

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2020 (Virtual platform)

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: L. Johnstone (Chair), S. Hannan, M. Charge, R. Logan
J. Grundy, J. Coomer, R. Roff, A. Smith, S. Platten
Clerk: M. Clark

Visitors: Teesdale Mercury, Cllr's G. Richardson & J. Rowlandson
Two residents

Public Participation:

No members of the public present wished to speak

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None declared

3. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETINGS HELD ON 4 MARCH 2020:

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 March 2020 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Grundy. Seconded by Cllr Charge.

4. FINANCE/ACCOUNTS:

4.1 To approve the end of year accounts 2019/20, Governance/audit

RESOLVED: The end of year summary, audit and governance was proposed as a true record by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Charge

4.2 Allotment rents/Finance

The Clerk informed members that a number of plots have not been paid for and there were some issues over the accuracy of the tenant list that was being used. The money to be transferred from the old association had not taken place to date.

Cllr Hannan explained securing access to the funds was proving difficult due to not getting the ywo signature's required. Discussions are still ongoing with the bank.

5. PLANNING:

Application DM/20/01205/FPA – 79 dwellings, associated infrastructure, landscaping and demolition of existing agricultural barn. Land to the North and South of Spa Road, Gainford.

Following on from the Extraordinary meeting of the council on 10 June 2020 when the matter of this application was discussed. The council gave itself more time to consider the documentation with the application and its response.

A full and frank discussion took place on the application with the main talking points being:

Unsafe pedestrian access around the development
Traffic management – dangerous layout, design not sufficiently taking safety into account
Application is within the Gainford conservation area
Not enough acknowledgement of the heritage /railway
Not really houses for local people or young people
Enabling development against developing planning policies and it could see no benefit to the village
RESOLVED: Cllr Platten proposed the parish council object to the proposal due to the issues of highway management, pedestrian access, conservation area, against emerging planning policies and concerns over enabling consent. Seconded Cllr Smith
Action: Clerk to submit the councils objection

6. 2020 BONFIRE EVENT:

Members were asked to consider if the 2020 bonfire event can be held given the uncertainty around Covid 19 restrictions.
The Clerk explained the event planning begins in July with ordering fireworks and preparing the Safety Advisory Group requests. It is not clear what guidelines are going to be in place to control social distancing (if in place) for 2000 people, even open air.
Cllr Smith referred to a significant risk to the council if it were to go ahead with the event and Cllr Hannan felt it was a risk not worth taking this year.
RESOLVED: Cllr Hannan proposed the 2020 bonfire and firework event is cancelled due to uncertainties around what guidelines will be in place to safely put the event on.
The proposal was seconded by Cllr Roff.

7. VILLAGE/RIVERSIDE ISSUES:

7.1 Cllr Platten reported to members incidents of large groups gathering by the riverside. The amount of rubbish being left and the damage being done to the riverbank as trees are cut for bonfires – 17 bags of rubbish were collected by residents the following day. The lock on the gate at St Peter’s had been smashed off so these people could get their cars nearer the riverside. A total lack of respect for this village, its residents and the area. This is a problem and the village needs help from authorities: Police, Neighbourhood Wardens and Durham County Council.
It was agreed the residents of the village must know how to respond effectively
Cllr Platten will continue to discuss issues with Durham County Council Street Scene and the Clerk will talk to the local Police Beat Team in order for a plan to be put in place.
7.2 Cllr Roff informed members of a repair that he had made to a style and bench on the Teesdale Way.

For news and council documents visit:

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

Signed.....

Dated.....

