

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 12th December 2022 in the Blue room of the Morritt Hotel, Greta Bridge.

Present: Cllrs. P. Gilbertson (Chair), F. Errington, S. Harrison, A. Watson., J. Hare, P. Moss, N. Hashagen, G. Sanderson, C. Thornton, M. Alderson

In attendance: D. Peat (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence Cllrs R. Errington, M. Stead,
2. Minutes of last meetings.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2022 were signed as correct by the Chairman after proposing by Cllr. Hare and seconding by Cllr. Thornton.

3. Matters arising.

The Chairman reported that planning permission had now been granted for changes to the shoot room meaning that it was available going forward for use.

It was confirmed that repairs had been made to Moorhouse Road through Brignall

It was noted that discussions earlier in the year regarding a bench / benches to mark the occasion of the late Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee had confirmed that due to practical constraints any purchase would not take place.

4. A66 Speeding Update

Speed monitoring is ongoing along the A66 between the Cross Lanes and Rokeby junctions with vehicles having been seen to be in operation over the week prior to the PC meeting. It is apparent that the stretch of A66 through the parish is low on the priority for updating / dualling with more straight-forward stretches being prioritised for when work is due to start in 2024. These sections are understood to include that past Mainsgill Farm shop.

5. Consultation on Boundary Changes

Cllrs were reminded about the consultation on changes to the parliamentary constituency of Bishop Auckland which is now closed. The purpose of the proposed changes to all constituencies is to ensure that each MP represents a roughly equal number of electors (between 69,724 and 77,062). A report on the changes will be available by 1st July 2023. The significant changes for Bishop Auckland constituency include the proposed inclusion of Crook, Tow Law and Weardale as the constituency of West Durham is proposed to be disbanded and that of Sedgefield renamed. Final recommendations for the new constituency will come into effect at the next general election.

6. Precept

After discussion it was decided to leave the precept unchanged for the forthcoming year.

7. Discussion of closer links between PC and local church

The chairman led a discussion as to whether it was desirable for the PC to forge closer links with St. Mary's Church in Brignall including providing additional financial support to the church. Cllr. Watson proposed that it was inappropriate to align local politics with religion but rather it was up to

individuals within the parish to choose to support the church. Cllr. Thornton agreed and by majority decision Cllrs agreed that additional financial support for the church was inappropriate. Cllr. Hare thanked the Chairman for bringing up the subject for discussion.

8. AOB

It was unanimously agreed that a low cost event to mark the occasion of the King's coronation was a good idea. Cllr. Sanderson agreed to lead on behalf of the PC and the Clerk agreed to support.

The Clerk agreed to follow up with Drs. C and R Jellis regarding progress with the bus stop in Greta Bridge

Cllr. Thornton agreed to check whether or not the defibrillators are on the circuit as notifications are not being received when they are used.

The Clerk agreed to report the sinking of the road outside the Morrith Arms which occurred after the laying of a cable.

Date of next meeting : Monday 6th March 2023 at 19.00 at the Morrith Hotel.

The meeting closed at 20.00