

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM
ON TUESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2022**

Present: - Councillors Idina Hastings (Chairman), Maire Gibson, Mike Hassall, Jonathan Knight, Jane McRae, James Weddell, Sally Williamson.
CEC Cllr Stan Davies. Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk).
One member of the public attended part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Richard Frisk, 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. OPEN FORUM

Mr Neil Cook, Ridley resident, spoke to the meeting to request the Council's support to impose a reduction in the speed limit on the A534 through Ridley. He has previously written to CEC to formally request a review of the traffic speed in Ridley on the A534 for safety reasons and for the quality of life of local residents. The request included photographs, video evidence and a detailed response to the criteria in support of a reduction in the speed limit.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Resolved:- That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th November 2021.

Proposed by Cllr Hassall and seconded by Cllr McRae.

5. CASUAL VACANCIES

CEC has confirmed that the Council can co-opt to fill the two casual vacancies.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to co-opt Maire Gibson; she duly signed the Acceptance of Office.
Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Hassall.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to co-opt Sally Williamson; she duly signed the Acceptance of Office.

Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Hassall.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Brassey Stones:- Cllr Hastings advised that a meeting had taken place with the Conservation Officer at CEC to discuss relocating the Brassey Stones to a more prominent position in the village. It was suggested to relocate them to the top end of Mill Lane, by the lime tree. The Clerk is to look into the ownership / custodianship and insurance implications.

6.2 PROW:- The Clerk has contacted CEC with regards to a report form for the PROW in the parish and is waiting for them to respond. Cllr Weddell has a template which he is to forward to the Clerk.

7. POLICING

The police cluster meeting did not take place.

Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious incidents to the police.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

8.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-

The Council approved the following payments:-

Chq No	Payee	Reason	Amount
301	R Shackleton	Running Costs	£ 46.84
302	North West Air Ambulance	Donation	£100.00
303	First Responders	Donation	£100.00
304	Bickerton Village Hall	Room Hire	£ 27.50
305	J Jones	Village Maintenance	£ 15.00

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 01/01/22 - £7,233.26

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

Proposed by Cllr Hassall and seconded by Cllr McRae.

Receipts:-

The Council has received a payment of £2,364.30 from CEC. The Clerk has queried this and is awaiting a response.

8.2 To approve appointment of Internal Auditor:-

Resolved:- The Council agreed to approve the appointment of Jake Gurr as the Internal Auditor for the Council.

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Knight.

9. PLANNING UPDATE

9.1 Update:-

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

9.2 Mill Lane:-

Work has started to establish the position of drains and any infrastructure at the Mill Lane site.

Concerns were raised regarding the removal of hedging at the site.

The Council requested that Ward Cllr Stan Davies ensure that drainage and sewerage issues are addressed at the site by the Planning Department at CEC.

10. HIGHWAYS

10.1 Introducing a Speed limit on Stonehouse Lane:-

Cllr Groves has followed up the request for a reduction in speed limit on Stonehouse Lane with CEC. He advised that CEC has responded concerning the setting of speed limits, following the agreement to consult on the revised Speed Management Strategy taken at the November Highway and Transport Committee meeting the consultation was launched on the revised draft strategy. CEC are now at the end of the consultation period and will be reviewing the feedback received to inform how they develop on the strategy ready for adoption. Their current plan is to have a final version of the Speed Management Strategy ready for approval by the Highways and Transport Committee by Summer 2022.

As the Speed Management Strategy is currently under review, any decisions regarding speed limits will be deferred until the revised SMS is formally adopted.

Cllr Groves advised that once the Highways Committee have approved it is likely to be implemented fairly quickly and that would be the time to raise this matter again. He will let the Council know when the Strategy has been approved and a formal request can be submitted.

10.2 Speed Limit on the A534:-

The Council are to write to CEC in support of Mr Cook's comments regarding a reduction in the speed limit on the A534 and to request that they are taken into consideration and included when CEC formulate the revised Speed Management Strategy.

The Council are to request that the police carry out speed enforcement on the A534 at Ridley.

10.3 Layby:-

Cllr Groves has followed up the request for small surfaced area for the Children to wait with CEC. CEC has advised that this request has now been added to a list for possible minor improvement schemes to be assessed/delivered from the 22/23 programme. Should the assessment identify it as a measure to be progressed it would need to be prioritised within the available budgets or it may be added to future programmes of work, the Council should be aware that not all schemes assessed will be prioritised for subsequent delivery and funding.

The Council considered asking Ward Councillor Stan Davies for funding from his Ward Budget.

The Council is to look into the number of children who use the layby before submitting a request.

11. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding recent village maintenance carried out by John Jones.

The Council discussed whether to carry out work to the trees at the Marl Pit. The Council agreed to establish who is responsible for the trees before doing any works. Cllr Hastings will look into the matter and advise the Council accordingly.

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

The Council considered suggestions to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 in the village and agreed for informal gatherings to be organised in the village by local volunteers.

13. **BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding resurfacing to the lower car park.

14. **CLERKS REPORT**

Nothing further to report.

15. **CORRESPONDENCE**

15.1 Previously circulated.

15.2 Airband:- Cllr Weddell updated the meeting regarding the recent presentation by Airband about works to improve broadband access to the area.

The date of next meeting is on Tuesday 10th May 2022

Website:- www.bulkeleyandridleyipc.org.uk