

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2020 (Virtual platform)

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

Visitors: Teesdale Mercury

7 Members of the public

Public Participation:

The Clerk advised those present that for this meeting Public Participation would be 30 mins if required.

- Questions were asked on how the council were unable to speak at the planning committee meeting
- Was the planning committee valid
- Was the committee meeting quorate was someone's position on it untenable
- Should the council start a media campaign
- Does the council know what the 106 conditions were known to the council – *These are detailed in the written report and in the public domain*
- A resident wanted to publicly thank Cllr Johnstone and the Clerk for arranging a Christmas tree from Raby Estates for the village green. This was managed at short notice

With the agreement of all members present item 5 (Parish Council Chair) was heard first

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were submitted from Cllr Smith (work commitments).

A question was raised on the acceptance of the apology due to the number of meetings missed by Cllr Smith. The Clerk advised the members that the council had never refused to accept a member's apology submitted in the correct manner.

Resolved – That the apology be accepted.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Resolved - None declared

3. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2020:

Resolved – That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

4. PROGRESS REPORT:

(i) Christmas tree delivered, installed, and dressed on the island. A second tree donated by Raby estates was delivered and installed on the 2nd December.

355

Signed.....

Dated.....

(ii) The invoice for the 5-metre pole to hold the speed visor had been received and paid. It was hoped this will be on the island shortly so the visor could be planned.

(iii) Arranged for two clear up's of GAP and minor repairs, and the removal of the summer bedding and some winter planting.

(iv) Reported damage to the tree on footpath 7, following three attempts by Mr Ryman to make it as safe as possible but required DCC to action.

(v) Informed DCC of co-option and submitted the Register of Interest form.

Resolved – That the information was noted.

5. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR:

Following the decision by Cllr Johnstone to stand down as Chair it was for members to elect a new Chair to serve until the council elections in May 2021.

Cllr Johnstone read out a statement to the meeting in relation to her time as Chair. Following the reading of the statement Cllr Johnstone offered to stand again.

Resolved – (a) That Cllr Johnstone take the position of Chair of Gainford & Langton Parish Council; and (b) The position of Vice Chair is considered at the January meeting

6. DECEMBER FINANCE REPORT:

(a) Members to receive the December Finance Report

(b) Conclusion of the annual council audit (verbal report received from Clerk)

Resolved – (a) That the December Financial Report and invoices requiring payment was approved; and (b) To note the minor recommendation from the external auditors following the completion of the 2019/20 audit in relation to a new letter of appointment for the internal auditor.

7. LOCAL MAINTAINANCE/VILLAGE ISSUES:

7.1 A lifebuoy down by the river is missing – could this be referred to the Riverside Trust.

7.2 The damage to the stone on the island was referred too. The member was advised the island was the parish council's land and to replace the stone would require traffic management to carry out any works.

8. MOTION SUBMITTED:

Cllr Neville submitted 2 motions, in the proper manner, to be considered as individual motions to be disposed of in accordance with the council's Standing Orders (No.5).

The Clerk advised members that Motion 1 – to create an Advisory Committee required a seconder before it could be considered.

Resolved – The motion to create an Advisory Committee did not receive a seconder and was considered disposed of.

Motion 2 - for the Parish Council to seek a Judicial Review in relation to:

DM/20/01205/FPA | Erection of 79 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), associated infrastructure and landscaping and demolition of existing agricultural barn | Land To The North And South Of Spa Road Gainford DL2 3EB.

The motion as submitted did not receive a seconder and was subsequently withdrawn by Cllr Neville.

An amendment was put forward by Cllr Hannan to the motion which received a seconder.

Gainford & Langton Parish Council seek legal advice in order to ascertain the potential of successfully challenging the approval by Durham County Council on planning application DM/20/01205/FPA

The amendment was taken to a vote, and was carried.

A discussion took place over concerns over the potential legal costs and possible remedies.

10. PLANNING INCLUDING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

There were no new planning applications requiring the councils' input.

Decision - DM/20/01205/FPA | Erection of 79 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), associated infrastructure and landscaping and demolition of existing agricultural barn, Land to The North and South of Spa Road Gainford DL2 3EB.

Reference had been made to the Section 106 agreement for this application. The information relating to the agreement is recorded on the decision notice.

It was pointed out the until the Section 106 agreement has been met the approval was not complete.

- The urgent repair works to Gainford Hall and the Dovecote, the timescales for doing so, in addition to the management and maintenance regime for the hall and its marketing strategy;
- Heritage works to RCPG prior to the occupation of a specified number of plots;
- The requirement to enter into a S.39 Agreement to secure the long term management and maintenance, including a monitoring strategy of the biodiversity land;
- £67,686 towards improving offsite open space and recreational provision within Barnard Castle East Electoral Division;
- The dedication of a new Public Right of Way as shown on drg. no. L-102 - Footpath Plan

Resolved – (a) To note the decision of the area planning committee to approve the application.

11. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 6 January 2021 @7.00pm (Zoom platform)

For news and council documents visit:

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

