

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

**Present:** - Councillors Idina Hastings, Mike Dixon, Jane McRae, James Weddell, Mike Hassall, Peter Groves, Jonathan Knight, James Rutter.  
CEC Cllr Stan Davies. Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk). One member of the public attended part of the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor Sue Dixon, Linda Gaden.

2. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

All Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman welcomed new Councillors McRae and Rutter.

David Edwards did not stand for election, the Chairman thanked him for his term on the Council.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

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

None were declared.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**Resolved:-** It was proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Knight that Cllr Hastings be elected as Chairman for 2019 - 20. The Chairman duly signed the Acceptance of Office.

5. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

**Resolved:-** It was proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Weddell that Cllr Groves be elected as Vice Chairman for 2019 - 20. The Vice Chairman duly signed the Acceptance of Office.

6. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

See attachment for Chairman's Report.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

Bickerton Burial Board Representatives:-

Cllrs Groves and Hastings

Association of Parish Councils Representatives:-

Cllrs Hastings and Cllr M Dixon

Bank Signatories:-

Cllr Hastings, Cllr Groves and Cllr S Dixon and  
The Clerk, Ruth Shackleton

**Resolved:-** That the Council agree to the above appointments. Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr Knight.

8. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Resolved:-** That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Proposed by Cllr Groves and seconded by Cllr M Dixon.

9. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The grass was cut at the play area at Easter. There has been a further cut.

10. **OPEN FORUM**

Mr Peter McCleave spoke to the meeting regarding the poor broadband signal in Ridley. He has explored every avenue for help to improve the service. Open Reach have advised it would cost approximately £4,000 for each household in the immediate vicinity to upgrade and provide a better broadband service for him and his neighbours. He asked if the Council could do anything further to help. Councillors understand the problem but there is very little else they can do as a

body that hasn't already been done, there were a couple of alternative suggestions that residents affected may wish to explore.

#### 11. **POLICING**

##### Report from the Police Cluster Meeting:-

Cllr Hastings attended the police cluster meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

A total of 69 offences had been recorded in the period 1st January to 31st March 2019. The vast majority of these were public order (23) and violence against the person (24). Three burglary, 7 criminal damage, two 'other' offences, 2 robbery, 1 sexual, 2 theft/stolen goods and 5 vehicles. There was no data of anti-social behaviour and road traffic accidents were available because the computer system installed over a year ago is still not working properly.

Wrenbury had the most incidents. Peckforton Castle was the site of 3 incidences of violence and public order. No crimes of any description were recorded in Bulkeley and Ridley.

The police handed out new posters with their contact details and also posters about a Dementia Action Day to be held at Nantwich Civic Hall on Monday 20th May.

#### 12. **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**Resolved:-** That the Council confirm the appointment of Ruth Shackleton as Responsible Financial Officer. Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Groves.

#### 13. **INTERNAL PROCEDURES**

To confirm adoption of the following (as circulated):-

- Code of Conduct
- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Risk Assessment

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

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

Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Knight.

#### 14. **ANNUAL AUDIT**

##### 14.1 To agree to appoint Richard Salmon to carry out the internal audit:-

**Resolved:-** That the Council agree to appoint Richard Salmon to carry out the internal audit. The Council received the Internal Auditors report which states that the internal auditor was satisfied there are no matters arising for concern.

Proposed by Cllr Hassall and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

##### 14.2 To accept and approve the Annual Governance Statement:-

- **Resolved:-** That the Council agree to approve the Annual Governance Statement. Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

##### 14.3 To accept and approve the Risk Assessment:-

- **Resolved:-** That the Council agree to approve the Risk Assessment. Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Groves.

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

- **Resolved:-** That the Council agree to approve the Annual Return. As the gross income and expenditure is less than £25,000 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.

15. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

15.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-

The Council approved the following payments:-

Chq No	Date	Reason	Amount
241	14/05/19	Running Costs	£ 72.96
242	14/05/19	Bickerton Village Hall (Room Hire)	£ 27.50
243	14/05/19	Signmaster (website costs)	£ 72.00
244	14/05/19	Richard Salmon (Internal Audit)	£ 40.00
245	14/05/19	CHALC (Annual Subs)	£ 115.92
243	14/05/19	Clean Up day costs (reimburse J Weddell)	£ 71.78
244	14/05/19	Zurich Insurance	£ 191.59
245	14/05/19	J Jones – Village Maintenance	£ 45.00

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 12/04/19:- £4,046.36

**Resolved:-** The above payments were proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Weddell.

15.2 Receipts:-

Precept received:- £2,003.50

15.3 VAT Return:-

The VAT return is due to be submitted to HMRC for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

16. **PLANNING UPDATE**

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

Cllrs M Dixon and Gaden are due to represent the Council at the planning committee when they consider the Mill Lane planning application. CEC Cllr Stan Davies is to follow up the revised plans which were due to be submitted.

17. **HIGHWAYS**

17.1 Accidents on A49 / A534 at Ridley:- Cllr M Dixon informed the meeting that there are to be no changes at the junction of the A49 and A534.

17.2 Speed Limit on Mill Lane:- The Council agreed to write to CEC to support a speed limit on Mill Lane to 40 mph. Concerns were raised regarding limited visibility when exiting Mill Lane.

18. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

John Jones has carried out 3 hours of work. Residents at Bulkeley Grange Farm have helped litter picking in the layby. Cllr McRae offered her husband's services to trim the grass at Mill Lane. The Clerk is to clarify the insurance implications.

19. **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION**

Cllr M Dixon expressed disappointment that the Council did not enter this year's Best Kept Village Competition. There were mixed feelings about entering the competition. Cllr McRae offered to co-ordinate future village clean ups.

20. **BROADBAND IN RIDLEY**

See Open Forum.

21. **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

There was no consideration of this item.

22. **FACEBOOK PAGE**

The Facebook page is now up and running, it is hoped to increase the number of residents following the page.

23. **BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding the finances of BVH and forthcoming events.

24. **DOG WASTE BIN ON STONEHOUSE LANE**

The Council has received a letter from a school pupil living locally regarding a project about dog waste bags left on Bulkeley Hill. The pupil has contacted MP, Antoinette Sandbach, who helped contact local councils to ask if dog waste bins could be put on Coppermine Lane and Stonehouse Lane to give people somewhere to throw their waste bags away. Cheshire East Council have since advised that Bickerton and Egerton Parish Council will be putting a bin on Coppermine Lane with Cheshire East Council's help. The request is for the Council to consider putting a bin on Stonehouse Lane where the cars park.

Cllr Weddell has looked into the matter and informed the meeting that Cheshire East Council are willing to install the litter bin and to collect refuse from the litter bin providing the Parish Council purchase the litter bin.

**Resolved:-** That the Council contact the National Trust to request a contribution to the cost of the litter bin and the Parish Council agreed to pay half the cost of the bin. Proposed by Cllr Hastings and seconded by Cllr Weddell.

25. **FOOTBALL POSTS FOR VILLAGE FIELD**

Cllr Weddell updated the meeting about the goal posts and the proposed purchase of the new UPVC goal post and net.

26. **CLERKS REPORT**

Nothing further to report.

27. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The list of correspondence received has been distributed to councillors.

Letters of thanks have been received from Tattenhall First Responders and North West Air Ambulance for the recent donations by the Council.

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

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

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

**Website:- [www.bulkeleyandridleypc.org.uk](http://www.bulkeleyandridleypc.org.uk)**