

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm in the Blue Room at the Morritt.

### 1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr P Moss sends his apologies.

The Chairman welcomed and introduced new Councillor for the Rokeby Parish, Cllr Chris Thornton to the meeting.

### 2. Election of Chairman.

The Chairman stands down at this point and hands over to the clerk to proceed with this matter. The clerk asked if Cllr P Gilbertson would like to be re-elected as Chairman, Peter agreed to do another year, the clerk asked members are we all in favour, unanimously agreed and proposed by Cllr C Thornton and seconded by Cllr F Errington. The Chairman signed the Declaration acceptance of office form.

The clerk then asked all Councillors to sign their Declaration of office forms before we continue.

### 3. Election of Vice Chairman.

The Chairman asked Cllr S Harrison if he would like to continue as Vice Chairman, Cllr S Harrison agreed to do another year, all members unanimously agreed and proposed by Cllr C Thornton and seconded by Cllr J Hare.

### 4. Minutes from previous year and notes during 2020.

The minutes were sent out prior to this meeting the Chairman went through them and explained that due to covid restrictions we could not meet, but PC business carried on and matters dealt with accordingly. The Chairman asked Councillors do we agree with the minutes all agreed and they were proposed by the Vice Chairman and seconded by Cllr N Hashagen, the Chairman signed the minutes in the file.

### 5. Co-opt Councillors.

After the elections the PC was left with four vacancies Egglestone Abbey requires one member, Cllr N Hashagen said that Mrs Christine Greenwood of No:1 Abbey Cottages Egglestone Abbey would like to represent the Parish. The Chairman asked are we all agreeable, all agreed.

Rokeby Parish requires one member, the clerk contacted Mrs M Stead knowingly prior to this meeting that she would like to be co-opted back on to the Council, all members agreed and Mrs S Stead completed the Declaration of office form, the Chairman welcomed Mrs Stead back on to the PC.

Brignall Parish requires two Councillors, The Chairman asked the clerk to consider being Councillor now you are retiring from the clerk's position, the clerk accepted and Cllr F Errington proposed and Cllr S Harrison seconded. One position remains open and will be put onto the next agenda.

6. Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The clerk handed out copies of the accounts held in the account book, The Chairman asked all Councillors are we agreeable with the figures presented to us, all agreed and proposed by Cllr S Harrison and seconded by Cllr C Thornton, the Chairman signed the account book. The clerk told members that the PCs Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021 finance matters needs to be approved, all agreed the Chairman and clerk signed the forms, they will now be presented to the accountant Butler and Gee our internal auditor. Once completed and signed off they will be placed on the PCs website.

7. Highways England A66 Proposals.

The Chairman said that Sir Andrew Morritt and Willie Salvin have recently had a meeting with the Highways team, and it now seems likely that an underpass will now be proposed at Abbey lane junction (Eastergate) further consultations will be required.

The Vice Chairman who is representing the PC on the liaison group with the Highways said that the proposal for Cross lanes junction is still in the open, they have been doing all the surveying for the flyover but now they are looking at moving the proposed junction further West from Cross lanes to Scargill Junction and have Brignall road join up with Scargill road via a new link road, which is been surveyed at the moment. The route been looked at is through either Dent House Farm or Cross Lanes Farm land, they are unsure and keep changing their minds, until we see a set of proposed plans in detail on the table we can't really comment at this stage. At the next zoom meeting there might be more information.

The Chairman said he has concerns with Greta Bridge junction not be wide enough in the middle carriageway, once the new road is completed traffic will be traveling faster and it will become unsafe and they might close the gap, I know it is not on the Highways agenda but can it be mentioned at the zoom meeting, the Vice Chairman said he will mention this concern to them.

Cllr A Watson said we attended meetings at Darlington two years ago the information is slow coming through we all left our details at the meeting we should be emailed more frequently, because we will have to get the road junctions right for us not just the A66 traffic. The Vice Chairman said they will become more responsive when they have more positive details in the planning, I Hope!!

8. Community Defibs.

The Chairman asked for an update and asked who is looking after them? The clerk said that the people who kindly hosting them agreed to do a weekly check and send a monthly report to the NHS. They all seem to be running ok I haven't heard of any incidents, at some point later this year/next year the pads might need to be replaced if they are out of date. The PC will have to sort this out funding might be available we will have to enquire nearer the time.

9. Clerk's position.

The Chairman said that the clerk was meant to retire last year but due to covid lockdown this didn't happen. I would like to introduce you to Dr Deborah Peat who is

willing to take over from Robin if you are all agreeable, all Councillors agreed after a brief discussion. The present clerk will continue till the end of May 2021.

The Chairman thanked the present clerk for all the years' service to the community.

#### 10. AOB

Cllr A Watson reported a matter to the clerk last week about the retaining wall for the Arch Bridge at Greta Bridge, it is in need of pointing at various parts of the wall, if it receives attention now it will avoid major work at a later date, the clerk has reported this matter prior to this meeting.

Also, a matter regarding the Church rubbish bin at Brignall has been reported it needs the lid repairing or a new bin, DCC said they will come out and attend to it.

The clerk said that the correspondence for the PC was only bank statements, magazines and Butler & Gee letters, nothing else important.

The Chairman said do we have any other matters to report no reply.

Date for the next meeting was agreed to be 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm.

No further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm