

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2018

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: L. Johnstone (Chair) M. Charge (from item 4)
J. Coomer S. Platten (From item 7)
S. Hannan R. Roff
L. Britton A. Smith
Clerk: Martin Clark

Visitors: L. Oxley, Teesdale Mercury.

Public Participation:

No members of the public present.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None

3. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2018 & FINANCE MEETING ON THE SAME DATE:

RESOLVED: The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 8 January 2018 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Coomer and seconded by Cllr Hannan

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Finance meeting held on the 8 January 2018 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Hannan and seconded by Cllr Coomer

4. CHAIRS REPORT:

Cllr Johnstone gave a verbal report:

Parish News report

Met with the Clerk to discuss ongoing issues

Met with representatives of Trees for Tees

Helped facilitate planting of new trees where felling had taken place

Garage handed back

A resident asked if the council could look at the walkway beside the football pitch towards the cemetery. Could this be improved to make walking better as it was muddy

Members discussed the idea and agreed the Clerk would look into the costs to the council of improving the footway using plainings/gravel. It was noted that in the winter all paths off the

highway are generally muddy. **Action:** Clerk
Another resident had approached the Chair with an issue of a dog foul bin in Academy Gardens. **Action:** The Clerk will talk to DCC

5. PROGRESS REPORT:

The Clerk went through the report issued with the agenda
The quote for work to remove old trees and bushes on the verge from the gateway to the St Peter's bus stop was discussed. The cost using stump killer overtime was £120 (plus vat). To have the stumps ground down below ground level would be an additional £210 (plus vat). The roots could not be mechanically removed due to concerns over possible damage to the wall. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Roff to move forward with the work and to grind the stumps below ground level.

RESOLVED: The Progress Report was noted.

6. REPORT TO MEMBERS ON THE IMPACT AND POLICIES ON SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES:

A discussion took place on the report issued with the agenda. Members took into account the policies of Durham County as the body responsible for highways; the location issues; costs involved; data from the recent traffic survey, and the need to explore other options. It was accepted there were members of the community who would like to see a permanent visor in place.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Smith the council accept the recommendation in the report and look to assist in re-establishing a Community Speed watch (CSW) pool of volunteers. It was also proposed that when the group has been established and operational for 6 months to a year, that data collected on speeds is used to enable the council to potentially revisit the permanent visor issue. Seconded by Cllr Roff

It was noted the report made reference to 'smiley face' signs at Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent. Only Low Coniscliffe has this type of signage.

The report refers to setting up a CSW but the village did have one some years ago unknown to the Clerk

7. LOCAL MAINTENANCE:

Cllr Charge reported School Lane down toward the cemetery was as muddy/overgrown.

Action: Clerk to discuss with DCC

Cllr Smith referred to the invasive weed Ragwort which has been identified on pieces of land within the village. As the weed is toxic to humans and animals he asked if matters could be reported. **Action:** The Clerk will discuss with agencies who deal with these matters.

8. FINANCE REPORT:

8.1 To approve the February Financial Report and invoices requiring payment.

Additional invoices requiring payment received post report issue:

SE Landscaping

£48.00

RESOLVED: The February Financial Report and invoices for payment was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Coomer.

8.2 Small Grant Applications: Gainford Scouts and Gainford CE School

The amount requested from the Scouts was £2000 (roof repairs) and the school any contribution towards the project costs of £1200 (Science Enrichment Week)

The Clerk advised members that the Small Grant Fund for 2017/18 remained at £350.

Discussions had with the scouts it was the Community Buildings Fund they were looking at.

This fund for 2017/18 was £2000. The Clerk advised members that the scouts were currently renegotiating the lease on the building with DCC (Landlord). The council if it decides to award any monies it would need to hold this until the new lease is signed and seen.

The village hall had also requested funding from the Community Buildings Fund to help toward redecorating projects in the hall.

RESOLVED: Following discussions on the allocation of funds it was proposed by Cllr Smith that Gainford CE School are awarded £350 toward their Science Enrichment Week. It was further proposed to award £1000 to Gainford Scouts towards the roof repairs and £1000 to Montablo Village Hall. Both awards from 2017/18 budget are subject to sight of the signed lease for the scout hut and full latest accounts being submitted to support the village hall application. Seconded by Cllr Charge.

8.3 Community Buildings – allocation of funds 2017/18

Item resolved under 8.2

9. CORRESPONDANCE:

9.1 CDALC – Buckingham Palace Garden party

Members were informed Cllr Hannan had been successful in securing a place from the draw.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Cllr Britton and Cllr Smith gave members a brief update on progress:

Met with Planning Potential to review progress

Chair and Cllr Britton have a scheduled meeting on Wednesday 7th February

Census data has been received – evidence base is growing

Data collected from the village event is being scoped by Cllr Smith who will then distribute sub tasks

11. PLANNING:

None

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press were excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below.

12. PARISH CLERK/RFO CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT 2010 TO 2018

At this point in the meeting the Clerk withdraw from the meeting.

Members discussed the HR issues relating to the Clerks contract and agreed a course of action.

Press and public able to return

12. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS:

Monday 5 March 2018, 7pm – Village Hall (Supper Room)

Signing of Dying to Work Charter

2018/19 Action Plan

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Signed.....

Dated.....

