

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2019

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: L. Johnstone (Chair), S. Hannan, R. Roff, A. Smith,
S. Platten, L. Britton. Clerk: M. Clark

Visitor(s): Martin Paul, Teesdale Mercury

David Battensby – DCC Highways & 5 visitors whose names were recorded

Public Participation:

A resident congratulated the council on its progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. He felt by allowing some leverage allowing some development was good for the village. Not wanting to lose vital facilities in the future.

Cllr Johnstone thanked the resident for his supportive comments

Peter Greenwood from 'More in Common Darlington' spoke about the group looking at ways to combat loneliness, especially in rural communities. With the help of a rural communities grant they are planning to re-make a video about loneliness that has been shown in languages around the world. They want to use local people and their voices to bring people together in the execution of the project that will bring people together of all ages.

Cllr Johnstone thanked the group for coming and hoped the council could help promote the project.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were tendered and approved for Cllr's Bayles (holiday) Coomer (personal)

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Cllr Hannan declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7. Cllr Hannan will be speaking for the Allotment Association.

3. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL AND FINANCE MEETINGS HELD ON 7 JANUARY 2019:

RESOLVED: The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 7 January 2019 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Roff

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Finance meeting held on the 7th January 2019 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Hannan and seconded by Cllr Roff

4. VILLAGE SPEED VISOR:

The Chair introduced David Battensby from DCC Highways. The Clerk gave members a

brief summary of the issues, yet unresolved, in securing a permanent speed visor for the village.

Mr Battensby referred to the policies, national guidance and regulations around the use of speed visors and particularly those visors with 'smiley' faces – the type the council are wishing to install.

- It is Durham's policy to only look at speed visors when other options have been tried. Visor would be considered as a 'last resort' option because they feel they become less effective over time – quotes research
- Favoured option with DCC is Community Speedwatch
- The smiley faced sign no longer conforms to the regulations
- Members were shown the type of visor that would be acceptable but were unclear as to why other settlements had installed a sign that is in effect illegal?
- It was accepted the way forward was to look to secure a sign DCC would allow and to look at this being mains powered.
- A quote would be obtained from DCC for the ducting work required
- Mr Battensby agreed to look into Community Speedwatch in nearby areas to see if volunteers could be used in Gainford
- The derestriction repeater sign at the Eastern side of the 40 mph limit was to be checked to see if the positioning was correct

Action: The Clerk will look at suppliers of acceptable visors and work with DCC to secure quotes for works.

5. CHAIRS REPORT:

Met with Clerk to discuss the new website, email addresses, and coaching sessions
Organised two sports coaching sessions for adults to be trialled this month – morning circuit training and afternoon walking football (on recreation field)
Created social media posters for the new sessions
Wrote the monthly report for the Parish News

6. PROGRESS REPORT:

The Clerk referred to his report and the incidents of vehicles parking on the village greens. The same two cars were found to be parking on the greens despite the signs and the messages put out.
Members felt that before looking at possible stronger action a letter should be sent to all the houses around the area to remind them it is not permitted to park vehicles on the greens.

Action: Clerk to action

RESOLVED: The report was noted

7. GAINFORD ALLOTMENTS:

At this point Cllr Platten declared an interest as a holder of an allotment
Cllr Hannan informed members of recent issues at the allotments: break in, a shed burnt down, dog walkers allowing their animals to foul of the plots. The association feel the site isn't secure enough and it requires 2 gates (one at each entrance), and a wall repaired. As the council is the lease holder the association is looking to it to possibly fund the work.

It was noted the issue of the land ownership should be settled soon and the recent planning approval contained a Section 106 agreement that included an allocation for open spaces and allotments.

After a brief discussion it was decided to wait until the planning/land issues are settled before revisiting this issue. Members understood this would possibly be short term pain, but with potential long term gains for those with allotment plots. The association will arrange to get quotes for the gates in preparation.

8. FINANCE:

8.1 February Financial Report

Additional invoices requiring payment received post report issue:

SE Landscaping (Xmas tree works)	£492.00
Teesdale Memorials (balance owed)	£223.00
Parish News (distribution of leaflets)	£400.00

RESOLVED: The February Financial Report and invoices for payment was proposed as a true record by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Platten

9. LOCAL MAINTENANCE:

Cllr Britton asked if the 'poover' could be used in the village in the near future. The Clerk explained the machine does not function adequately on very soft ground or wet paths during the winter period but will look to arrange a clean in the near future.

Cllr Platten asked if the issue of council owned benches could be placed on the agenda for March.

Cllr Johnstone alerted members to the village litter pick taking place on Saturday 9th February.

10. CORRESPONDANCE:

10.1 Volunteering Matters – Volunteer Transport Scheme. Members felt it would like to know more information on how many people have been supported from within the parish.

Action: Clerk to contact and request.

10.2 J. Redgate – bench request continued. **RESOLVED:** The bench request was accepted. The Clerk will liase with the family on the type of bench and costs involved.

10.3 D. Nicholson – Email regarding dog fouling. Members were disappointed to hear about the continued dog fouling being done by a small minority of dog owners. It was felt that if residents witness fouling, and know who these people are then they should report it to DCC. Getting people fined is the biggest deterrent.

11. PLANNING:

DM/18/01980/FPA – Site of former St Peters School – 48 no. dwellings, conversion of school building to 9 no flats – **APPROVED**

Cllr Britton gave members an update on the Neighbourhood Plan:

- Household survey has been distributed with the Parish News. The results from the survey will help shape the policies in the plan
- Completed surveys will be collected and it is hoped members will help with this

- Planning Potential have started writing parts of the report
- It is hoped the referendum on the plan will be in September.

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

Monday 4th March 2019, 7.00pm Village Hall (Supper room)

Abbreviations: DCC - Durham County Council

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix 1

Dear all

- Delighted to be able to tell you we are now in the final stages of the Neighbourhood Plan.

- We have commissioned an environment survey as the final part of our evidence base and we have also prepared engagement leaflets which will be distributed to every household by the parish news at the end of January.
- We will give them a donation as a thank you which will be equivalent to first class postage.
- We will be running an advert in the parish news explaining why it's vital for us to get as much response as possible.
- We will also support this via targeted online marketing .
- We will also go door to door after a set amount of time to chase up any forms we haven't received and to be on hand to answer any questions. We will also be consulting with local businesses and organisations.
- Once we have the responses these will be analysed by planning potential and we will then draft policies based on the responses. We will then put these draft policies back to the parish for consultation.
- We are planning a spring event around this time so we can answer any questions face to face and be on hand to update and advise people of the next steps.
- Once the policies have been consulted on we will then be in a position to finish the plan and put it forward for its 'mot' to the Government body responsible. There may be changes suggested which we will undertake but if not we will then move forward to the referendum process.

