

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM
ON TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

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

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Peter Groves, Mike Hassall.

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 23rd May 2023.

Proposed by Cllr McRae and seconded by Cllr Knight.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Farm Tenancy:- Cllr Hastings advised that she has been in contact with CEC regarding the issue raised at the May meeting.

5.2 Ditch at the Playing Field:- Cllr McRae advised they have tried to contact the owner of the neighbouring field to try and resolve the flooding. The Council are to write a letter to the land owner regarding the matter.

5.3 Brassey Stones:- Cllr Hastings informed the meeting that John Jones has now carried out the work to the stones.

6. CEC CODE OF CONDUCT

Resolved:- That the Council agree to confirm adoption of the new CEC Code of Conduct.

Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Weddell.

7. CASUAL VACANCY

Resolved:- That the Council agree to co-opt Tom Leonard. The forms are to be sent to him to sign.

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Frisk.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT: -

8.1 Cheshire Community Action:-

Resolved:- That the Council agree to renew the Cheshire Community Action membership.

Proposed by Cllr McRae and seconded by Cllr Gibson.

8.2 To accept and approve the following payments:-

Chq No	Date	Reason	Amount
334	12/09/23	Running Costs	£ 58.02
334	12/09/23	Then Media (website)	£ 288.00
336	12/09/23	CHALC – training	£ 25.00
337	12/09/23	Bickerton Village Hall (room hire)	£ 30.00
338	12/09/23	Village Maintenance	£ 15.00
339	12/09/23	Cheshire Community Action	£ 20.00

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

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

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Hastings.

8.2 Accounts:

Reconciled balance at bank as at 31/07/23:- £9,061.65

Receipts:-

Precept:- £2,176.50

8.4 Budget to Date:-

The Council received and noted the budget to date figures as at 30th June 2023.

9. **ANNUAL AUDIT**

The AGAR for 2022-23 has been returned to the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn.

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities the Council has published the following documents on the website:-

- (i) Certificate of Exemption (page 3 of the AGAR);
- (ii) Annual Internal Audit Report 2022 – 23 (page 4 of the AGAR);
- (iii) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022 - 23 (page 5 of the AGAR);
- (iv) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022 – 23 (page 6 of the AGAR);
- (v) Analysis of Variances;
- (vi) Bank Reconciliation;
- (vii) Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2) Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn, has sent an automated message to notify the Council that the AGAR has been received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31st March 2023.

10. **PLANNING UPDATE**

The Council noted the Planning Applications register.

11. **PLAY EQUIPMENT**

11.1 Finance:-

The Clerk met with United Utilities to discuss the possibility of United Utilities providing play equipment at the playing field. They are considering the request and will advise in due course. There are a number of options to obtain match funding to pay for new play equipment (e.g. Lottery; Members Budgets, Crowd Funding, various organisations etc).

The Council are to meet a representative from CEC Highways to discuss suitable locations and what is involved to install a SID in Bulkeley and a defibrillator in Ridley; the Council are also looking to replace the defibrillator in Bulkeley.

Once costings have been obtained for all the projects (e.g. play equipment, new defibrillator in Ridley, replacement defibrillator in Bulkeley and SIDS) then the Council are to consider which funding to apply for.

11.2 Purchase:-

See item 11.1 for update.

11.3 Location:-

See item 11.1 for update.

12. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Cllr Hastings advised that John Jones has carried out maintenance in the village over the summer months.

13. DEFIBRILLATORS

13.1 Ridley:-

See item 11.1 for update regarding meeting with CEC Highways to discuss location for the proposed defibrillator in Ridley

13.2 Funding:-

See item 11.1 for update.

14. HIGHWAYS

CEC Highways has replied regarding what is required to install a solar sign.

The Clerk are to arrange a site meeting with CEC Highways to discuss a suitable location for solar signs; the Council are also to discuss what can be done to improve the road surface at the school bus drop off site in Ridley.

The Clerk is to contact the Ward Councillor to request for his support.

15. BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding the recent very successful art exhibition that took place.

16. D DAY ANNIVERSARY JUNE 2024

Cllr Hastings discussed how to mark the D Day 80th Anniversary in June 2024.

17. DATES FOR 2024 MEETINGS

The Council agreed to hold their meetings on the following dates:-

Tuesday 13th February 2024

Tuesday 14th May 2024

Tuesday 10th September 2024

Tuesday 12th November 2024

The Clerk is to make the bookings with Bickerton Village Hall.

18. CLERKS REPORT

Nothing further to report.

19. CORRESPONDENCE

Previously circulated.

20. NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 14th November 2023