asked for a replacement. The Chairman thanked the resident and drew a halt to the lively discussion.

KO'L and BC left the meeting.

7. **County Council Matters** – distribute a report from County Councillor Sue Williams. Distributed and Annex A to this document.
8. **District Council Matters** – distribute a report from District Councillor Martin Brown. Distributed and Annex B to this document. MB asked the meeting if there were any questions for MB. TM queried Brimscombe port development progress which MB summarised as going ahead - RUSH has left, social enterprises are moving into the mill building and he believes the demolition and infrastructure is to start ready for the development. Currently searching for a development partner for the builds within parameter requirements. There are for and against the plans. JE said site will have to be decontaminated but MB responded that there are time constraints on bats and funding.
9. **Agree the Parish Council Response to the following Planning Applications (Ward responses to be circulated)**
 - a) **S.21/1900/FUL - Newcombe Lodge, Bisley Road** - Erection of replacement outbuilding for use in association with existing residential care home – Support with comment on renewables.
 - b) **S.21/0388/FUL - Lower Barn, Througham Slad Manor, Bisley** - Conversion of a traditional stone stable with a single storey side extension. Removal of a modern timber-framed stable – slightly revised – object.
 - c) **S.21/2028/TCA - Church House, Church Hill, Bisley** - Ash tree - tree has Ash Dieback Class 2. Fell to near ground level and treat stump to discourage re-growth - support
 - d) **S.21/1873/HHOLD - 3 Rose Hill Bisley** -Erection of replacement fencing (retrospective). Support.
 - e) **S.21/1776/FUL - Land Adjacent To St Marys, Eastcombe** - Erection of 2 no. detached dwellings, formation of new vehicular access and associated works – landmark tree will cause fear to incoming residents and tree to be removed or pruned. Agent went into great detail and subject to crown reduction of 30%. LG said object because of conflicting evidence in the report. MHemmings said refuse based on local plan and future threat to remove tree and highways have not road response for this application. ME said impression is object with ES8 and highways safety issue.
 - f) **S.21/1937/LBC - Waterlane House, Waterlane, Oakridge** - Erection of ground floor extension, conservatory and below ground connection. Remove external pool and pool house; and re-landscape

gardens. Resubmission of S.21/0535/LBC. Support – no harm to vista of listed building and setting not harmed and will form part of the evolution of the property. Positive impact on the property.

- g) **S.21/1936/HHOLD - Waterlane House, Waterlane, Oakridge** - Erection of ground floor extension, conservatory and below ground connection. Remove external pool and pool house; and re-landscape gardens. Resubmission of application S.21/0534/HHOLD – As above.
- h) **S.21/2049/LBC - Iles Green House, Far Oakridge** - Relocation of gateway walls and posts, insulation and new ceiling finish to attic rooms. Works to annexe including, installation of kitchen, drainage and tanking to below ground walls – access angles changed but not significant. Support as positive impact.
- i) **S.21/2032/HHOLD - Cherrypiece Cottage, Limekiln Lane, Waterlane** - Creation of access, erection of extension and other external alterations – no documents are on the website currently despite requests from the Clerk. ME said difficult to respond without the information but asked that the Ward discuss and opinion stated within the deadline time or ask for an extension on those grounds until next meeting as it may be a significant application. ***Clerk to chase again and ask for an extension.***
PLANNING APPLICATION DISCUSSION ONLY REQUIRED IF COUNCIL MEMBERS DO NOT AGREE WITH THE DECISION/COMMENTS CIRCULATED PRIOR TO THE MEETING
S.21/2083/APFA – missed from agenda in error, but support
10. **Matters for Discussion:**
- a) **Draft policy for a PC ban on pesticides** – LG proposes a ban on land that we own and manage. This supports the PC declaration on nature recovery and encourages others to consider looking at alternatives and fills a gap in our policies and demonstrates our actions. RB asked if that is to that include allotments? LG replied yes, but recognises this could produce problems. A survey taken 3 years ago had mixed responses. HS feels most allotment holders don't use pesticides, but weed killers. LG stated they can include glycosphates. RB seconds her proposal. The vote showed 4 in favour, rest abstained. HS concerned that herbicides will be included and feels they have some legitimate use. ME stated that it should be specific and RB wants to include herbicides. ***Approved subject to clear definitions.***
- b) **Tree Survey – agree works required – Clerk** – Clerk to go to tender for items shown as requiring works in the timeframe 0-6 months. TM has seen some ash pruned to trunk and have sprouted back and new leaves not infected. LG clarified that pruned ash can appear healthy but as they grow the disease will come back.
- c) **Trees at Cherry Piece – RB** – proposal from a resident in Waterlane for works with the trees and green areas and paths - EV, LG involved. Coming back with a plan and is in receipt of the tree survey.
- d) **Update on seats at Waterlane, Oakridge Rec and Far Oakridge – Clerk/RB** – require benches from Hailey Wood. The bench at Waterlane will be in memory of Pat Carrick and have a plaque. ***Clerk to order benches. LG to find a memorial plate engraver. RB to propose words.***
- e) **Approve lock-up repair quote – MB** – almost agreed at the last meeting for Jake Atherton to take the work but timescales are unlikely to be valid now. 2 quotes were received as the 3rd is not taking on new work. Carried. MB to pass details to ***Clerk to progress works.***

- f) **Parish Office feedback – HS** – reported that a working group met on Zoom to look at figures and she reluctantly admits that without additional costs to parishioners a one bedroom flat at the Court House wouldn't provide enough income to cover the cost of loan to purchase. If the Parish Council wants an office it needs to look elsewhere and at the the pros and cons of having one at any other site. ME thanked HS for the work, seeing it as a worthwhile exercise to determine what is needed from an office. JE thanked LW and TM too.
- g) **Support '20's plenty group campaign' – MB** – not totally clear who the campaign was and sent an email to clarify, get more information and bring back to the PC. In principle he is in favour. ME said Chalford tried to do that last year and got nowhere with it.
- h) **Jubilee oaks – LG** – this has been put back because residents have asked for an oak on KGV field and has asked for costings. LG wants semi mature but awaits costs as trees are in short supply. RB has 3 foot sapling.
- i) **NDP Update – TM** – it was decided at the meeting on Monday to put this on hold. Clerk found we have £10k funding this year potentially to progress the NDP and this ends this financial year. Group have now decided to continue and progress soonest setting up a number of focus groups along the lines of current headings with a view to pursue policy ideas formed from the household survey in the parish. Roughly 300 responses to that and a move towards policy ideas and focus groups in village hall meetings. Also to set up a database from that survey. An attempt to improve engagement with SDC and probably employ professionals to start writing the design code for rising policies which are acceptable to them if we have time to do so. Panel have been allocated appropriate tasks. JE informed the public that this is grant monies from the government not precepted monies. LG stated that this is a challenge.
11. **Finance:**
- a) Approve monthly payments of account (details to be circulated) – carried. ME asked if Lloyds bank have returned forms to authorisers – more signatories are needed and trying to set up electronic banking and is proving difficult. ***Clerk to investigate further.***
12. **Correspondence – Clerk to report** – nothing.
13. **Ward Reports** – Ward Chairmen to report on Ward matters
- Bisley** – report that the refurb of the sports pavilion is finished. The sanitary ware was put back today. Interior is now complete. But we need furniture now, MB thanks HS, HS thanked Clerk.
- Oakridge** – a letter from a Far Oakridge allotment holder unhappy with condition there. RB reminded the meeting that in the past tenants did not want the site to close but the site is still not worked properly. RB suggested it is mowed. RB informed the meeting about increased fly tipping again on the lay-by. MB suggested emailing Craig Fellowes, Neighbourhood Warden.
- Eastcombe** – JE had nothing to report. ME has had 2 emails about a dog by Middle Lypiatt which has attacked a lot of people.
14. **Date/location/format of Next Meeting – Chair** – 7:30pm on 6th October at Bisley Village Hall

Annex A.

County Council News

Cllr Sue Williams

The County Councillors have returned to council chambers for our committee meetings although the “Full Council” continue to be held in the large tennis centre in Gloucester.

Latest News

£9.5 Million Special School to be built in Brockworth

Work to build a new special school has now got underway in Brockworth . The new school in Mill Lane is due to open next year and will provide 75 places for children aged 11-16yrs.

Build Back Better Councillor Scheme

The Build Back Better - Councillor Scheme is a grant fund open to community groups across Gloucestershire. Over £2.2 million is available to be spent on projects to support the county’s recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and to build back better and stronger Each County Councillor has £40,000 to spend in their community over the next four years. The scheme is open to a wide range of groups and projects in areas such as:

Nature and the environment · Physical and mental wellbeing. Digital inclusion · Building connections and improving neighbourhoods. The scheme is not limited to these themes though, and all applications supported by the Councillor will be funded. We will accept applications from community and voluntary organisations, charities, community interest companies, town and parish councils, sports groups and other not for profit groups. This is a rolling grants fund which will run from 30th July 2021 until January 2025.

All applications must be supported by the County Councillor. More information on the fund can be found at:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/build-back-better-councillor-scheme/> Alternatively, you can email Buildbackbetter@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Cabinet doubles holiday hunger fund to more than £2.7m

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.

Recycling Metal Really Matters

In a county wide social media campaign. Residents are being encouraged to recycle their metal packaging to make every can count! Metal can be recycled endlessly so the county and all six district councils have teamed up with Metal Matters to highlight the benefits of recycling our metal packaging to inspire everyone to get involved and do their bit. More than 12 billion items of aluminium packaging alone are sold every

year in the UK. Householders are being encouraged to recycle their cans, foil, empty aerosols, trays, tubes and metal screw tops. Every district in the county provides a frequent & convenient door-to-door recycling service. It's never been easier to recycle our metal packaging; and once recycled, it takes around 60 days for a drinks can to return to the supermarket shelf.

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

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.

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.

Ash Dieback rolling programme

Ash trees are very common in Gloucestershire, and generally found in parks, gardens and hedgerows. It is the third most common tree in Britain and there are up to 60 million ash trees outside woodlands in the UK. The ash dieback disease is particularly destructive of our native common ash. The disease affects the structural integrity of the tree, this can create health and safety risks as tree's becomes brittle, losing limbs and in more severe cases causing the tree to fall. It is planned that two trees will be planted for each ash removed.

For further information visit Gloucestershire county council website or Contact me on Tel 07766318854 or e mail@ Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Annex B.

District Council Notes from Councillor Martin Brown

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Brimscombe Port: There has been a lot of debate and press coverage of this. What follows is a summary of the Council Leaders' view. The plans for the redevelopment of Brimscombe Port have reached the stage at which Rush Skate Park and the Grace Network (Stroud Furniture Bank, The Long Table, Stroud District Kids' Stuff, Kick Off Stroud, The Bike Drop, and Gloucestershire House Clearances) will have to move out shortly. Rush have planned to close after 29 August, and Grace Network plan to leave by end of September, having secured a site nearby. Demolition at Brimscombe Port site is the first phase of the work and is due to start in October. The plan is to create a sustainable (carbon-neutral) residential-led, mixed-use

development, with 150 houses (30% 'affordable'), with a boat basin connected to the canal, a community centre, cycle and footpaths, and space for nature. It was always understood that Rush and the Grace Network social enterprises were given temporary (and subsidised) accommodation until the redevelopment. The warehouse buildings they have been using are 'end-of-life' with leaky roofs and containing asbestos. There is much support for these enterprises, both among their users and local supporters and among Stroud District Councillors. The Council is working with them both and with Active Gloucestershire to try to find new accommodation – and a call out for new permanent premises has been launched: <https://wecanmove.net/blog/new-home-rush-skatepark>. Stroud Food Bank has already found a new site in town. Rush have been offered a site in Stratford Park, but financing a new building is difficult, so they are focusing on something large enough that can be converted. There's more information about the project here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/brimscombe-port> and updates from the recent public meeting here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/bppresentation>

Black Boy Clock: Another issue that has received a lot of attention, including national media coverage. The Equality and Diversity Committee has set up a public consultation to ask residents both what they think should happen to the Black Boy Clock, and whether there are 'monuments, plaques, buildings, street names or other representations of history that they feel don't align with the values we want to live by'. A Review Panel made up of community representatives, councillors and historians will review the findings to determine what action should be taken. A report on the history and significance of the Black Boy Clock is here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1605270/report-on-the-significance-of-blackboy-clock-and-associated-statue.pdf>, and the consultation is here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/C2X7BV/>

Business Grants: The Council is processing applications for assistance under the Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme to help businesses affected by Covid restrictions. It has just released the first tranche of payments of £386,000 supporting 113 local businesses in hospitality and other affected sectors. The council received £1 million from the Government's latest funding, and will launch another scheme later in the year.

Afghan Refugees: SDC is collaborating with GCC and GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers <https://www.garas.org.uk/>) to find accommodation for Afghan Refugees. SDC has agreed to provide housing for six families, and officers are working on this now.

Animal welfare issues: Stroud District Council's Animal Welfare Officers have noticed increased sightings of dogs with cropped ears and docked tails. There have been five reported cases within the district in the recent months. Ear cropping and tail docking is illegal in the UK unless performed by a vet for medical reasons, and is referred to as 'mutilation' under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. If residents see a dog with cropped ears and/or a docked tail, they are asked to contact SDC at 01453 766321 or environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk or the RSPCA at 0300 1234 999.