

**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> NOVEMBER 2023**

**Present:** - Councillors Idina Hastings (Chairman), Richard Frisk, Peter Groves, Mike Hassall, Jonathan Knight, Maire Gibson, Tom Leonard, Sally Williamson, James Weddell. Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk).

One member of the public attended the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Councillor Jane McRae.

**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**

3.1 Go To Bus:- The Council discussed issues with the Go To Bus including the bus picking up / dropping off passengers as risk assessments have to be carried out at new locations. The Council is to write to Richard Hibbert to express concerns regarding the service.

3.2 Broadband:- The Council discussed the current connectivity and providers in the parish.

3.3 Flooding:- A member of the public spoke to the meeting regarding flooding on the A534 during the recent bad weather including the lack of maintenance of the gully's in the area and the recording of the works carried out. She has already written to the local MP regarding her concerns and wished to share the information with the Council.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Resolved:-** That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Proposed by Cllr Williamson and seconded by Cllr Weddell.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Ditch:- Cllr Hastings advised that Cllr McRae is to send a letter via the gardener to the landowner regarding the request to clear the portion of the drainage ditch that runs along side the playing field and the land owned by the landowner.

**6. FINANCIAL REPORT: -**

6.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-

Chq No	Reason	Amount
340	Running Costs	£ 59.41
341	Backdated Pay	£ 84.40
342	HMRC	£ 18.40
343	Bickerton Village Hall (room hire)	£ 30.00
344	J Jones grass cutting	£ 250.00

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

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

Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Groves.

6.2 Accounts:

Reconciled balance at bank as at 31/10/23:- £10,417.97

Receipts:- None received.

6.3 Budget to Date:-

The Council received and noted the budget to date figures as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

6.4 Donations to Charity:-

**Resolved:-** The Council agreed to the following donations:-

North West Air ambulance - £100.00

First Responders - £100.00

Proposed by Cllr Frisk and seconded by Cllr Groves.

7. **PRECEPT**

The local precept charge is calculated by dividing the precept requested by the parish tax base.

The Local Tax Base for B&R PC in 2024 - 2025 is likely to be 227.00 for Band D equivalent properties.

**Resolved:-** The Band D precept charge in 2023 - 2024 was £19.47. This Band D precept charge in 2024 - 2025 will be £20.44. This is an increase of £0.97 and represents a 5% increase in the Band D precept charge.

The Council agreed to set the precept at £4,640.00 for the 2024 – 2025 financial year. This is an increase of £287.00 and represents a 6.5% increase of the precept received in the 2023 – 2024 financial year.

Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Weddell.

8. **PLANNING UPDATE**

The Council noted the Planning Applications register.

9. **VILLAGE APPEARANCE**

Cllr Hastings informed the meeting that some potholes have been filled in at the layby in Ridley.

10. **PLAY EQUIPMENT**

There is no update from United Utilities regarding the possibility of them providing play equipment at the playing field.

The Clerk has contacted the Ward Councillor to arrange a meeting to discuss play equipment, SID equipment and defibrillators in both Bulkeley and in Ridley. Cllr Knight is to attend the meeting.

11. **DEFIBRILLATORS**

11.1 Ridley:-

The Council discussed suitable locations to install a defibrillator. Cllr Frisk is to follow up the suggested locations including Skip Brown Cars.

See item 10 for further update.

11.2 Funding:-

The Clerk advised that there is funding available for new defibrillators from the British Heart Foundation.

See item 10 for further update.

12. **HIGHWAYS**

12.1 Speeding Concerns:- See item 10 for further update.

12.2 Flood on A534:- The Council heard about the issues with flooding on the A534 in the open forum and agreed to write to the Head of Highways regarding the issues raised.

12.3 Speedwatch:- Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding retraining for Speedwatch and the need for more volunteers.

13. **BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting.

14. **D DAY ANNIVERSARY JUNE 2024**

This item was deferred.

15. **CHALC ANNUAL MEETING**

Cllr McRae and the Clerk attended the CHALC annual meeting.

16. **CLERKS REPORT**

Nothing further to report.

17. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Previously circulated.

**NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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