

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Rokeby, Brignall and Eggleston Abbey Parish Council held at 19.00 on Monday 12th May, 2025 in the Blue Room of the Morritt Hotel Greta Bridge

Present: Cllrs. S. Harrison (Chair), F. Errington, R. Errington, A. Watson, G. Sanderson, N. Hashagen, C. Thornton and S. Hare.

In Attendance: D. Peat (Clerk)

The chair welcomed the Clerk back after her period of absence and thanked Cllr. Thornton for his assistance during that time.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were noted from Cllr. M. Alderson, Cllr. P. Moss, Cllr. P. Gilbertson

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes were noted and agreed as correct. Proposed by Cllr. Harrison, seconded by Cllr. Thornton.

3. Election of Chairman

Cllr. R. Errington proposed that Cllr. Harrison should stand for a further year as Chair of the Parish Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Thornton and approved unanimously by all present. Cllr. Harrison agreed he was pleased to stand for a further year.

4. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr. C. Thornton proposed that Cllr. Watson should stand for a further year as Vice Chair of the Parish Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. F. Errington and agreed unanimously. Cllr. Watson agreed that he was pleased to stand for a further year.

5. Finance

The Clerk presented the Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025. The Parish Council was reported to have a total bank balance of £4144.99 over two accounts (£1793.73 in the Community Account and £2351.26 in the Savings account.) The accounts were duly noted and proposed for approval by Cllr. Harrison, seconded by Cllr. Thornton and unanimously approved by the Cllrs and signed as such by the Chair.

The Clerk explained that due to her recent hospitalisation the AGAR paperwork was not yet completed so an EGM would need to be called as soon as possible so that it could be presented to the Parish Council.

6. A.O.B

Acceptance of office paperwork was signed by each Councillor and witnessed by the Clerk

A discussion took place regarding a potential payment in lieu of a room booking payment (the Morritt Hotel does not charge the Parish Council). Mixed feelings were expressed regarding a payment to Brignall Church, reflecting a similar conversation at the 2024 PC AGM. It was agreed to investigate local charities and place a donation at a future date.

The meeting was followed immediately by the May meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes of the May Meeting of Rokeby, Brignall and Eggleston Abbey Parish Council held on Monday 12th May, 2025 in the Blue Room of the Morritt Hotel Greta Bridge

Present: Cllrs. S. Harrison (Chair), F. Errington, R. Errington, A. Watson, G. Sanderson, N. Hashagen, and S. Hare.

In Attendance: D. Peat (Clerk)

1. Apologies were noted from Cllr. M. Alderson, Cllr. P. Moss, Cllr. P. Gilbertson
2. The minutes of the March meeting of the PC were agreed as correct once Cllr. Thornton has corrected that Cllr. Hashagen was absent from the meeting.
3. Matters arising:
 - The state of Brignall Road. Cllr. Thornton has been in contact with the representative of the roads department who made a site visit last year (Mr Surtees) and Cllr. Thornton's name has now been put on file to be kept informed of progress. The suggestion was made that other councillors might like to put in complaints themselves as individual parishioners.

The Clerk agreed to contact Richard Bell as the new District Councillor and make him aware of the issues with the Brignall Road.

Depending on the response from Cllr. Bell the Clerk agreed to subsequently contact DCC quoting Reform UK's comments on potholes.

- Rural Affordable Housing – Cllr. Thornton has been in contact with Ms Tron who has more money to support local communities. She will organise a meeting with the PC soon regarding development of a questionnaire to establish local interest.
- Councillor vacancy – The Clerk agreed to arrange advertising to fill the vacant post for councillor to represent Rokeby.
- First Aid training – Cllr. Sanderson noted that there are first aid training sessions coming up in Newsham if they are of interest.
- Clerk's pay – It was noted that for the years 2022/23 and 2023/24 the Parish Clerk was paid the gross salary in error. This amounted to an overpayment of £652.80. It was additionally noted that for the years 2022/23 and 2023/24 the Clerk did not claim expenses owed to her amounting to £325.00

It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should repay £652.80 - £325.00= £327.80 to the Parish Council. This would be done with immediate effect.

It was also decided by the Parish Council that the Parish Clerk was due a pay rise. It would be raised to £1000 which would include expenses. Therefore, going forward in the coming year, the Parish Clerk would get a salary of £850 and £150 for expenses.

AOB

- Cllr. Watson informed the meeting that he had emailed the local MP regarding the dualling of the A66. The reply was that he (Mr Rushworth) was pushing for it and expected it to go ahead.

The meeting closed at 20.01

Date of next meeting: 19.00 on 13th October, 2025