

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM
ON TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2021**

Present: - Councillors Idina Hastings (Chairman), Richard Frisk, Linda Gaden, Peter Groves, Mike Hassall, Jonathan Knight, Jane McRae, James Weddell.
CEC Cllr Stan Davies. Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk).
Two members of the public attended the part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

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

None were declared.

3. OPEN FORUM

There was a presentation by United Utilities regarding an introduction to the Vyrnwy Aqueduct Maintenance Programme and the works scheduled to take place in the Bulkeley and Ridley.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Resolved:- That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th September 2021.

Proposed by Cllr McRae and seconded by Cllr Hassall.

5. CASUAL VACANCIES

There are two casual vacancies due to the departure of James Rutter and Nadine Hunter. CEC have been advised and the notice has been displayed on the noticeboard and website. An election has not been called to fill the vacancies therefore CEC have confirmed that the Council can co-opt to fill the two casual vacancies.

The Council agreed to promote the vacancies on Facebook and the WhatsApp group.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Highways:- The Clerk is to forward Highways requests to Cllr Groves to raise a report.

6.2 PROW:- The Clerk is to contact CEC with regards to a report form for the PROW in the parish.

7. POLICING

Cllr Hastings attended the Wrenbury police cluster on 21st October 2021. The analysts who normally sort all the recorded crimes into type and area are no longer working so the beat officer and the PCSO had to prepare the report themselves.

170 crimes were reported between 1st July and 30th September. That figure is slightly misleading because if a 'crime' involves the same people but on different days it is recorded as separate incidents when in reality it is the same thing. Among the 170, 33 were crime- burglary, theft etc, 13 were hoax calls, 15 domestics, 5 missing person, 18 suspicious activity, 15 road traffic accident. Most of the incidents occurred in the Wrenbury area. Three crimes of harassment were reported in Bulkeley, all concerning an unknown person who made grossly offensive calls of a sexual nature to someone. In Cholmondeley a female twice sent death threats to a trainer demanding money back after a horse lost a race.

There were no reports of anything in Peckforton.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

8.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-

The Council approved the following payments:-

Chq No	Payee	Reason	Amount
289	Peter Moulton	Cutting the hedges at the playing field	£ 90.00
290	Bickerton Village Hall	Room Hire for 14 th September	£ 27.50
291	Andy Rubbathan	Repairing the notice boards	£ 62.84
292	R Shackleton	Running Costs	£ 19.01
293	Bickerton Village Hall	Room Hire for 9 th November	£ 27.50

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 01/10/21:- £5,643.76

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

Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr McRae.

Receipts:-

None have been received

8.2 Donations:-

Resolved:- The Council agreed to donate £100.00 to North West Ambulance and to donate £100.00 to First Responders.

Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Gaden.

8.3 Budget to Date:-

The Council received and noted the budget to date figures.

8.4 Precept:-

The Council noted that they may have to review the precept in future years.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to set the precept at £4,353.00 for the 2022 – 2023 financial year.

Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Groves.

8.5 CHALC:-

Resolved:- The Council agreed to renew its' membership with ChALC in the 2022 – 2023 financial year.

Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Groves.

9. PLANNING UPDATE

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

10. HIGHWAYS

10.1 Introducing a Speed limit on Stonehouse Lane:-

Cllr Hastings has been unable to make contact with Peckforton Parish Meeting.

The Clerk has written to 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. There has been no response. Cllr Groves agreed to follow the request up.

11. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

11.1 Update:-

Cllr Hastings informed the meeting about two local boys who are doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and as part of the scheme have volunteered to tidy the village.

As a result, John Jones has not had to do any work in the village. The Marl Pitt will need a lot of work which is due to take place next year.

11.2 Moving the Brassey Stones:-

Cllr Hastings and Groves met with the CEC Conservation Office to discuss relocating the Brassey Stones to a new location in the village. It was suggested that they be moved to beside the lime tree at the north end of Mill Lane.

11.3 Noticeboards:-

Cllr Hastings informed the meeting works have been carried out to the noticeboards in the village by Andy Rubbathon.

12. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Clerk has contacted Peckforton Parish Meeting for their views on the proposed merger. They have responded to advise that they do not support the proposed merger either.

The Clerk is to submit the comments previously agreed and to include that Peckforton Parish Meeting do not wish to merge either and to reiterate 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.

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

The Council considered suggestions to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 including installing a bench at the proposed location for the Brassey Stones on Mill Lane. Cllrs Hastings and Groves are to discuss this with the CEC Conservation Officer.

Cllr Groves reported that the fencing round the lime tree at the end of Mill Lane is broken, he is to forward photographs to the Clerk to report the matter to CEC.

14. **TOASTING THE OAK**

There was no consideration of this item.

15. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Council considered how to respond to proposed changes to Code of Conduct. It was felt that there ought to be greater penalties for Councillors who break the Code of Conduct.

16. **BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding the increase in bookings, the return of the caravan rally and the works to the lower car park.

17. **CLERKS REPORT**

Nothing further to report.

18. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Previously circulated.

PART 2

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

1. **REVIEW CLERKS SALARY FOR THE 2022 – 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR**

Resolved:- The Clerk is currently on SCP 22 of the NALC National Salary Award. The Council agreed to for the Clerk to progress to scale SCP 23 at a rate of £14.42 per hour with effect from 1st April 2022. Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Groves.

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 8th February 2022

Website:- www.bulkeleyandridley.org.uk