

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM
ON TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2024**

Present: - Councillors Idina Hastings (Chairman), Richard Frisk, Maire Gibson, Jonathan Knight, Richard Latham, Tom Leonard, Sally Williamson, James Weddell, Ashley Wright.
Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk). No members of the public attended the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Simon Jordan

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 no consideration of this item.

4. CASUAL VACANCIES

The Clerk has notified CEC of the one vacancy which has been advertised. CEC has confirmed that they have not received a request for an election therefore the Council can co-opt to fill the vacancy. A co-option notice has been posted to advertise the vacancy on the website, Facebook and the noticeboards.

Resolved:- That the Council agree to co-opt Ashley Wright. He duly signed the acceptance of office.

Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Williamson.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Resolved:- That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2024.

Proposed by Cllr Williamson and seconded by Cllr Leonard.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Bus Service:- The bus service to Nantwich has been withdrawn.

6.2 Tagmaster:- The speed summary data from traffic on the A534 from Tagmaster was circulated. Cllrs expressed concerned as it appeared to be misleading due to low numbers of vehicles speeding (the Council had requested for the speed van but the Tagmaster was used instead).

6.3 CEC Bin consultation:- The Clerk submitted a representation that was prepared by Cllr Weddell on behalf of the Council to CEC to strongly object to the potential 3 weekly residual waste collection.

6.4 Speed limit on Mill Lane:- The Clerk has submitted a request to CEC Highways to reduce the speed limit to 30 MPH. CEC is yet to respond.

6.5 Line markings on A534:- The Clerk has submitted a request to CEC Highways to have double white lines painted in the 40 mph zone in the village of Bulkeley. CEC is yet to respond.

6.6 Playing Fields:- The Clerk has written to CEC regarding the ditch to ask what action can be taken as it is a health and safety issue. CEC is yet to respond.

- 6.7 Speed Van:- The Clerk has contacted the PCSO to request the police speed van be located in the village. The PCSO has responded to advise that they have declined at the moment as there is a waiting list.

7. VICE CHAIRMAN

Resolved:- That the Council agree to appoint Cllr Frisk as Vice Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Weddell.

8. PUBLICATION OF COUNCILLOR DETAILS

The Clerk is to make enquiries regarding the publication of Cllrs contact details.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT: -

9.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-

Chq No	Reason	Amount
359	Running Costs	£ 33.43
360	R Shackleton - backdated pay	£ 53.88
361	HMRC (quarter 3)	£ 11.80
362	Bickerton Village Hall (room hire)	£ 30.00

9.2 Accounts:-

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 30/09/24:- £ 10,877.41

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

Proposed by Cllr Leonard and seconded by Cllr Frisk.

9.3 Budget to Date:-

The Council received and noted the budget to date figures as at 30th September 2024.

9.4 Bank Signatories:-

The Clerk is in the process of adding Cllr Leonard as a new bank signatory.

Resolved:- The Council confirmed the current bank signatories are Cllrs Hastings, Weddell, Leonard and the Clerk.

Proposed by Cllr Williamson and seconded by Cllr Frisk.

9.5 Donations to Charity:-

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

North West Air ambulance - £100.00

First Responders - £100.00

(The Council are to look to holding a defibrillator training session in the new year)

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Williamson.

10. 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 2025 - 2026 is likely to be 239.71 for Band D equivalent properties. The Band D precept charge in 2023 – 2024 was £20.44.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to set the precept at £5,500.00 for the 2025 – 2026 financial year. This is an increase of £860.00 and represents a 18.5% increase of the precept received in the 2024 – 2025 financial year. This Band D precept charge in 2025 - 2026 will be £22.94. This is an increase of £2.50 and represents a 12% increase in the Band D precept charge.

Proposed by Cllr Frisk and seconded by Cllr Knight.

11. WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

The Clerk has made enquiries with the current website host, Then Media, about whether the current website can be renamed to end in gov.uk. They have advised that there are a number of guidelines / criteria that need to be fulfilled for them to become an accredited provider of gov.uk websites.

Then Media have fulfilled the required criteria but have not been able to contact anyone at gov.uk to progress the process. They do not see any reason why they will not be appointed as an accredited provider for gov.uk websites. Currently, it is only advisory for PC's to have a gov.uk website; however in time it is likely to be compulsory.

12. PLANNING UPDATE

See the Planning Applications register attached for details of all applications received. CEC has recently installed new cloud based system to view and comment on planning applications which is not fully up and running yet.

13. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

13.1 Report:-

Cllr Hastings advised that John Jones has carried out maintenance in the village including repairs to the bus shelter and he is to repair the Cholmondeley Lane noticeboard as it is leaking. He had only done 1/2 hour repairing the bus shelter so the Council agreed to pay him for that when he does the reroofing of the shelter and the notice board.

13.2 Noticeboard:-

Cllr Leonard advised the cost to replace the Perspex in the Cholmondeley noticeboard. He agreed to make arrangements to purchase and install the Perspex.

14. PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Clerk circulated costings for goalposts and for balance beams (to be funded from CIL funds). The Clerk is to contact NetWorld for advice on installation , size of the goal / rugby posts. The Council agreed to set up a working party to look into the requirements and progress the work. Cllrs Weddell and Wright agreed to be on the working party.

Resolved:- The Council agreed in principle to spending up to £2,000.00 of CIL money on a set of new goal / rugby posts.

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Leonard.

15. DEFIBRILLATORS

15.1 Ridley:-

Cllr Frisk updated the meeting regarding installing a defibrillator on an external wall at Skip Brown Motors on the A49. The Clerk is to write a letter to explain what is involved and to formally request permission.

The Clerk has applied to London Hearts, this is the Government funded scheme which pays 50% of a new defibrillator and external cabinet. The cost to the Council would be £750.00.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to the following:-

- To write to Skip Brown Motors to explain what is involved and to formally request permission.
- To contact Barlows to request a quote to install the defibrillator and external cabinet.
- To accept the offer by London Hearts to pay £750.00 for a new defibrillator and external cabinet.

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Knight.

15.2 **Bulkeley:-**

First Responders have advised that the AED is still working but it need new pads and a charge stick. The current model of AED was discontinued in 2019, but will be supported until 2027, however the advice is to start thinking about replacing it.

The Clerk has applied to the British Hearts Foundation for funding to replace the defibrillator. British Hearts Foundation has replied to advise that the Council is ineligible for the scheme as they do not fund replacement defibrillators.

The Clerk has contacted CEC for information on other schemes to apply for a defibrillator and also to First Responders for advice on purchase of a new model.

15.3 **Phone Box:-**

Cllr Hastings advised that the phone box needs to be repainted and the light bulb replaced as it is not working.

The Clerk is to make enquiries regarding the paint as BT used to have specific paint requirements.

16. **HIGHWAYS**

See item 5 for updates.

17. **BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Frisk updated the meeting about the refurbished kitchen, the various events which are going from strength to strength and the caravan club bookings.

18. **CLERKS REPORT**

There was no consideration of this item.

19. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The list was previously circulated.

Cllr Hastings mentioned that the Council may wish to do something to commemorate VE Day next year.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 11th February 2025

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