

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1st APRIL 2019

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: L. Johnstone (Chair), S. Hannan, R. Roff (from item 4), A. Smith,
S. Platten, L. Britton, C Bayles, M. Charge (from item 10).
Clerk: M. Clark

Visitors: Revd E. Harrop, David Potts, B. Goyder (for item 6), M. Paul (Teesdale Mercury)
From item 10: J. Stannard, P. Sedgwick & W. English

Public Participation:

No other members of the public present

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were tendered and approved for Cllr Coomer (away)

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None declared

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

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

4. CHAIRS REPORT:

- monthly article for Parish News
- attended walking football sessions which are growing in numbers with a mixed age range
- circuit training is also growing in numbers and the children's multi sports is attracting upwards of 15+ children. The Easter sessions are now being promoted.

5. PROGRESS REPORT:

The Clerk referred to his written report submitted with the agenda and added the damaged GAP picnic benches have been removed.

RESOLVED: The Clerks report was noted.

6. PILGRIMAGE WALK:

Revd Harrop was welcomed to the meeting and gave a presentation on the new Pilgrimage Walks, one of which will begin in Gainford and to be known as 'The Way of Life'. The route will be from the starting point of Gainford (St Mary's Well) to Durham and pass through Etherley Incline, Escomb Church, Binchester Roman Fort and Mount Joy.

Pilgrimage walk is one of 4 new routes known as the Northern Saints Trails.
(A copy of the presentation slides will be scanned and placed with the minutes on the councils website)

Cllr Johnstone thanked Revd Harrop for her informative presentation. Members agreed the council would welcome being a stakeholder as the project develops.

7. FINANCE REPORT:

7.1 The Clerk referred to additional invoices requiring approval:

Glasdons Ltd (fittings for bins)	£103.19
M. Clark (stamps)	£5.80

The Clerk advised members the grant cheque (£1000) to the Gainford Scouts had been cancelled as lost. The payment will now be made by Bacs when authorised.

RESOLVED: The April Financial Report and payments were proposed as a true record by Cllr Bayles and seconded by Cllr Smith.

8. LOCAL MAINTENANCE:

The Clerk reported work on the bus shelter had been completed.

Cllr Johnstone referred to a large number of bottles found on the recreation field that were removed before circuits and walking football.

It was also reported the recreation field is seeing an increase in dog fouling. This despite signs requesting no dogs allowed and no fouling. Before the children's multi sports dog muck had to be removed.

Members were appalled to hear this was happening and around where children are being trained. Cllr Platten suggested a stronger message is put in the Parish News. This is anti-social, unacceptable and a serious health risk.

9. CORESPONDANCE:

9.1 DCC notification of a temporary road closure - North Terrace northwards on 16 April for approx. 3 hours from 9.15am. The Clerk advised members that the notification had been placed on the council's social media pages. Noted

9.2 Gainford Fun Day committee - Request to use the village green for the Fun Day.

RESOLVED: Permission is given proposed by Cllr Hannan and seconded by Cllr Roff

9.3 Citizens advice County Durham – Request for a donation.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Platten the request is declined as details of the help given to members of this community is not forthcoming. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hannan.

At this point in the meeting the meeting was joined by Justin Stannard, Paul Sedgwick and Wes English. Who had asked to attend the meeting to give updates on the development at St Peter's.

10. PLANNING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

It was agreed member will here from Mr Stannard before dealing with planning notifications and the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr Stannard was representing Ruttle Plant and Kebble for the purpose of the meeting. He wished to start a discussion regarding the sensitivity of the old school building, the planning consent, and issues with delivery due to historic building issues. It was being put to the council to offer a view on a varied scheme, which would see the old school building being removed. The argument being it would be more viable to potential investment.

A full discussion took place with the main points:

- The council could not offer any opinion on the building and site
- Council is still carrying out its community engagement exercise for NP
- Kebble have carried out extensive public consultation and have always known the history of the building
- We thought we had got a solution to the site following the approved planning
- The building is a non designated heritage asset and the county council hold strong views on retention
- It is for DCC and not this parish to decide this issue. The conversations should be with them
- Any new application with removal could prove challenging
- Need a plan that is consulted on in the wider community
- Could consideration be given to a commercial use for the old building to help mitigate
- Degrading of the building is in part due to the owners
- The feeling in the village has been to see something done on the site

Cllr Johnstone thanked them for their attendance.

The Clerk referred members to one planning application received:
DM/19/00960/FPA – East Greystone Farm, Gainford. Conversion of 2no holiday cottages to single dwelling. Noted.

Cllr Britton gave members an update of the progress of the NP Meeting with Planning Potential on 4th April to look at questionnaire results and discuss draft policies

An engagement event is being planned on the village green for the 12th May – Marquee/refreshments. Discussions ongoing with Raby to open Gainford Hall on the same day.

As the council's logo is of low resolution and one is required for the plan members agreed to allow Cllr Britton to use a designer to put a couple of examples together for the council to decide upon.

New photographs would be required for the plan and our websites that will meet the new copyright regulations.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Platten and seconded by Cllr Hannan to spend £300 from the NP budget on a set of new photographs.

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

Monday 13th May 2019 Annual Council Meeting – 7pm Gainford Village Hall (Upstairs committee room)

Monday 20th May 2019 Annual Parish Meeting – 6.30 for 7pm Gainford Village Hall (Supper Room)

For news and council documents visit:

<https://gainfordandlangtonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Abbreviations: DCC - Durham County Council
NP – Neighbourhood Plan

Signed.....

Dated.....

