

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM  
ON TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

**Present:** - Councillors Idina Hastings (Chairman), Mike Hassall, Jonathan Knight, Tom Leonard, Jane McRae, Sally Williamson, James Weddell.  
Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk).  
Two members of the public attended the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Councillor Richard Frisk, Maire Gibson, Peter Groves

**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 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Proposed by Cllr Williamson and seconded by Cllr Knight.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**5.1 Go Too Bus:-**

The Clerk has written to Go Too Bus regarding the locations where the bus stops and received a response to request which specific sites are required. Cllrs are to contact residents for suggestions which the Clerk will then forward onto Go Too Bus.

**5.2 Gulleys:-**

The Ward Cllr advised that previously gulleys were cleaned every two years; the frequency has now been changed depending on the location.

**5.3 Ditch:-**

There has been no further progress with contacting the landowner to request that they clear the portion of the drainage ditch that runs alongside the playing field. It now appears the problem could extend further back which has not been helped with the recent weather.

**6. FINANCIAL REPORT: -**

**6.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-**

<b>Chq No</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Amount</b>
345	Running Costs	£ 22.85
346	Bickerton Village Hall (room hire)	£ 30.00
347	North West Air ambulance	£100.00
348	First Responders	£100.00

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

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

Proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Hassall.

6.2 Accounts:

Reconciled balance at bank as at 31/12/23:- £9,304.32

Receipts:- £8.80

6.3 Budget to Date:-

The Council received and noted the budget to date figures as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

6.4 Internal Auditor:-

The Council agreed to appoint Jake Gurr to carry out the annual internal audit at a cost of £125.00 plus VAT.

7. **POLICE CLUSTER MEETING**

Cllr Hastings advised that the cluster meetings are due to take place soon.

8. **PLANNING UPDATE**

The Council noted the Planning Applications register.

9. **VILLAGE APPEARANCE**

Cllr Hastings informed the meeting of litter picking carried out by local residents; she has asked John Jones to keep an eye on the layby.

10. **PLAY EQUIPMENT**

United Utilities have written to advise that they have been reviewing various community opportunities identified to date and by way of a short update, the availability of projects funds associated to community projects will not be fully allocated until the latter end of the project. This unfortunately means at this current moment the project does not have the capability to commit to larger community investments such as the playing fields, based on the quotes provided.

As their project develops across Cheshire and Merseyside they hope to be in a position later in the project to support the Parish council, however the level of commitment cannot be confirmed at this stage.

Cllr Knight and the Clerk have met with Ward Councillor James Pearson to discuss the following (in order of priority):-

- (i) Defibrillators in both Bulkeley and in Ridley;
- (ii) Play equipment at the playing fields;
- (iii) SID equipment.

Ward Councillor Pearson is to find out whether there are any s106 monies available that could be used for new play equipment.

He suggested that the Council contact Guinness as they own properties opposite the site and also to liaise with CEC regarding grant funding opportunities. The Clerk is to look into this.

11. **DEFIBRILLATORS**

11.1 Ridley:-

Cllr Knight updated the meeting (Cllr Frisk followed up the suggested location of Skip Brown Cars as previously discussed); this will require agreement from the owners and a possible contribution towards the cost of the electricity supply used to power the heated cabinet.

Ward Cllr Pearson advised that there may be possible funding from BT Shropshire (SY postcode). He also suggested that the Council may be able to obtain electricity supply from existing street lighting / junction light. The Clerk is to follow this up.

11.2 **Bulkeley:-**

The defibrillator does not appear to be working. The Clerk is to contact First Responders and ask if they can look at it and, if it needs to be replaced, enquire about funding for a replacement defibrillator.

12. **HIGHWAYS**

12.1 **Flooding on A534:-**

CEC has responded to the resident regarding the issues with flooding on the A534.

12.2 **Speed camera:-**

The Ward Cllr advised that the police provide short terms loan of SID camera. There is no charge to the Council as they generate income from speeding vehicles.

The Clerk is to make enquiries with the police to loan a SID camera.

12.3 **Layby in Ridley:-**

The Clerk is to submit a request to CEC to improve the surface (this will establish who owns the land).

13. **BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Hastings updated the meeting regarding the committee and requested that a Cllr volunteers to represent the Council on the committee.

14. **D DAY ANNIVERSARY JUNE 2024**

The Council discussed arrangements to commemorate the D Day Anniversary and agreed to hold an informal village gathering at the playing field.

15. **CLERKS REPORT**

Nothing further to report.

16. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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 Hassall.

1. **REVIEW CLERKS SALARY FOR THE 2024 – 2025 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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