

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BULKELEY AND RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM
ON TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

Present: - Councillors

Idina Hastings (Chairman), Maire Gibson, Simon Jordan, Richard Latham, Tom Leonard, Jane McRae, Sally Williamson, James Weddell.

Mrs Ruth Shackleton (Clerk). One member of the public attended the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Richard Frisk, Cllr Jonathan Knight,
Cllr McRae announced she will be standing down as parish councillors after the meeting.

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 two vacancies; both have been advertised. CEC has confirmed that they have not received a request for an election therefore the Council can co-opt to fill the vacancies. A co-option notice has been posted to advertise the vacancies on the website, Facebook and the noticeboards.

Resolved:- That the Council agree to co-opt Simon Jordan and Richard Latham.

They both duly signed the acceptance of office

Proposed by Cllr Williamson and seconded by Cllr McRae.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Resolved:- That the Council approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2024.

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Leonard.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Bus Service:- The Council discussed concerns regarding the possible withdrawal of the bus service to Nantwich.

6.2 Go to Bus Service:- There was no response to the message that was sent to residents to submit requests for additional stops to be made by the Go to Bus service. A further message is to be sent.

6.3 Layby:- There is no update from Ward Cllr Pearson with regards to Highways and the layby.

6.4 S106:- Ward Cllr Pearson has sent a list of the available s106 monies in the ward – there is no funding available for the parishes of Bulkeley and Ridley.

6.5 D Day Commemorations:- The Council thanked Cllr McRae for organising the event.

7. INTERNAL PROCEDURES

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

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations

Proposed by Cllr Weddell and seconded by Cllr Leonard.

8. CHESHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION

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

Proposed by Cllr Williamson and seconded by Cllr Gibson.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT: -

9.1 To accept and approve the following payments:-

Chq No	Reason	Amount
354	Running Costs	£ 28.60
355	Bickerton Village Hall (room hire)	£ 30.00
356	Then Media Ltd (website)	£288.00
357	John Jones	£340.00
358	Cheshire Community Action membership	£ 20.00

9.2 Accounts:-

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Reconciled balance at bank as at 30/08/24:- £ 9,367.65

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

Proposed by Cllr Williamson and seconded by Cllr Leonard.

9.3 Budget to Date:-

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

9.4 External Audit:-

The AGAR for 2023-24 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 2023 – 24 (page 4 of the AGAR);
- (iii) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023 - 24 (page 5 of the AGAR);
- (iv) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023 – 24 (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 2024.

10. WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

The Council considered changing the domain and to set up new email accounts for the Council and Councillors to include gov.uk.

The Clerk is to make enquiries with the current website host about the whether the website can be renamed to end in gov.uk; any associated costs and to enquire about setting up individual email accounts for the clerk and councillors ending in gov.uk. Also to enquire about how strong the 'recommendation' is.

11. PLANNING UPDATE

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

12. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

12.1 Report:-

Cllr Hastings advised that John Jones has carried out maintenance in the village including repairs to the noticeboard; cutting the grass verges at the junctions and litter picking.

12.2 Noticeboard:-

Cllr Leonard is to look into costs to replace the Perspex in the Cholmondeley noticeboard.

13. **PLAY EQUIPMENT**

The Clerk is to obtain costings for ¾ size wooden goalposts and for balance beams – this is to be funded from CIL monies that the Council has to spend on village infrastructure.

14. **DEFIBRILLATORS**

14.1 Ridley:-

There is no further update from Cllr Frisk regarding siting a new defibrillator on the A49.

14.2 Bulkeley:-

First Responders have looked at the defibrillator and 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. A replacement AED will cost in the region of £1,100.00.

They suggested that the Council applies for funding - applications for a British Hearts Foundation funded defibrillator are due to reopen in September 2024.

Resolved:- The Council agreed for the Clerk to apply for funding from the British Hearts Foundation up to £1,000.00 and to inform the Council of the outcome and to pay to replace the existing defibrillator.

Proposed by Cllr McRae and seconded by Cllr Williamson.

15. **HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Hastings updated the Council about the regular Speedwatch sessions.

The Council agreed to the following actions:-

- The Clerk is to enquire about having the police speed van located in the village.
- The Clerk is to request a temporary VAS in the village.
- The Clerk is to enquire with Highways about having double white lines painted in the 40 mph zone in the village of Bulkeley.
- The Clerk is to enquire with Highways about having the speed limit on Mill Lane reduced to 30 MPH.

16. **BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Hastings reported the art exhibition successful was a great success; the kitchen has been refurbished.

17. **DATES FOR 2025 MEETINGS**

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

Tuesday 11th February 2025

Tuesday 13th May 2025

Tuesday 9th September 2025

Tuesday 11th November 2025

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

18. **CLERKS REPORT**

18.1 Ditch at Playing Field:- A letter has been sent to Lady Fiennes to request that she clears the ditch on her land as it is a health and safety hazard as it causes the ditch on the playing field to flood. To date, there has been no response. The Council is to report the issue to CEC and to send photographs.

19. **CORRESPONDENCE**

19.1 Previously circulated.

19.2 CEC Bin consultation:- Cllr Weddell spoke to the meeting regarding concerns about the potential reduction in black bin collection service from every two weeks to every three weeks. He is to send the representations he has made as an individual to CEC to the Clerk who will submit a representation on behalf of the Council to object to the possibility of a three week bin collection.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 12th November 2024.

Website:- www.bulkeleyandridley.org.uk