

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 21st JULY 2020
AT BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Present: - Councillors Idina Hastings, Peter Groves, Jane McRae, James Weddell, Jonathan Knight, Mike Hassall, Linda Gaden, Nadine Hunter, Richard Frisk.
CEC Cllr Stan Davies. Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk).
No members of the public attended the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor. James Rutter

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 11th February 2020. Proposed by Cllr McRae and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. OPEN FORUM

There was no consideration of this item.

6. POLICING

The police cluster meeting did not take place.

7. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Bickerton Burial Board Representatives:-	Cllrs Groves and Hastings
Association of Parish Councils Representatives:-	Cllrs McRae
Bank Signatories:-	Cllr Hastings, Cllr Groves, Cllr Weddell and The Clerk, Ruth Shackleton

Resolved:- That the Council agree to the above appointments. Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

8. APPOINTMENT OF RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Resolved:- That the Council confirm the appointment of Ruth Shackleton as Responsible Financial Officer. Proposed by Cllr McRae and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT

9.1.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-

The Council approved the following payments:-

Chq No	Date	Reason	Amount
262	01/06/20	Zurich Insurance	£193.00
263	01/06/20	Jake Gurr (Internal Audit)	£ 95.00
264	01/06/20	CHALC (annual subs)	£115.92
265	21/07/20	Backdated Pay / Running Costs	£ 94.89
266	21/07/20	Bickerton Village Hall (Room Hire)	£ 27.50

267	21/07/20	Village Maintenance:- John Jones	£ 60.00
268	21/07/20	J Weddell (reimburse website costs)	£ 91.19
269	21/07/20	Replace cheque not cashed	£189.06

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

The Standing Order was amended to reflect the increase in the Clerk's salary.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 03/07/20:- £4,285.29

Receipts:-

Precept:- £2,086.50

HMRC (VAT refund):- £84.71

Resolved:- The above payments were approved. Proposed by Cllr Mc Rae and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

10. ANNUAL AUDIT 2019 - 2020

10.1 To receive the Annual Internal Audit Report:-

Resolved:- The Council received the Internal Auditors report which states that the internal auditor was satisfied and there are no matters arising for concern.

Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Gaden.

10.2 To agree to sign the AGAR Part 2 Certificate of Exemption as neither the gross income nor incurred gross expenditure exceeds £25,000.00:-

Resolved:- That the Council agree to sign the AGAR Part 2 Certificate of Exemption as neither the gross income nor incurred gross expenditure exceeds £25,000.00. The Council are to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review and are to submit a Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor. Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Gaden.

10.3 To accept and approve the Annual Governance Statement:-

Resolved:- That the Council agree to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March 2020. Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Gaden.

10.4 To accept and approve the Annual Return for Audit purposes (see attachment):-

Resolved:- That the Council agree to approve the Annual Return Statement for the year ended 31st March 2020. As the gross income and expenditure is less than £25,000 the Council are to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review and are to submit a Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor. Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Groves.

10.5 To accept and approve the Risk Assessment:-

Resolved:- That the Council agree to approve the Risk Assessment. Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Gaden.

11. PLANNING UPDATE

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

11.2 To receive update regarding Mill Lane planning application - 20/2407N - Approval of Reserved Matters for Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale, following Outline Approval 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

The Council made the following observations:-

The Parish Council objects to application 20/2407N in its current state and made the following comments in relation to the application:-

- (i) Density of Development:- the Council welcomes the reduction in the number of dwellings from 17 to 13.

- (ii) Aesthetic Quality of Designs:- the Council recognise the improved design of units in comparison to the refused application 18/4211N but also considers the revised designs inferior to the design intent of the original application 16/6202N. The following points were included:-
- Of the designs submitted Unit Type H.4.5 provides more architectural features. The Council would like to see more use of these features included in the designs of the other Unit Types B.2.1, H.4.2, H.3.7, H.3.6. Specifically detailing such as:
 - Brick plinth in main facing brick as specified for H.4.5 to be used for the Unit Types.
 - The Render and black painted timber detailing to front and side elevations to be used more extensively by the Unit Types.

The Council note the intention to employ air-source heat pumps for heating but do not see these detailed on the plan or Unit Type designs. The Council request that the heat pumps be placed to the rear of properties to reduce their adverse visual impact.

- (iii) Pavements:- the Council reiterates comments made in response to application 18/4211N in relation to the lack of pavements detailed in the plan and request that a solid stone/tarmac pavement be specified bordering both sides of the road in front of each property so the pedestrians are not forced to walk in the road. This would match the pavement arrangement of the adjacent Mill Grove and better incorporate the development into the village.
- (iv) Footpath:- the Council reiterates comments made in response to application from 18/4211N in relation to the incorporation of Bulkeley Footpath FP4. This would better connect the development with the village.
- (v) Green Space fronting Mill Lane:- the Council welcome the improved design of the green space fronting the development and bordering Mill Lane and made the following points:-
- The Council are keen to ensure that no future development occur on this land either in the form of new dwellings, extensions to existing dwellings or conversion into car parking space.
 - In addition it is important to ensure the long-term maintenance of the land including the specified Cheshire fencing, hedges, trees grass and other planting.
 - The Council requests that Cheshire East Planning impose appropriate conditions to ensure the protection on this green space and ensure its long-term maintenance.
- (vi) Access Road, Drainage and Other Communal areas:- the Council is keen to ensure the long-term management and maintenance of the access Road, Drainage, Sewage systems and other communal areas and request that Cheshire East Planning impose appropriate conditions to ensure their long-term maintenance.

12. HIGHWAYS

The junction at Mount Pleasant has been realigned. This appears to have made an improvement with traffic slowing down to turn at the junction.

13. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

The Great British Spring Clean has been deferred to September. The Council agreed to arrange a village clean for Saturday 26th September.

The Council agreed to purchase replacement nets for the goal posts at the play area.

14. CHESHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION

The Council considered membership of Cheshire Community Action and decided not to join.

15. BUNBURY CHARITIES

Cllr Hassall updated the meeting of donations made by Bunbury Charities. Recipients included the Coffee and Cake Club; floodlights at Bunbury Bowling Club; donation to Alive support group; Early Birds Pre School; defibrillator in the village of Bunbury; students going to Kenya to help build a school.

16. BRASSEY MEMORIAL

The tree has fallen down and some has been rescued. It was suggested that the wood be incorporated into a memorial at the Marl Pit. The Clerk is to make enquiries with a local wood sculptor.

The cobbles require attention; Cllr Hastings is to ask John Jones to carry out the work to level the cobbles.

It was suggested that John Jones clear a path at the Marl Pit to make it more accessible. Cllr Hastings is to ask John Jones to carry out basis tree surgery at the site.

17. BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding the £10,000 grant that Bickerton Village Hall received from CEC due to Covid 19 and how the money has been spent renovating the hall.

18. CLERKS REPORT

Nothing further to report.

19. CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence received has been distributed to councillors.

20. NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 8th September 2020

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