

## Minutes to be ratified at next Parish Council Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting of Rokeby, Brignall and Egglestone Abbey Parish Council held at 19.00 on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2024 in the Blue room of the Morrith Hotel, Greta Bridge.**

Present: Cllrs. S. Harrison (Chair), A. Watson, S. Hare, M. Alderson, P. Gilbertson, F. Errington,

C. Thornton and K. Gent

In attendance: D. Peat (Clerk), County Cllr. G. Richardson.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs. G. Sanderson, N. Hashagen, R. Errington
2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the May 2024 meeting were signed as correct by the Chair after proposing by Cllr. S. Harrison and seconding by Cllr. M. Alderson.

3. Matters arising.
  - The Clerk confirmed that she had circulated information from Susan Tron (Community Development Officer) regarding Rural Housing to Councillors and passed Mr. Salvin's email address to her. The Clerk had forwarded to Councillors Ms. Tron's correspondence with Mr Salvin which confirmed that the Mortham Estate welcomes opportunities to develop housing but already rents out a number of properties in the parish. The email from Mr Salvin indicated his view that Greta Bridge held the most promise for any Rural Housing Development. Ms Tron's communication also indicated that she would forward to the PC via the Clerk a report on Rural Housing in the region due to be published in December 2024.

On discussion it was agreed that the next steps should be to canvas parishioners regarding their views on Rural Housing Development in the parish. The Clerk agreed to contact Ms. Tron to ascertain how she might help with this.

- All agreed that the new bus stops in Greta Bridge were an excellent addition
- All agreed that the resurfacing of the road and pavements in Greta Bridge were a huge improvement. [The Clerk noted that she had put in requests to DCC regarding these over 2 years ago to give Councillors an idea of timescales.]

#### 4. Update on site visit to Brignall Road

With thanks to Cllr. G. Richardson a site visit to examine the state of the Brignall Road took place on Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup>. Present for the visit were Cllrs. R. and F. Errington, A. Watson, S. Hare and C. Thornton as well as Cllr. G. Richardson and Mr. Gary Sertees (Highways Superintendent Regeneration and Local Services)). It was recognised that Brignall Road does require some degree of repair but given the shortage of funding it is unlikely that significant work on the road surface will be undertaken before 2026 earliest. There was some discussion of additional patching of the road surface but as immediate steps forward remained unclear the Clerk agreed to email Mr. Sertees to thank him for his visit and clarify the way forward.

#### 5. Update on A66 dualling

The future of the dualling of the A66 is uncertain. Both Rishi Sunak (MP for Richmond) and Tim Farron (MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale) have written to the Prime Minister stressing the urgency and importance of the work. However, two judicial reviews are pending arguing firstly that the work is not value for money and secondly that the project would be ecologically damaging. Cllr. S. Hare

reported that in the meantime, however, meetings between contractors and landowners have resumed.

Given that Cllrs. unanimously support dualling of the A66 the Clerk agreed to contact the local MP Sam Rushworth to ask him to lobby the Prime Minister on our behalf as well as to identify other MPs for the length of the A66 and ask them to lobby the PM.

It is anticipated that a decision on the way forward will be known by the December PC meeting

#### 6. AOB

- The Clerk proposed small changes to the agenda proforma as follows:
  - The phone number to be revised to her mobile number as the landline is no longer operational
  - The room location to be left off the agenda as it is subject to last minute changes

Changes were unanimously agreed by Cllrs.

- Clerk requested a cheque to cover the auto-renewal on her credit card of the McAfee charge to cover the PC laptop. Payment was proposed by Cllr. K. Gent and seconded by Cllr. F. Errington and agreed unanimously. Cllr. Alderson, however, added that the price was rather high and recommended for next year that the cover was purchased from Amazon at a reduced cost.
- Cllr. Thornton said that although he had been routinely updating the PC website there were still some things that he was unable to do without some additional training. He asked that the PC covered him to undertake some training from Lisa Johnstone the creator and host of the website.  
Proposer Cllr. Gilbertson, Seconder Cllr. Harrison, unanimously agreed therefore Cllr. Thornton to go ahead and arrange the training.

Cllr. Hare noted that he was unaware of the PC website so Cllr. Thornton agreed to send him the link

Cllr. Harrison noted that he was having Go Fibre Broadband installed as part of their current rollout and would let colleagues know how efficient it was and how it compared with his current arrangements.

Cllr. Richardson noted that the Morrith Hotel had applied for planning permission for replacement of their external fire escape. Cllrs. felt that there was unlikely to be reason to object to such a planning application but the Clerk agreed she would be sending details on for consideration.

The meeting closed at 19.45

#### 7. Date of the next meeting

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 19.00 in the Morrith Arms, Greta Bridge, room to be advised on the night.