

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM
ON TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025**

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

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Maire Gibson

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. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Resolved:- That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2024.

Proposed by Cllr Frisk and seconded by Cllr Knight.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Speed limit on Mill Lane:-

Cllr Jordan recently met with representatives from CEC Highways, the police and the Ward Cllr James Pearson to discuss several issues including the request to reduce the speed limit to 30 MPH.

CEC is due carry out a traffic survey later this month on Mill Lane.

5.2 Speeding Concerns:-

At the site meeting, it was discussed what could be done to enforce the current 40 MPH speed limit on the A534 through the village of Bulkeley. A request has been made for additional police enforcement and “polite” signs to request drivers to drive slowly.

Other suggestions discussed included having a solid white line opposite the junction with Mill Lane (this would not be possible due to government guidelines) and installing a zebra crossing.

It is hoped that when the next Tagmaster exercise is carried out the data can provide evidence to support the request that CEC carry out further actions to help try and reduce speeding.

The Clerk is to contact Spurstow Parish Council to request a loan of their flashing speed sign.

The Clerk is to contact the insurance company regarding volunteers carrying out tasks in the village (e.g. cleaning road signs)

5.3 Ditch at the Playing Fields:-

The Flood Risk Management department at Cheshire East Highways have responded regarding the ditch to advise that they have reviewed the flood risk data and mapping for

the area and there is a small area of flooding anticipated to southeast corner of the playing field during periods of heavy rainfall.

In terms of what action CEC's Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) could take with regards to the adjacent landowner, would be minimal as there is no apparent risk to homes or businesses from flooding. However, they advised that the Parish Council may wish to write to the landowners again and advise them of their riparian responsibility to maintain all watercourses, including ditches, that fall within or adjacent to their curtilage.

Maintaining watercourses is a legal requirement under the Land Drainage Act 1991.

The landowner has not responded to letters the Parish Council has sent regarding the issue.

The Council discussed the locations of the culvert and possible blockage; whether the water is flowing; the need to dig out the current ditches to help relieve the flooding (this is the responsibility of the land owner of the field that is next to the playing field); how to locate the source of the problem.

It was agreed to seek professional advice and report back to the May meeting with a plan of action.

5.4 Councillors Contact Details:-

The names and contact phone numbers of parish councillors are to be put on the parish noticeboards (these are already on the website).

5.5 Defibrillator Training:-

CEC is offering free training in Nantwich for the month of February; the Clerk is to post the information on the Council's Facebook page.

6. POLICE CLUSTER MEETING

Cllr Hastings and Frisk attended the recent police cluster meeting. Details of incidents in the ward were shared with Councillors.

The Clerk is to contact the PCSO to request for a monthly report to be shared.

Cllr Hastings advised that she had spoken with the PCSO to advise that the Council was disappointed that the recent Tagmaster session was sited in Bickerton and not in Bulkeley. It has been requested that another session take place using the Tagmaster and carried out in the village of Bulkeley.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT: -

7.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-

Chq No	Reason	Amount
363	Running Costs	£ 30.08
364	John Jones	£ 30.00
365	Bickerton Village Hall (room hire)	£ 30.00
366	DONATION: First Responders	£100.00
367	DONATION: North West Air Ambulance	£100.00
368	HMRC (quarter 4)	£ 4.00

7.2 Accounts:-

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 31/12/24:- £ 9,670.34

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

Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Frisk.

7.3 Budget to Date:-

The Council received and noted the budget to date figures as at 31st December 2024.

7.4 Bank Signatories:-

Nat West has written to confirm that Cllr Leonard has been added as a new bank signatory.

8. **PLANNING UPDATE**

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

9. **PLAY EQUIPMENT**

9.1 Update:-

Outdoor Games:- The Council discussed purchasing a community storage box to store outdoor games at the playing field. A working party made up of Cllrs Frisk, Wright, Weddell and Latham are to look into costings and report back at the May meeting.

Boot Camp:- Cllr Frisk informed the meeting of the boot camp sessions that take place at the playing field which are well attended by all ages and abilities. He suggested that the Council purchase a metal box (similar to a bike storage shed / box) to contain the equipment that is used at the boot camp.

Cllr Frisk is to prepare a list of the costings for a storage box and any equipment which is to be considered by the Council at the May meeting (it is hoped that some equipment will be donated).

9.2 Equipment:-

Cllr Frisk informed the meeting of a scheme whereby the Council can apply for a lottery grant for adult and children exercise equipment for the Playing Field. The grant application is prepared by a company called Finding Fitness on behalf of the Council; the Council then submits the application to the National Lottery; should the application be successful the grant is used to instruct and pay Finding Fitness to carry out the installation of the equipment.

The Council is to contact residents to request their support which will be used to help support the application.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to instruct Finding Fitness to prepare a grant application for lottery funding towards a Ninja Trail at the playing fields.

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Latham.

9.3 Football Nets:-

Cllr Wright circulated details of football nets.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to purchase a set of goalposts for £580.00 (delivery £80.00) plus VAT.

Proposed by Cllr Frisk and seconded by Cllr Gibson.

10. **DEFIBRILLATORS**

10.1 Ridley:-

The Clerk has written to Skip Brown Motors to explain what is involved and to formally request permission. A permission form is to be sent for them to sign.

The Clerk had applied to London Hearts, this is the Government funded scheme which pays 50% of a new defibrillator and external cabinet, but been advised that the funding has now been withdrawn.

Once permission has been granted the Clerk will seek alternative funding and apply to purchase a defibrillator and an external heated cabinet.

10.2 Bulkeley:-

The Council discussed concerns about the poor current ambulance response times for the parish and the population demographics.

The current model of defibrillator was discontinued in 2019. It will be supported until 2027. It is currently out of warranty and requires replacement pads and battery.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to purchase replacement pads and a battery at an approximate cost of £200.00. The defibrillator will then be re-registered with Circuit with Cllr Wright as the main guardian.

Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Jordan.

11. **HIGHWAYS**

11.1 Speed Control:-

See items 5.1 and 5.2 for details of the recent site meeting with CEC Highways, the police and Ward Cllr James Pearson to discuss several Highways issues affecting the village.

It was agreed that the Council needs to prepare a short / medium / long term plan. Cllr Wright provided updates for several highways issues he has reported to CEC including repairing / replacing / cleaning various damaged signs.

11.2 Road Safety:-

See items 5.1 and 5.2 for update.

12. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

- The Perspex in the Cholmondeley noticeboard has been replaced.
- Concerns were raised regarding litter in the village when the bin collection moves from fortnightly to every three weeks.

13. **VE DAY**

The Council discussed what to do to commemorate VE Day in May.

It was agreed to put something on the village WhatsApp groups so as to gauge interest about having a village event.

14. **BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Frisk updated the meeting about the caravan club bookings, the first car boot sale, regular film nights, village quiz nights and the several clubs who use the hall.

15. **CLERKS REPORT**

There was no consideration of this item.

16. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The list was previously circulated.

PART 2

Resolved:- The Council agreed to exclude press and members of the public to consider employment contracts.

Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Latham.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 13th May 2025