

Minutes of the meeting of Rokeby, Brignall and Egglestone Abbey Parish Council held on 19th October at 19.00 in the Garden room of the Morrith Hotel, Great Bridge.

Present: Cllrs. P. Gilbertson (Chair), S. Harrison (Vice-Chair), R. Errington, J. Hare, N. Hashagen, C. Thornton.

In attendance: D. Peat (Clerk), W. Salvin, P. Coulton.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. A. Watson and F. Errington sent their apologies

2. Minutes of last meeting – the minutes were signed by the Chairman as correct.

3. Matters arising

- The Chairman thanked Cllr. R. Errington and Dr. D. Peat for the smooth handover of Clerk responsibilities.
- The Chairman agreed to write to Cllr. Moss to ask if he wanted to continue as Councillor
- It was noted that with the resignation of Cllr. Greenwood there were now two vacancies on the PC. It was agreed that the Clerk should advertise both via the Parish noticeboard and website with co-option of new members added to the agenda of the next PC meeting.
- The Clerk reported that she is in ongoing correspondence re the bin at Brignall Church and is persevering to resolve the matter

4. Correspondence

- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons. Cllrs were generally in favour of the proposal to have a beacon to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee in June 2022 and agreed to consider additional information to be distributed by the Clerk for discussion at a further meeting.
- Greta Bridge Bus Stop. The Clerk reported that the matter is currently with DCC and marked 'high priority'. Cllrs agreed to wait for further updates from Drs. C and R Jellis via the Clerk before taking further action.

5. Update on proposals for A66 upgrade

The Vice Chairman who is representing the PC on the Highways liaison group led a discussion around the proposed and 'officially preferred' black route for the A66 upgrade of the Rokeby and Cross Lanes Junctions. He described the extensive archaeological and environmental impact survey work that is currently being undertaken. Mr Salvin reported that he was very hopeful that plans for all routes would be fully explored and in particular that plans for an aspirational 'Blue 2' route would be drawn up and put to Historic England. Concern was expressed about the Brignall Road being used as a 'rat run' but this was thought to only be the case should the red route be pursued which is the least likely option.

Cllr Hare reported that a strong case was being presented for an amendment to the Cross Lanes junction moving the local access road from the south to the north of the shop and café to reduce the negative impact on his family's land.

The Cllrs agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk would meet to compose a submission to the statutory consultation expressing the massive impact of the development on the parishes but the diverse interests represented. It was agreed that Peter Coverdale would be asked to contribute to the statement which would be circulated for comment before submission.

6. Parish Website – It was noted that Cllr. Thornton has undertaken significant updating to the website working closely with the Clerk. However, there are certain aspects that he is unable to

update without training. Cllrs. therefore agreed to pay Lisa Johnstone who hosts the website £25 for a training session for Cllr. Thornton. The Chairman noted that his postcode is incorrect so Cllr. Thornton agreed to correct this.

7. Defibrillators. Cllrs. agreed that all three defibrillators should be linked to the North East Ambulance Service Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust. Mr Salvin reported that he was pretty certain that the one in the estate office already was but Cllr. Thornton agreed to follow this up with the Morrill and Cross Lanes. Refresher training on the use of defibrillators was considered to be a good idea but no decision was made on organising it.
8. Overhanging trees. Discussion was postponed to the next meeting in the absence of Cllr. Watson
9. Update on Bank Mandate. The change of the bank mandate was reported to have been problematic with both the Chairman and Vice Chairman having to go into the bank in the town to sort queries and the Clerk having to make numerous visits and phone calls. It is hoped that it is close to being resolved.
10. Parish Clerk remuneration. Cllr. Thornton declared an interest and declined to comment on the discussion. The Clerk reported that she is paid monthly which was a change to the previous Clerk who was paid annually. This change was retrospectively approved by the Cllrs. It was agreed that the Clerk's remuneration would remain unchanged for the time being but that Cllr. R. Errington would check the national Clerk pay scales and send them to the Chairman; the Clerk would contact Butler and Gee for confirmation of her gross annual pay and the item would be discussed again on the agenda for the next meeting.
11. Winter Road Preparations – salt bins. The Clerk agreed to check the bin in Greta Bridge otherwise all bins were reported to be okay.
12. A.O.B
 - The Clerk agreed to report that the footpath sign next to Brookside needs to be repositioned to point in the correct direction as the style is on the right side of the house not to the left
 - The Clerk agreed to report the bad condition of the tarmac on the Brignall Road between Birkhall Farm and Moorhouse Lane and also between the A66 and the bridge in Greta Bridge.
 - Cllrs. agreed to the payment of £188.22 to the Clerk to cover the annual fee for McFee (laptop security) and Butler and Gee charges for June – October.

Date of next meeting: December 14th, Garden Room, Morrill Hotel.