

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM  
ON TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

Councillor Peter Groves.

Cllr Nadine Hunter has submitted her resignation from the Council; the Clerk is to advise CEC of the Casual Vacancy.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Proposed by Cllr Frisk and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

4.1 Layby in Ridley:- The Clerk is to follow up the request for a safety / feasibility study at the site.

**5. OPEN FORUM**

There was no consideration of this item.

**6. POLICING**

Police cluster meetings are due to restart in October. Cllrs Hastings and Frisk agreed to attend the meeting.

**7. ANNUAL AUDIT**

The AGAR has been returned to the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn.

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 2020 – 21 (page 4 of the AGAR);
- (iii) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020 - 21 (page 5 of the AGAR);
- (iv) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020 – 21 (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.

**8. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**8.1.1 Budget to Date:-**

The Council received and noted the budget to date figures.

8.2 To accept and approve the following payments:-

The Council approved the following payments:-

Chq No	Date	Reason	Amount
286	19/07/21	Then Media (website costs)	£408.00
287	14/09/21	Running Costs	£ 33.85
288	14/09/21	J Jones (village maintenance)	£ 30.00

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 04/08/21:- £3,855.59

**Resolved:-** The above payments were agreed by the Council.

Proposed by Cllr Hassall and seconded by Cllr McRae.

8.3 Receipts:-

Precept:- £2,129.00

9. **PLANNING UPDATE**

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

Concerns were raised regarding building work and drainage concerns at the property which is being built to the rear of The Laurels.

10. **HIGHWAYS**

10.1 20s Plenty for Cheshire East:-

The Council noted the initiative.

10.2 Introducing a Speed limit on Stonehouse Lane:-

Cllr Hastings was unable to make contact with Peckforton Parish Meeting but has spoken with Beeston Parish Council regarding introducing a speed limit on Stonehouse Lane. Beeston Parish Council have started the process with CW&C to introduce a speed limit of 30 mph in the village of Beeston and a speed limit of 40 mph from the village to the boundary.

The Clerk is to contact Highways, CEC to enquire about introducing a 40 mph speed limit from the boundary with Peckforton and Bickerton and also to introduce a 40 mph speed limit on Mill Lane.

11. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

11.1 Moving the Brassey Stones:-

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding the Brassey Stones. The cobbles at the site have sunk and are due to be re-positioned so as they are level.

The Council discussed the possibility of relocating the Brassey Stones to a new location in the village. Alternative locations were considered.

Cllr Hastings is to speak with the CEC Conservation Officer to discuss the project and available options.

The noticeboard at the site also requires attention as the legs have rotted away.

11.2 Noticeboards:-

Cllr Hastings informed the meeting that the noticeboards in the village require maintenance; the Council agreed to ask Andy Rubbathon to carry out the necessary works.

12. **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW)**

Cllr Weddell spoke to the meeting regarding CEC's request for volunteers to help survey the local PROW so as to keep paths open and safe for everyone to enjoy. This includes inspecting paths, checking notices, waymarking paths and clearing paths of encroaching vegetation. He suggested

that the Council carry out an annual survey of the PROW – there are 17 in Bulkeley and 11 in Ridley.

13. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

CEC is holding a 12-week consultation on proposals for the governance arrangements for town and parish councils in the borough.

This is part of a borough-wide review, as CEC is responsible for the governance and electoral arrangements for the borough's 186 town and parish council wards in 135 town and parish councils.

The review looks at a range of issues, including town and parish boundaries, numbers of town and parish councillors, grouping of parishes and warding. The consultation provides people with an opportunity to comment and make the case for alternative proposals to those recommended. The public consultation runs from 6 September to 28 November.

The Consultation details the following:-

"Representations were received for Bulkeley and Ridley, supporting the previous request submitted to Cheshire East Council in 2017 to merge Bulkeley and Ridley under a single parish. Cheshire East Council recommends that Bulkeley, Peckforton and Ridley be merged into a single parish. The new parish would have a projected electorate of 484 by 2025 (239 in Bulkeley, 127 in Peckforton and 118 in Ridley). Cheshire East Council recommends a total of eight seats and no warding for the new parish."

"A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'."

**Resolved:-** The Council agreed to contact Peckforton Parish Meeting for their views on the proposed merger before replying to the consultation. The Council are to respond to the Consultation to support the proposed merger of Bulkeley Parish Council and Ridley Parish Council but not the addition of Peckforton Parish Meeting. The Council agreed that the current number of Councillors ought to remain at a total of ten seats and not the eight seats that is proposed in the Consultation.

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Hassall.

14. **THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

The Council considered suggestions to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 including planting a tree and installing a bench. The Council agreed to ask residents for suggestions.

15. **TOASTING THE OAK**

This year, Toasting the Oak took place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. The Council agreed to change the annual event from New Year's Day to Midsummers Day in 2022.

16. **WEBSITE**

The new website is now up and running.

17. **CHESHIRE EAST BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

In response to the National Bus Strategy for England (NBSfE) "Bus Back Better", Cheshire East Council is developing a boroughwide Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Cllr Weddell spoke to the meeting about increasing the bus service to improve connections across the whole of the region to make places, both rural and urban, more accessible.

Cllr Weddell is to prepare a response to be submitted to CEC.

18. **CHESHIRE EAST CROWD FUNDRAISING**

Cllr Hastings and Weddell attended a presentation by CEC for Crowd Fundraising. It was felt that this would be useful for large scale projects.

19. **BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding the Hall's finances, the Art Exhibition in July, the resurfacing of part of the car park, trialling puppy training classes.

20. **MEETING DATES**

Council meeting dates for 2022 are 8<sup>th</sup> February; 10<sup>th</sup> May; 13<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> November. The clerk is to book the meeting room at BVH.

21. **CLERKS REPORT**

Nothing further to report.

22. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Previously circulated.

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

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Website:- [www.bulkeleyandridley.pc.org.uk](http://www.bulkeleyandridley.pc.org.uk)