

Gainford & Langton

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

PRESENT:

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

Public Participation:

No members of the public present

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were tendered and approved for Cllr Coomer (unwell)

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None declared

3. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2019:

RESOLVED: The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 4 February 2019 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Platten

4. CHAIRS REPORT:

- monthly article for Parish News
- attended a meeting with Gainford Cross Keys FC to discuss their user agreement
- facilitating the new adult sports sessions (circuits/walking football)
- met with Clerk to discuss agenda issues

5. PROGRESS REPORT:

The Clerk referred to his written report submitted with the agenda and added that a number of letters had been delivered to houses around the green about parking.

Members were shown one of the two Poovac's recently purchased. It was noted the ease of use but agreed it was not entirely down to the council or councillors to clear up from irresponsible dog owners. The machines form part of the tools to help keep the village clean. It was agreed residents should be made aware of the costs associated with clearing dog fouling. **Action:** The Clerk will keep a separate record of these costs

6. FINANCE REPORT:

6.1 The Clerk referred to additional invoices requiring approval:

P. Ryman (weed spraying/poovering)	£280.00
Swankie Sports (children and adult sessions)	£660.00

Cllr Hannan spoke of the council considering setting up a Recreational Trust for the village in the future. She felt that if the land issue is resolved at St Peter's then the allotment rents collected could be put into this fund. The council could approach DCC and the school to see if their playing field could be developed and a sports 'barn' located on that field. This would facilitate indoor activities.

RESOLVED: The March Financial Report was proposed as a true record by Cllr Platten and seconded by Cllr Roff.

6.2 To consider financing the weekly circuit training and walking football sessions beyond the current trial period.

Cllr Johnstone advised members how the first couple of sessions had gone – a steady increase in numbers is expected as knowledge of them spreads. The two adult sessions are costing £50.00 a week to run. This is on top of the funding for the children's multi sport activities.

Members felt that completely financing the adult sessions might not be something it wants to do long term. It would like to see a 'donation' made by those attending after any trial period.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Platten the council use some of its reserves to fund the adult sessions for the next 5 weeks. After that a small 'donation' should be made by those attending to off set some of the costs. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Smith.

It was also agreed a full review of the adult sessions would take place in June – numbers and finances.

Due to the success of the children's sports coaching over half term Cllr Johnstone sought members approval to carry out similar sessions during the Easter break.

RESOLVED: Cllr Roff proposed the council fund a couple of additional sports sessions during the Easter break. Seconded by Cllr Hannan

6.3 To consider a request from the Gainford Fun Day committee for support for the 2019 event

Last year the council funded a climbing wall and an archery event. The Fun Day committee are asking if the council would help in a similar way this year.

RESOLVED: After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Roff to support the fun day by paying for the climbing wall directly as in 2018. It was further proposed that the climbing wall remains free to anyone wishing to use it at the event. The proposals were seconded by Cllr Platten.

7. RECREATION FIELD:

Members to consider the draft user agreement presented by the Chair and Clerk following their meeting with Gainford Cross Keys FC.

The Clerk informed members there was a need to put things on a formal basis with the football team and to have something in place that sets out the council and teams responsibilities.

Members agreed the draft could be finalised and signed and a casual hire agreement prepared along the same lines but with a fee for using the pitch.

8. LOCAL MAINTENANCE:

8.1 Damage to bus shelter by fire

Members had been made aware of the damage so the Clerk was seeking approval to make good repairs. It was felt the seat should remain in the shelter so the repairs would be cleaning, repainting and replacing the top of the wooden seat.

The Clerk referred to arranging for the damaged picnic benches to be removed from GAP and any reported graffiti removed. Cllr Johnstone felt a committee of parents may be beneficial when looking at improvements that could be made in the area.

8.2 Council owned benches – programme of refurbishment/replacement

The Clerk informed members the family wishing to have a new dedicated bench had agreed with the purchase price. The council would cover carriage and installation. The actual location on the top green was to be finalised.

Cllr Platten felt that some of the budget could be used to look at putting in access to any bench that was 'land locked'

It was agreed to look at the benches on the small green once the new one referred to has been installed.

9. CORESPONDANCE:

9.1 Ros Evans (HGV Group)

The Clerk read out an email received from the HGV group and their proposal for an HGV ban in Barnard Castle. They are contacting all parish councils in Teesdale for comments. The council were unanimous in not being in support of such a ban as it would push the problems elsewhere and Gainford could be affected. Members were grateful for the group contacting them but feel they need to consider the wider implications to such a proposal.

Action: The Clerk will respond.

9.2 DCC notification on a review of Polling districts and stations. Noted.

10. PLANNING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

The Clerk referred members to 2 planning application that had been published post the agenda

DM/19/00557/FPA Mr Norman Merchant, 1 High Green, Gainford – extension and change of use from retail (A1) to dwelling (C3). Members noted this was the old butchers shop. After looking at the plans it was unclear about off street parking. **Action:** It was agreed a comment should be submitted/recorded about off street parking provision.

DM/19/00638/FPA Ms A Neville, 8 Queens Court, Gainford – change of use from car park to garden. On examining the plans members were disappointed to find that 4 car parking spaces, it believed were for residents of Eden Crest and others, were showing as those to be converted to the garden. **Action:** The Clerk was asked to contact Teesdale Housing to confirm their sale and lodge its disappointment in losing the valuable spaces.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Britton gave a brief update on the progress.

- 12th May an event is planned to present the plans proposals to the public at Gainford Hall.

Grateful to Raby Estates for opening the hall to the public again.

- The Household survey responses are to be collected the weekend of 9/10 March.

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

Monday 1 April 2019, 7.00pm Village Hall (Supper room)

Abbreviations: DCC - Durham County Council

Signed.....

Dated.....

