

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2017**

Present: - Councillors Idina Hastings, Mike Dixon, Sue Dixon, Linda Gaden. David Edwards, Mike Hassall, Andrew Mitchell, James Weddell.

Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk). Three members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor Peter Groves. CEC Cllr Stan Davies.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillors were invited to declare pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests arising from matters on the agenda. Cllr Mitchell declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9.2 of the minutes.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Resolved:- That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th November 2016. Proposed by Cllr Hassall and seconded by Cllr Weddell.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

4.1 The bench that was due to be located at the playing field will now replace the bench that was located outside 17/18 Mill Grove instead.

4.2 Cllr M Dixon expressed concerns regarding the way the Council dealt with the following items at the September and November meetings:- planning procedures, frequency of meetings and the Community Pride Competition.

4.3 The pothole outside 17 Mill Grove has been reported to Highways.

5. **OPEN FORUM**

Three members of the public attended the meeting.

6. **POLICING**

Report from the Police Cluster Meeting:-

Cllr Hastings was unable to attend the police cluster meeting on 30th January.

The report is for the period 1st October to 31st December 2016:-

Anti-social behaviour. 10 personal, 4 nuisance, 1 environmental. No incidents were recorded in our area but some were at Peckforton Castle.

Crime and Disorder. 8 burglaries, 4 criminal damage, 3 public order, 1 sexual, 6 theft/stolen goods, 2 vehicle and 7 violence against a person.

2 of the burglaries/stolen goods happened in Bulkeley. In one case glass in a conservatory was smashed, and inner door was kicked open, and an untidy search was made but nothing was taken. In the other case down Stonehouse Lane a flat attached to a house was entered by an unsecured door. The trespassers were disturbed and left empty handed.

Road Traffic Accidents. 2 with injury, 0 fatal, 15 damage only. One of the damage only was at Ridley near the Ridley Green barns where a car skidded into a ditch.

7. **CASUAL VACANCY**

Cllr Harvey

CEC have advised that the Council can fill the vacancy by co-option.

One member of the public has written to express an interest in being co-opted but was unable to attend the meeting.

Resolved:- That the Council agree to co-opt Jonathan Knight onto the Council. He is to sign the Acceptance of Office at the next meeting. Proposed by Cllr Hassall 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
186	21/02/17	DONATION:- First Responders	£100.00
187	21/02/17	VOID	n/a
188	21/02/17	DONATION:- North West Air Ambulance	£100.00
189	21/02/17	Running costs	£ 23.67
190	21/02/17	Bench for Edward Morgan's 100th birthday	£ 69.99
191	21/02/17	Plaque for the bench	£ 14.50
192	21/02/17	Kevin Jones	£ 60.00
193	21/02/17	Bickerton Village Hall	£ 26.50

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Balance at bank as at 03/02/17:- £2,931.50

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

8.2 To review clerk's salary:-

The item was deferred to the May meeting.

8.3 NatWest:-

The Council considered action further to imminent closure of the NatWest Tarporley Branch and agreed to remain with NatWest as cheques can be paid into the Post Office.

8.4 Unpresented Cheque:-

Cllr M Dixon has made inquiries about the unpresented cheque for £25.00 that was payable to CCA. The cheque did not reach CCA and is now time expired. The Clerk is to remove it from the Council's accounts.

9. PLANNING UPDATE

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

9.2 Application:-

16/6202N - Outline application for 13 dwellings with access off Mill Lane including 5 affordable homes: all matters reserved except access at Land Off, MILL LANE, BULKELEY

Resolved:- That the Council support the planning application. Proposed by Cllr M Dixon and seconded by Cllr Edwards.

9.3 17/0462N - New agricultural access at land to the west of Bulkeley Grange Barns at Land Off, CHOLMONDELEY LANE, BULKELEY

Resolved:- That the Council oppose the planning application. The following safety concerns were raised:-

- There would be very large tractors and silage trailers turning out of the proposed access onto the very narrow Cholmondeley Lane. The vehicles would then travel down to the crossroads where they have to turn right onto the A534 where vehicles are turning into and out of Mill Lane as well as Cholmondeley Lane, where the visibility is very limited to the right. School children are crossing the roads to get to and from the school buses and where cars are still overtaking in spite of the fact that they should not overtake near crossroads.
- The proposed access would not lessen the number of vehicle movements onto the main road.
- Concerns for pedestrian safety as this is a dangerous crossroads.

- There is no perceived benefit to anyone, including the proposer, from the proposed new access point.
- Large farm vehicles would be turning and travelling along a residential road, i.e. Cholmondeley Lane.

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Hassall.

9.4 Planning application procedures:-

Concerns were raised regarding the way the Council consider and respond to planning applications. Cllr M Dixon proposed the formation of a planning steering group consisting of three councillors who would contact each of the other councillors to gauge their opinion on a particular application. These opinions would then be collated by the planning steering group and forwarded to the Clerk to be submitted to CEC.

The Council agreed not to proceed with the proposal.

10. **WEBSITE**

Cllr Weddell offered to assist with updating the website.

11. **HIGHWAYS**

11.1 Crossroads in Bulkeley:-

The police have submitted a report to Highways, CEC, to look into measures to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety at the crossroads. Suggestions include reduction of the speed limit and to request the introduction of double white lines.

11.2 Speedwatch:-

Cllr Hastings has contacted local residents to request volunteers to help with the Speedwatch in the village. Six people have expressed an interest in becoming involved. Cllr Hastings is to contact the police to arrange training. It is hoped that the Council will purchase a speed gun once residents have received the training.

11.3 Surface water at the junction of A534 & A49 in Ridley:-

The Clerk has reported the concern to Highways. They have replied to advise that the enquiry has now been assessed and work will be programmed in due course. The timescale for this work is dependent upon factors such as the prevailing weather conditions and the severity of the issue when considered against other competing priorities.

The Clerk is to request that for cat's eyes or something similar to mark the turn off from the A49.

12. **BVH COMMITTEE**

Resolved:- That Cllr Hastings act as the Council's representative on the BVH committee. Proposed by Cllr Gaden and seconded by Cllr Hassall.

13. **PLAYING FIELD MAINTENANCE**

The Clerk is to obtain quotes to mow the playing field.

14. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

Kevin Jones has carried out works in the village.

15. **MEETINGS**

Cllr M Dixon proposed that the Council have six meetings per year and meet every other month, alternatively meet every third month.

The suggestion for meetings every three months was unviable as the AGM has to be held in May and August is traditionally a holiday month. The following dates were agreed:-

Tuesday 19th September 2017; Tuesday 21st November 2017; Tuesday 20th February 2018; Tuesday 15th May 2018. The Clerk is to book the rooms with BVH.

16. **CHALC PARISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

Cllr M Dixon attended the conference and provided a brief report.

17. **COUNCIL STATUS**

CEC has written to councillors and residents regarding the merging of Bulkeley and Ridley Parish Council into one. Cllr M Dixon urged councillors to reply to CEC to support what the merger.

18. **TRAINING**

Resolved:- That the Clerk attend an Audit and Transparency Training session. Proposed by Cllr S Dixon and seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

19. **CLERKS REPORT**

Nothing to report.

20. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The list of correspondence received has been distributed to councillors.

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

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 16th May 2017. This is the Annual (first) Meeting of the Council. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place afterwards.

Website:- www.bulkeleyandridley.org.uk