

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM
ON TUESDAY 23RD MAY 2023**

Present: - Councillors Idina Hastings (Chairman), Richard Frisk, Peter Groves, Mike Hassall, Jonathan Knight, Jane McRae.
CEC Ward Cllr James Pearson. Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk).
Three members of the public attended part of the meeting.

1. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

The Council acknowledged the newly formed Council of Bulkeley and Ridley Parish Council.

2. CLERK / RFO

Resolved:- The Council confirmed the appointment of the Clerk / RFO to the newly formed Bulkeley and Ridley Parish Council.

Proposed by Cllr McRae and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

3. APOLOGIES

Councillors Maire Gibson, Sally Williamson, James Weddell.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

None were declared.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved:- It was proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr McRae that Cllr Hastings be elected as Chairman for 2023 - 2024.

The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

6. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Resolved:- It was proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr McRae that Cllr Groves be elected as Vice Chairman for 2023 - 24.

The Vice Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

7. CASUAL VACANCY

In the recent elections nine out of ten seats were filled therefore the Council is to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

8. CHAIRMANS REPORT

See attachment for Chairman's Report.

9. 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.

10. OPEN FORUM

Stan Davies, thanked the Council for the gift and support in his time as Ward Councillor.

The new Ward Councillor, James Pearson, introduced himself to the Council.

Other issues raised included:-

- Council Farm Tenancy – request made whether the Council can do anything to help resident. The Council agreed to write to CEC.
- Highways – concerns regarding the heavy traffic on the A534 going through Bulkeley, including volume of HGVs, emissions, noise pollution. Requests made for reduction in speed limit and vehicle activation signs.

11. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Resolved:- That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th February 2023.

Proposed by Cllr McRae and seconded by Cllr Knight.

12. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

12.1 WhatsApp:- The WhatsApp Group for Ridley has been set up.

12.2 Sign:- The new wooden name sign was made by Richard Frisk who also renovated the notice board, “Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field”, and is now in place at the playing field.

13. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

See Item 2.

14. INTERNAL PROCEDURES

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

- Code of Conduct for Members.
- Risk Assessment
- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations

Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

15. FINANCIAL REPORT: -

15.1 CHALC:-

The Council considered whether to renew membership

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

Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Groves.

15.2 Insurance:-

The Council received the insurance details.

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

Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Groves.

15.3 To accept and approve the following payments:-

Chq No	Date	Reason	Amount
328	23/05/23	Running Costs	£103.15
329	23/05/23	J Gurr FCA (internal audit)	£125.00
333	23/05/23	CHALC (annual subs)	£128.02
331	23/05/23	Bickerton Village Hall (room hire)	£ 30.00
332	23/05/23	Zurich Insurance	£206.30
333	23/05/23	John Jones	£ 75.00

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 30/04/23:- £8,182.81

Receipts:- none received

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

Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Groves.

16. ANNUAL AUDIT

16.1 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 Groves.

16.2 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 2023.

Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Groves.

16.3 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 2023.

Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Groves.

16.4 Internal Audit:-

Jake Gurr FCA has carried out the internal audit; there were no matters arising.

17. PLANNING UPDATE

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

Cllr Frisk commented that the plans on planning application 23/0612/N have altered. The Clerk is to make enquiries with CEC Planning.

18. DEFIBRILLATORS

18.2 To consider replacement of defibrillator in Bulkeley:-

The Council considered the options.

18.3 To consider request received to contribute towards cost of new defibrillator in Ridley:-

The Council considered the options.

Resolved:- That the Council agree to apply to the National Lottery for funding for the following:-

- Replacement defibrillator in Bulkeley
- New defibrillator and heated cabinet in Ridley.

The Council agreed to contribute up to £2,000.00 towards the cost if so required.

Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Hassall.

19. HIGHWAYS

19.1 Speeding Concerns:-

This was discussed in the Open Forum. The Council agreed to write to the leader of CEC.

19.2 Speed Limit:-

This was discussed in the Open Forum. The Council agreed to write to the leader of CEC.

20. PLAYING FIELD

Update:-

- Ditch:- Cllrs McRae and Weddell are to make arrangements to clear the ditch.
- Weeds:- The Council discussed the options available. Cllr Hastings is to arrange for work to be done.

21. **PLAY EQUIPMENT**

Residents have responded to the WhatsApp group regarding new play equipment. The Council are looking to find match funding of £4,000.00.

The Clerk is to contact United Utilities for funding and to look into alternative funding sources. The Council are to agree what equipment to purchase at the September meeting.

22. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

Cllr Hastings advised that John Jones will carry out maintenance in the village over the summer months and informed the meeting of work carried out by volunteers to keep the village tidy.

23. **BRASSEY STONES**

The information plaque and support has been restored by Andy Ruabbathon.

The Conservation Officer is hoping to help with work at the site.

24. **KINGS CORONATION**

The Council thanked Cllr McRae and her team of volunteers for all their help in making the event a success.

25. **BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding the increase in classes and attendance at the hall.

26. **CLERKS REPORT**

Nothing further to report.

27. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Previously circulated.

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

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 12th September 2023

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