

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 15th May, 2024 in the Blue room of the Morritt Hotel, Greta Bridge.

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

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

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs. C. Thornton and K. Gent.
2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the March 2024 were signed as correct by the Chair after proposing by Cllr. R. Errington, and seconding by Cllr. F. Errington

3. Matters arising.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Darlington Cycle Club to request support with reporting the terrible state of Brignall Road to DCC but without response. The road surface is not improved and County Councillor G. Richardson agreed to make representation on behalf of the PC if the Clerk emailed him to that effect.

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Dr. R. Gellis mentioning that since the start of the holiday period she had had a number of visitors, presumably staying at Thorpe Farm caravan site, knocking on her door to ask about the whereabouts of the bus stop for the number 79 bus to Richmond. Cllr. Richardson agreed to pursue this again if the Clerk reminded him by email.

The sign on the A66 directing traffic to Penrith incorrectly via Greta Bridge was once again mentioned and the Clerk agreed to pursue.

4. Rural Housing – Susan Tron, Community Development Officer, Durham Community Action.

Ms Susan Tron gave a short presentation on Rural Housing explaining that her position was funded by Defra until March 2025 and that Rural Houses were 'local homes for local people'. Local people being those with a proven connection to the parish. Housing would typically be built as very small developments of less than 20 units (in a case like our Parish significantly less) and could be built on what are known as rural exception sites; that is sites that would not normally get planning permission. Any homes would be 'locked in for perpetuity' as rural housing and are thus more likely to be for rent than for sale. Could be starter homes for young families or accessible homes for older people and typically at 80% of normal market rents.

The next step is to find out if there is a need within the parish by undertaking a housing needs survey which is something which Susan would help with, if the PC felt it was something they wanted to pursue.

Cllrs. explained that much of the local land was owned by the Mortham Estate so the Clerk agreed to send Ms Tron the email address of the land agent.

Ms Tron also agreed to email the Clerk some additional information for forwarding to all Councillors.

5. AOB

Cllr. Sanderson mentioned the community event for locals that her and her partner were hosting on the afternoon / evening of 26th May – all locals welcome but please bring something to share as part of the refreshments. A raffle will be held with all monies going to MacMillan Cancer Relief. Please Contact Gemma or Eddie for further details.

The meeting closed at 20.10

6. Date of the next meeting

Monday 21st October at 19.00 in the Garden Room of the Morritt Arms, Greta Bridge

