

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2016**

Present: - Councillors I Hastings, P Groves, D Edwards, M Hassall, A Mitchell, J Weddell.
Mrs R Shackleton (Clerk).

1. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors. M Dixon, S Dixon, L Gaden. CEC Cllr Stan Davies.
Cllr B Harvey has tendered her resignation from the Council.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillors were invited to declare pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests arising from matters on the agenda. Cllr Hastings declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.5 of the minutes.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Resolved:- That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th September 2016. Proposed by Cllr Hassall and seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

4.1 New Residents:- The Council agreed to have a copy of My Village News delivered to new residents moving into the parish.

4.2 CHALC AGM:- No Councillors were able to attend the AGM.

5. **OPEN FORUM**

One member of the public was present.

6. **POLICING**

Report from the Police Cluster Meeting:-

Cllr Hastings attended the police cluster meeting for the Wrenbury area on the 2nd November:-
Eight parishes were represented plus Cheshire East and 3 officers.

The information relates to the period 1st July - 30th September.

Anti Social Behaviour

A total of 26 incidents, 17 personal, 7 nuisance and 2 environmental. The figures are skewed because they cover several incidences relating to the presence of travellers camped at the football ground in Nantwich. No incidences occurred in Bulkeley or Ridley.

Road Traffic Accidents

A total of 24; 3 with injury and 21 damage only. Two damage only were outside Briar Cottage just past the Poacher and one with minor injuries at Ridley when a van overturned.

Crime. A total of 32 offences, again skewed because of the presence of the travellers at Nantwich football ground. 7 burglaries, 4 criminal damage, 3 public order, 4 vehicle and 5 violence against the person. In Stonehouse Lane someone tried to remove a tractor from a field but failed. Peckforton Castle saw theft by an employee, theft of a laptop which was later recovered in Manchester, and a punch up between guests. No incidences related to Bulkeley and Ridley.

Motorcyclists

The police bikers have been targeting the bikers on Thursday evenings and Sundays and accident rates have fallen. I said residents were concerned about speed and noise. Recently police bikers have been riding at speed down Stonehouse Lane every morning this is for training purposes.

Night of action

The police intend to hold another night of action before Christmas. This will involve members of the public volunteering to pair up and station themselves at various points to observe and report

on any suspicious behaviour. It will take place during the night but volunteers are free to leave at any point.

7. **CASUAL VACANCY**

7.1 Cllr Harvey

Cllr Harvey has resigned from the Council. The Clerk is to inform CEC and the relevant notices will be posted on the noticeboards and website.

7.2 Cllr M Jones

CEC have advised that the Council can fill the vacancy caused by Cllr Jones's resignation by co-option. Two members of the public have expressed an interest in being co-opted, Mr James Weddell and Mrs Suzanne Hoxworth. Both candidates spoke to the meeting.

Resolved:- That the Council agreed to co-opt Mr James Weddell onto the Council. He duly signed the Acceptance of Office. Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

8. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

8.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-

The Council approved the following payments:-

Chq No	Date	Reason	Amount
178	15/11/16	Running Costs	£ 16.02
179	15/11/16	Bickerton Village Hall	£ 26.50
180	15/11/16	A Mitchell - mow playing fields for 2016	£100.00

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Balance at bank as at 01/11/16:- £3,524.02

Resolved:- The above payments were proposed by Cllr Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

8.2 To agree and set precept for 2017 -18 financial year (see attachment B):-

Resolved:- The Council agreed to set the precept at £3,500.00 for the 2017 – 2018 financial year. Proposed by Cllr Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Groves.

8.3 To consider membership of CHALC:-

Resolved:- The Council agreed to renew its membership of CHALC. Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Groves.

8.4 To consider donation to the First Responders and / or charity:-

Resolved:- The Council agreed to donate £100.00 to North West Ambulance and to donate £100.00 to First Responders. Proposed by Cllr Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Groves.

8.5 To consider purchasing item to mark 100th Birthday year:-

Resolved:- The Council agreed to purchase a bench and plaque to mark the 100th Birthday year of Mr Edward Morgan. Proposed by Cllr Edwards and seconded by Cllr Hassall.

9. **PLANNING UPDATE**

9.1 See the Planning Applications register attached for details of all applications received.

9.2 Application:-

16/5223N - Conversion of the traditional brick barn into 3 residential dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated gardens, parking and landscaping at Chesterton Farm, Wrexham Road, RIDLEY
The Council made no observations.

10. **COMMUNITY PRIDE COMPETITION**

10.1 To receive update:-

The Council came third in its' category.

10.2 To consider entry to the competition in 2017:-

The Council agreed not to enter the competition in 2017.

11. **WEBSITE**

The item was deferred.

12. **HIGHWAYS**

12.1 Ridley:-

See police report for update.

12.2 Speedwatch:-

The Council agreed to write to residents living on or near the main road in Bulkeley to request for volunteers to help with Speedwatch.

12.3 Highways Meeting:-

Cllr Hastings attended the Highways meeting on 31st October:-

The A534 through Ridley has recently been assessed and the report is due out soon. Hopefully it will address the problems with the two junctions. Cllr Hastings suggested a length of crash barrier to protect the wall at the entrance to Ridley Green barns but was advised they were only erected to protect pedestrians and motorists, not property. There is a danger that a vehicle hitting it could be deflected back onto the carriageway.

With regards to speeding bikers, it is up to the police to enforce the speed limit. Lowering it would not affect the situation; if the bikers are ignoring the national speed limit they will also ignore any other speed limit.

Highways felt that the double dotted lines at the crossroads had improved the situation with regards to overtaking, even though some people are still doing it.

The presentations started off with potholes. This year there have been 'only' 5000 reports of potholes whereas in 2012 they received 3000 in one month.

There are 92,000 gullies across the county. They have come up with a system of tagging gullies to identify those that need more frequent attention.

Road Traffic Accidents are usually caused by speed, which can be excessive speed which is up to the police to control, and inappropriate speed where the vehicle is within the speed limit but travelling at the wrong speed for the condition. The Council addresses this by measures such as resurfacing, better road markings or reconfiguring the carriageway. Let's hope that the report into the A534/A49 junctions at Ridley recommends some or all of these improvements.

The audience was asked to guess how many motorists exceeded a 30mph speed limit.

The answer was 52%.

All roads are to have 20mph speed limits near school premises.

New LED lights are replacing the sodium street lights in a three year programme. They have started with the outlying areas which should mean the lights in Bulkeley are changed before next February. The new lights last 5 times longer (20 years), give a brighter more focussed light onto the road rather than into people's property or up into the sky and use much less electricity. The programme should have paid for itself by the end of 5 years and after that should deliver savings of £1,000,000 a year.

Someone in the audience asked about a scheme to harness the River Weaver to produce electricity but the team had no information about this, but it might well be a possibility in the future.

13. **TOASTING THE LIME TREE**

The Toasting of the Lime Tree at the top of Mill Lane will take place at 2.00 pm on 1st January 2017.

14. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Nothing to report.

15. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The list of correspondence received has been distributed to councillors.

16. **NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 21st February 2017

Website:- www.bulkeleyandridley.org.uk