

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

Present: - Councillors Idina Hastings, Mike Dixon, Jane McRae, James Weddell, Jonathan Knight.
CEC Cllr Stan Davies. Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk).
No members of the public attended the meeting.

The Council passed on their sympathy to Cllr Mike Dixon and family following the recent death of his wife, Cllr Sue Dixon.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Linda Gaden, Mike Hassall, Peter Groves.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors were invited to declare pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests arising from matters on the agenda.

None were declared.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Resolved:- That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2019. Proposed by Cllr Dixon and seconded by Cllr McRae.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Speed Limit on Mill Lane:- The Council have written to CEC to support a speed limit on Mill Lane to 40 mph.

4.2 Insurance Cover to trim grass:- Zurich Insurance has advised that the Council's public liability would extend to cover the activity as long as it was risk assessed and the risk assessment documented. If the Council were providing the strimmer then the Council would need to maintain it. If the strimmer belongs to the individual, then any injury resulting from this, then the Council would not be liable. A risk assessment is to be prepared.

4.3 Village Clean up Day:- This was a success. Another one is planned for the end of October and will be co-ordinated by Cllr McRae.

4.4 Dog Waste Bin:- This has now been installed and is being used.

4.5 Football Posts:- These have now been erected at the play area.

4.6 Bank:- The bank mandate needs to be updated and a new signatory added.

4.7 Broadband in Ridley:- Cllr Dixon has introduced the resident who attended the meeting in May to his neighbour to explore other options.

5. OPEN FORUM

In the absence of any members of the public there was no consideration of this item.

6. POLICING

Report from the Police Cluster Meeting:-

Cllr Hastings attended the police cluster meeting on 17th July 2019.

Six parish representatives were present. Carole Hill from Cheshire East has been replaced as Rural Coordinator but her successor was not present.

Figures for traffic collisions and anti-social behaviour were not available because of ongoing problems with the computer site.

Crime and disorder. Nothing in Bulkeley and Ridley but every other parish had a long list, especially Wrenbury which had two pages full.

There had been a spike in thefts but the 4 perpetrators from West Mercia had been caught and sent to prison.

In total, for the period 1st April to 30th June, the following crimes were reported across the cluster:-

5 burglaries, 8 criminal damage, 1 drugs offence, 12 other offences (not categorised). 0 robberies, 3 sexual offences, 4 theft/stolen goods, 3 vehicle and 27 violence against the person. Speed cameras. The camera on Bunbury Heath caught 726 speeders in 6 weeks from mid May. The camera in Alpraham pointing towards Nantwich recorded 334, and the one pointing towards Chester as you come out of Calveley caught an unbelievable 2026. No figures were available for the camera in Spurstow.

A request was made whether anything could be done about the corner of Monks Lane and the A51 by Acton Church. It is increasingly difficult to turn there, especially when parents park to take their children to and from school and also because Burland Coaches have started to go that way instead of using Cuckoo Lane. The officers said they would have a word with the new owner. It was suggested that if publicity could be given to the fact that calls to 101 are free except for an initial 15p connection fee, some people are put off dialling the number because often you have to hold for up to an hour to get through. The police agreed but suggested social media and emailing an officer is often a better way of contacting the police in a non-emergency. The police were asked if there was much 'county lines' activity in this area. No, not in the rural areas, but drugs had been a problem in Nantwich for many years.

PC Nicky Berry has moved to a different department and will no longer cover the parish.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9th October.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

7.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-

The Council approved the following payments:-

Chq No	Date	Reason	Amount
249	10/09/19	ANSA - contribution to dog litter bin	£220.80
250	10/09/19	Running Costs	£ 52.30
251	10/09/19	Soccertackle (reimburse J Weddell)	£186.05
252	10/09/19	Bickerton Village Hall (Room Hire)	£ 27.50
253	10/09/19	J Jones – Village Maintenance	£120.00
DD		ICO	£ 40.00

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 31/08/19:- £2,747.18

Resolved:- The above payments were proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Knight.

7.2 Receipts:-

VAT Refund received:- £58.17

8. ANNUAL AUDIT

The external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, has written to confirm they have received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 March 2019 submitted to them for Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council. By notifying PKF Littlejohn Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council has claimed exemption therefore there is no review to be performed and consequently no auditor certificate and report, or any other closure documentation, will be issued by PKF Littlejohn for this reporting year (2018 – 19).

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities the Council has published the following documents on the website:-

- (i) Certificate of Exemption (page 3 of the AGAR);
- (ii) Annual Internal Audit Report 2018 – 19 (page 4 of the AGAR);
- (iii) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2018 – 19 (page 5 of the AGAR);
- (iv) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2018 – 19 (page 6 of the AGAR);
- (v) Analysis of Variances;
- (vi) Bank Reconciliation;
- (vii) Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2) Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

9. PLANNING UPDATE

- 9.1 See the Planning Applications register attached for details of all applications received. The Clerk is to contact CEC to establish why planning application 2435N was refused.
- 9.2 Mill Lane:- no further update.

10. HIGHWAYS

- 10.1 Cholmondeley Lane:- A resident has written to complain about the state of the road. This has been reported to CEC.
- 10.2 Accidents on the A49/A534 at Ridley:- Cllr Hastings and CEC Cllr Davies met with Mr Chan, CEC Highways, to discuss options for the junctions of the A534 with the A49 at Ridley:-
 - 10.2.1 Middle Junction (Mount Pleasant):- There is not enough room for a roundabout of the size required for the volume of traffic and traffic lights are too expensive.
It was suggested that the islands are reconfigured so the vehicles on the A49 travelling north will have to slow down considerably before they turn left onto the A534.
This might lead to more motorists indicating a left turn. Position studs on the road so the junction is clearly marked for vehicles turning left.
 - 10.2.2 Northern Junction (Ridley Hill):- The proposal is to narrow the exit to the A49 opposite Vernon's Cottage and ban vehicles turning right. This would make the link road one way from the A534 so vehicles can turn left towards Tarporley / Warrington but southbound traffic on the A49 would have to carry on down to the Mount Pleasant junction which will be reconfigured.
 - 10.2.3 Southern Junction (Ridley Green):- The Council are to request that the Keep Left sign be replaced so as to make it easier for vehicles travelling from Whitchurch direction wishing to turn right onto the A534 towards Nantwich to see their entrance more clearly.
- 10.3 Trees:- Report on the condition of trees along the A534 in Bulkeley:-
 - 10.3.1 Millennium Oak:- some leaves look curled and mildewed and a few have been eaten by caterpillars. The lower ring of branches needs to be removed so the grass can be cut safely.
 - 10.3.2 Blue Spruce:- a lot of the branches show signs of die back with 2 to 3 feet of some branches dead. A very small number of new needles, possibly due to the dry summer last year.
 - 10.3.3 Cherry tree:- this was cut down last year as it was mostly dead.
 - 10.3.4 Nightingale Oak:-the tree was planted too near to the conifer and has grown out towards the road. Now the oak has grown clear of the conifer the tree is growing vertically again and will thrive once the conifer is removed or dies. The lower ring of branches needs to be removed so the grass can be cut safely.

- 10.3.5 Tree on private property:- the new owners have reported the tree to Highways as there are a lot of dead branches.
- 10.3.6 Dead tree to the left of the entrance to the Marl Pit:- this has been reported to Highways due to potential dangers involved with felling the tree.
- 10.3.7 Ash Tree at Mount Pleasant junction:- concerns raised regarding condition.

11. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- 11.1 Maintenance:- John Jones has carried out village maintenance. The playing field has been cut.
- 11.2 Footpath:- The new footpath on the A534 is overgrown and unusable. The Clerk is to report this to Highways in the interests of pedestrian safety as schoolchildren walk on the footpath to get the school bus.
- 11.3 CEC:- Residents are encouraged to report any highways faults to CEC on the interactive map (<http://www.cheshireeasthighways.org/report-it-general.aspx>).
- 11.4 List:- The Clerk is to contact CEC to request a list of the maintenance tasks that are carried out by CEC Highways.

12. MEETING DATES 2020

Council meeting dates for 2020 are 11th February; 12th May; 8th September and 10th November. The clerk is to book the meeting room at BVH.

13. BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding the finances of BVH and the recent events including the successful art exhibition.

14. CLERKS REPORT

Nothing further to report.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

- The list of correspondence received has been distributed to councillors.
- CHALC Annual Meeting (24th October 2019):- Cllr Dixon is to attend the meeting.
- Cllr Dixon thanked the Council for their recent support.

16. NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 12th November 2019

Website:- www.bulkeleyandridley.pc.org.uk