

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM
ON TUESDAY 10TH MAY 2022**

Present: - Councillors Idina Hastings (Chairman), Richard Frisk, Maire Gibson, Peter Groves, 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

Councillors Linda Gaden, Mike Hassall.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

None were declared.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved:- It was proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr McRae that Cllr Hastings be elected as Chairman for 2022 - 2023.

The Chairman is to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Resolved:- It was proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Williamson that Cllr Groves be elected as Vice Chairman for 2022 - 23.

The Vice Chairman is to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5. CHAIRMANS REPORT

See attachment for Chairman's Report.

6. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

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

Resolved:- That the Council approve the above appointments.

Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Knight.

7. OPEN FORUM

There was no consideration of this item.

8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Resolved:- That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th February 2022.

Proposed by Cllr McRae and seconded by Cllr Knight.

9. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Hastings informed the meeting that work has started at the Mill Lane site.

10. POLICING

Cllr Hastings informed the meeting that there have been no police cluster meetings and that any matters are to be reported to the PCSO.

11. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Resolved:- That the Council confirm the appointment of Ruth Shackleton as Responsible Financial Officer.

Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr McRae.

12. INTERNAL PROCEDURES

Resolved:- That the Council agree to adopt the following:-

- Code of Conduct for Members.
- Risk Assessment

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Groves.

The Clerk is to update the following policies:-

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations

13. ANNUAL AUDIT

13.1 To agree to sign the 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 Hastings and seconded by Cllr McRae.

13.2 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 2022.

Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr McRae.

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

- **Resolved:-** That the Council agree to approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr McRae.

14. FINANCIAL REPORT

14.1 CHALC:-

The Council considered whether to renew membership

Resolved:- That the Council agree to renew CHALC membership.

Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

14.2 Insurance:-

The Council received the insurance details.

Resolved:- That the Council agree to renew the insurance policy with Zurich.

Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

14.3 To accept and approve the following payments:-

The Council approved the following payments:-

Chq No	Date	Reason	Amount
306	10/05/22	Running Costs	£ 79.15
307	10/05/22	J Gurr FCA (internal audit)	£120.00
308	10/05/22	Void	Void

309	10/05/22	CHALC (annual subs)	£124.56
310	10/05/22	Zurich Insurance	£195.97
311	10/05/22	Bickerton Village Hall (room hire)	£ 30.00
12	10/05/22	John Jones (mow the playing fields)	£250.00

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 30/04/22:- £8,472.66

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

Proposed by Cllr McRae and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

14.4 **Receipts:-**

None received.

14.5 **VAT Return:-**

A VAT return was submitted to HMRC for the 2021 – 2022 financial year for the amount of £97.84.

14.6 **Uncleared Cheques:-**

Cllr Weddell is to advise whether the uncleared cheque needs to be replaced.

15. **CIL MONIES**

The Council has received a CIL payment of £2,364.30; part of this may be used towards the Brassey Stones project.

16. **PLANNING UPDATE**

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

16.2 **New street name consultation:-**

The Council considered the new road name that has been proposed by the developer and agreed to write to CEC planning to request that the new road be named Brassey Drive / Close based on local historical connections.

17. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE**

The Cheshire East Council Community Governance Review Final Recommendations Assessment Report has been published.

It recommends the merger of the parish of Bulkeley and the parish of Ridley, to form a single parish. It is to be called Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council (new council, but no change to the name or style).

The Borough Council recommends the name "Bulkeley & Ridley" for the merged council, as requested by the Parish Council.

On the matter of seats for Bulkeley & Ridley, the Parish Council argued that it should retain its existing total 10, as it has no problem filling them. The Borough Council recommends no change to the total number of seats.

Both Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council and Peckforton Parish Meeting had previously sent representations to oppose the proposed merger made by CEC. The Borough Council recommended that the Parish Council and Peckforton do not merge, and that Peckforton remain as a Parish Meeting.

18. **HIGHWAYS**

18.1 **To receive report and agree action:-**

See below

18.2 Speed Limit on Stonehouse Lane:-

Cllr Hastings informed the meeting that Peckforton Parish Meeting are in the process of applying to have the speed limit in their parish reduced to 20 mph through the village and 30 mph through Peckforton.

The Council agreed to wait to see the outcome before considering whether to progress with a request to reduce the speed limit on the section of Stonehouse Lane located in the parish.

18.3 Highways Maintenance Top up Scheme:-

The Council considered the scheme but decided not to progress with it.

19. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

Cllr Hastings advised that John Jones will carry out maintenance in the village over the summer months including tidying the playing fields in time for the Jubilee village event.

20. **BRASSEY STONES**

Cllr Hastings and Groves have met with CEC representatives from both Conservation and Highways to discuss the proposed relocation of the Brassey Stones that are currently located at the Marl Pit. Highways objected to the proposed location at the end of Mill Lane but suggested an alternative location on Mill Lane by the trees.

The Council agreed to leave the Brassey Stones at their current location for the time being and to tidy up the site including repairs to the information board.

The Conservation Officer from CEC offered to bring a team of volunteers to help carry out work at the site.

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

Cllr McRae updated the meeting of the plans for the gathering at the playing fields to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

The Clerk is to clarify the insurance arrangements with the Council's insurance company; it may be that the Council could consider to pay for separate insurance cover for the event.

22. **BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding the finances and car park at BVH.

23. **CLERKS REPORT**

Nothing further to report.

24. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Previously circulated.

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

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 13th September 2022

Annual Parish Meeting

In the absence of any members of the public there was no consideration of this item.

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