

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2019**

Present: - Councillors Idina Hastings, Mike Dixon, Jane McRae, James Weddell, Jonathan Knight, Mike Hassall.

CEC Cllr Stan Davies. Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk).

One member of the public attended the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Linda Gaden, 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 10th September 2019. Proposed by Cllr Dixon and seconded by Cllr Knight.

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:- Zurich have clarified the insurance arrangements regarding volunteers carrying out work on behalf of the Council and a risk assessment has been prepared.

4.3 Overgrown Footpath:- this has been cleared.

5. CASUAL VACANCY

The notice for the Casual Vacancy has been displayed on the noticeboard and the Council's Facebook page.

Cllr Dixon announced his resignation from the Council.

6. OPEN FORUM

There was no consideration of this item.

7. POLICING

Report from the Police Cluster Meeting:-

Cllr Hastings attended the police cluster meeting on 9th October 2019:-

Representatives from 7 parishes were there. It was taken by the PCSO Sharon Jones as a replacement beat officer has not yet been appointed. No RTC information was available because the computer system is still not working. However, Sharon said there had been 20 accidents in the 3 months since 1st July, including the one on 8th October when a lorry and car crashed in Burland at the end of the Long Lane Haughton junction. The lorry overturned and the roof of the car had to be removed to free the occupant(s).

There were 4 incidences of drunken behaviour at weddings at Peckforton Castle. At Ridley thieves broke into a farm and stole a strimmer and damaged windows. At the Poacher someone hit someone else with a glass. Lead was stolen from the roof of Bickerton School.

In total there were 88 offences in the 3 months, 44 of them recorded as Violence against the Person. It was pointed out that violence can just mean that someone was slapped on the back. There were 5 burglaries, 7 criminal damage, 0 drug offences, 1 other (not specified), 18 public order, 0 robberies, 2 sexual, 10 theft/stolen goods and 1 vehicle offence.

Some of the parishes in our cluster experience minibuses full of badger cull and hunt protesters driving down private lanes and masked people getting out and running all over people's gardens. The next meeting is scheduled for 22nd January.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

8.1.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-

The Council approved the following payments:-

Chq No	Date	Reason	Amount
254	12/11/19	Running Costs	£ 16.60
255	12/11/19	Bickerton Village Hall (Room Hire)	£ 27.50
256	12/11/19	Repairs to Noticeboard	£ 30.00

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 31/10/19:- £4,016.08

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

Receipts:-

None have been received.

8.2 To consider any donation(s) to charity:-

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

8.1.2 Budget to Date:-

The Council received the budget to date figures.

8.4 To agree and set precept for 2020 - 21 financial year (see attachment B):-

Resolved:- The Council agreed to set the precept at £4,173.00 for the 2020 – 2021 financial year. Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Weddell.

8.5 To consider membership of CHALC:-

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

8.6 To agree new bank signatories:-

Resolved:- The Council agreed to appoint Cllr Weddell and the Clerk as bank signatories. The Clerk is to be made a signatory so as to engage with the bank. Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Hassall.

9. PLANNING UPDATE

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

9.2 Mill Lane:- Several Cllrs attended when the CEC Planning Committee considered the planning application. Cllrs Dixon and Weddell spoke against the application. The application was refused by the Planning Committee.

10. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Cheshire East Council is conducting a review of town and parish council governance arrangements across the Cheshire East Borough. It is good practice to review community governance arrangements every 10-15 years. Cheshire East Council was created in 2009 and it is therefore timely for it to conduct a full review of town and parish council governance matters. A number of parish council matters have been raised with Cheshire East Council, which necessitate a Community Governance review. The borough-wide review will address these things in a coordinated way, so as to ensure consistency of approach. The review will be concluded before the May 2023 local elections.

As part of the review there will be a pre-consultation survey which will be published on 28 October 2019 and which will conclude on 31 January 2020. The survey is not a formal consultation. This will take place next year (possibly around May according to current projections), but the survey will be an opportunity for initial views to be expressed which may help to shape the future direction of the Review.

The Council has previously requested that both Bulkeley and Ridley Parish Councils be combined to form one parish council to replace their current status of two separate parish councils

11. HIGHWAYS

11.1 Cholmondeley Lane:- no update.

11.2 Accidents on the A49/A534 at Ridley:- Cllrs discussed the implications of the options and alternatives for the Northern Junction (Ridley Hill) that were proposed by CEC.

12. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

12.1 Maintenance:- John Jones has carried out village maintenance. The playing field has not been cut due to the wet weather. CEC have agreed to remove the dead tree at the entrance to the Marl Pit. Cllrs discussed drainage in the village especially after the recent exceptional wet weather experienced.

12.2 Marl Pit:- the Risk Assessment is to be circulated to Cllrs.

12.3 Village Clean-up Day:- The clean-up day was organised by Cllr McRae in October. It is planned to hold three clean up days a year.

13. TOASTING THE OAK

This will take place at 2pm on New Year's Day at the Millennium Oak.

14. BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding the finances of BVH and the forthcoming events.

15. CLERKS REPORT

15.1 List:- The Clerk is to contact CEC to send a Freedom of Information Request for a list of the maintenance tasks that are carried out by CEC Highways.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence received has been distributed to councillors.

17. NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 11th February 2020

PART 2

Resolved:- The Council agreed to exclude press and members of the public to consider employment contacts. Proposed by Cllr Hassall and seconded by Cllr Knight.

1. REVIEW CLERKS SALARY

Resolved:- The Clerk is currently on SCP 27. The Council agreed to increase the Clerk's salary in April 2020 in accordance with the NALC National Salary Award. Proposed by Cllr Hassall and seconded by Cllr Knight.