

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2018

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: L. Johnstone (Chair) L. Britton
 S. Platten S. Hannan
 C. Bayles M. Charge
 Clerk: Martin Clark

Visitors: L. Oxley, Teesdale Mercury
Cllr George Richardson
5 residents whose names were recorded

Public Participation:

Mrs Walton spoke on her planning application (DM/18/02246/FPA on agenda) giving a brief history of the applications made and reasons for rejection. Mrs Walton asked if the parish council would consider asking the planners about the Highway objections on visibility.

The Clerk informed Mrs Walton the council, for consistency had submitted the same comments as before. It asked the question on visibility as it had previously.

Residents spoke on the possible revamp of Gainford Adventure Play. They requested consideration is given to the height of any replacement climbing equipment with a view to privacy at neighbouring property.

Cllr Johnstone informed the residents that the revamp will be delayed due to funding and consideration will be given as requested.

A resident spoke on his concern with regard to loose stones from the area around the garages adjacent to Eden Crest being thrown at houses.

He was informed that this parcel of land was the responsibility of the housing association and they had already been informed and asked to make good the area.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were tendered and approved for Cllr's Coomer (holiday) and Smith (work). No apologies were received from Cllr Roff

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None

3. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2018:

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on the 2 July 2018 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Platten and seconded by Cllr Hannan

4. CHAIRS REPORT:

Cllr Johnstone gave a verbal report:

- Work is progressing on the Gainford Fallen Tommies project. A lot of work is being done to gather information on the fallen 26. The ‘Tommies’ will be placed for 1 week as near as possible to the homes of the 26 both in Gainford and Piercebridge.
- Met with Clerk during the period to discuss various issues

Members noted the Chair’s July report.

5. PROGRESS REPORT:

The Clerk went through the report issued with the agenda.

It was noted that work on the preparation for this year’s bonfire event had begun. The Clerk informed members that the storage of the fireworks will be in a sealed container. This will be delivered the day before the fireworks and remain until the Monday.

It was agreed to look at a way at the event to mark Anne Pratts many years of involvement in the displays.

Cllr Platten referred to the issue of moving the heavy bench from its store to the new location on the Balmer Hill green. NWA have a scheme called ‘in the hour’ where they can assist in something like this move. Cllr Platten will supply the contact details to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: The September Progress Report was noted.

6. FINANCE REPORT:

6.1 The September Financial Report

Additional invoices requiring payment received post report issue:

CE Walker (grass cuts August)	£600.00
Planning Potential (Neighbourhood Plan)	£5452.92
Angela Metcalf (Neighbourhood Plan event)	£150.00
C. Reynoldson Electrics (for village hall)	£1114.20

RESOLVED: The September Financial Report was proposed as a true record by Cllr Charge and seconded by Cllr Britton

6.2 Presentation of Small Grant Award to Gainford Toddler Group

Due to no one from the Toddler Group being available the cheque will be posted out.

7. LOCAL MAINTENANCE:

Cllr Johnstone reported some damage to the fence at the rec field running down beside the river section. Some of the rabbit proofing wire has been removed along with a section of the fence. It would appear on the face of it that this has been done to gain easy access to the field without going to the gate(s).

It was agreed to have this section repaired and to look at strengthening the wire fencing.

Consideration would also be given to planting a hedge alongside the fence on the outside. A sign by the style could be put up to advise members of the public that the stretch beside the fence is not a designated right of way.

It was agreed to purchase a litter bin for the area.

Cllr Platten referred to the good job that has been done improving the field over the bridge from the Surgery footpath. One concern raised was the barbed wire that has been placed on the bridge that may cause an accident. It was agreed Cllr Britton would speak to the owner of the field.

8. REPLACEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE (GAINFORDNET):

The Clerk informed members the host of Gainfordnet was no longer operating and the website will no longer receive any 'fixes'. Currently we have only minor problems with uploading information but to be completely GDPR compliant a new website needs to be considered.

RESOLVED: Following a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Britton the council look to replace Gainfordnet as soon as possible and that a brief on what is required is prepared so quotes can be obtained. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hannan.

Cllr Johnstone declared that she will be quoting under her business name for complete transparency

It was also agreed that Cllr Britton takes this matter forward and reports back to the council at the October meeting.

9. CORRESPONDANCE:

9.1 Citizens Advice County Durham – Donation consideration

It was proposed by Cllr Hannan that before any donation is considered the CAB are asked how the sessions held at Gainford surgery are funded currently. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Platten.

Action: The Clerk will seek clarification

9.2 Email – Concerns over action taken by the landowner at footpath no 9 (Ford Dyke Lane to Headlam). It is being reported the farmer has ploughed up to the path through the first 2 fields leading off the road heading North. This action will make the footpath difficult to navigate, especially in the winter months.

The email was sent to the Rights of Way team at Durham. Members noted the contents and the issue and asked to be kept informed.

9.3 Dave Greenland – Members were informed that correspondence had been received from Cllr Greenland resigning his position on the council with immediate effect.

Members were disappointed to hear of Cllr Greenland's decision. Cllr Johnstone asked for the council's thanks to Cllr Greenland were recorded in the minutes.

Action: The Clerk will notify Durham County Council. The vacancy will be advertised in due course.

It was agreed to hear agenda item 11 before the Neighbourhood Plan update.

Minutes will record as per agenda order

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Cllr Britton informed members of the progress being made:

- Met with County planners to discuss the County Plan
- The writing of the plan has started
- Plans for the community engagement exercise prior to the referendum will begin shortly.
- The committee will now vest and all future actions will be via the full council

11. PLANNING:

DM/18/02296/FPA – Hollin Hall East, Ford Dike Lane, Gainford – 4 no barn conversions, extension to existing farm house, 3 no detached garage blocks, hard and soft landscaping and new access. Noted

DM/18/02246/FPA - Former Garden Of 23 High Green Gainford. Erection of detached dwelling (resubmitted) – Due to expiry period for comments and for consistency the council's comments previously submitted have been resubmitted.

Members had previously heard from Mrs Walton in Public Participation and were reminded of the previous council response to this application.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Platten to submit additional comments to the planners that the council is keen to see the area developed. The historic wall running along the main road needs to be preserved and it would be good to see a positive use made of the area. The proposal to submit the additional comments was seconded by Cllr Hannan.

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

Monday 1 October 2018, 7.00pm Village Hall (Supper room)

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Websites: www.gainfordnet.org.uk

www.visitgainford.com

Signed.....

Dated.....

