

# Gainford & Langton

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 2021 (Virtual platform)**

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

**Visitors:** Teesdale Mercury  
**49 Members of the public**

### **Public Participation:**

Numerous comments were made in relation to the planning approval by Durham County Council at item 7 on the agenda. The consensus of all those residents attending this meeting was for the council to look toward a legal challenge. Some of those present spoke of seeking assurances on the legal process to be followed, the costs and likelihood of success.

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were submitted from Cllr Smith.

**Resolved** – That the apology be accepted.

#### **2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

Cllr Johnstone referred to her personal objection to the Raby planning in the village and wished it be recorded. (no pre determination)

**Resolved** – That the declaration be noted.

#### **3. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2021:**

**Resolved** – That the minutes be approved as a correct record (Cllr's Charge and Logan)

#### **4. PROGRESS REPORT:**

The Clerk gave a verbal report to members:

- Discussions with North Star with regards the land where the garages once stood and future ownership
- Dealing with insurance over the damage to the wall on the island
- Dealing with issues around tonight's meeting and the Raby planning
- Kebble Homes postponed until the April meeting
- Elections prep (on agenda)

**Resolved** – That the information was noted.

#### **5. CHAIRS REPORT:**

Cllr Johnstone gave members a verbal report covering:

Actions to prepare for this meeting and the Village Hall management outstanding issues.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

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Signed.....

Dated.....

**6. MARCH FINANCE REPORT:** The Clerk referred to the invoice for £40.00 received from the Information Commissioner Office requiring payment keep the council's data protection in order.

**Resolved** – (a) That the March Financial Report be approved and invoices for payment be approved.

**7. CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS IN RELATION TO A POTENTIAL LEGAL CHALLENGE TO THE APPROVAL TO ERECT 79 RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS AND LANDSCAPING AND DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING ARGICULTURAL BARN – LAND TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF SPA ROAD GAINFORD DL2 3EB.**

Following an extended discussion, a proposal was put forward by Cllr Grundy to cease any further action toward a Judicial Review of the planning approval. The proposal was seconded.

A counter proposal was proposed by Cllr Hannan:

Should the council not receive public pledges in excess of £10,000, at a date no later than 3 weeks from this meeting to support the application to Judicial Review, it will not progress the matter further.

A vote was taken on the counter proposal which was carried by 5-4

The first motion was disposed of due to the counter proposal being carried.

**Resolved** – That should the council not receive public pledges in excess of £10,000, at a date no later than 3 weeks from this meeting to support the application to Judicial Review, it will not progress the matter further.

**8. LOCAL MAINTENANCE/VILLAGE ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION:**

Allotment rents – It was confirmed that the rents would be collected through the council website. Collection of rents will be over the month of April. A new Tenancy Agreement needs to be signed by every allotment holder.

Reference was made to a complaint given to the Police over the speed of HGV traffic through the village. Resolved – It was agreed to ask the Highways Dept to consider a speed survey at some point.

Cllr Hannan referred to the running of sports activities over Easter holidays should the Covid roadmap allow. The Clerk referred to the underspend on the sports budget. It was also agreed to look at an application to TAP.

**9. PLANNING:**

No new planning application have been received.

**10. ELECTIONS 2021:**

The Clerk advised members of the process for nominations for the forthcoming elections. Details of how to stand will be placed on the council website and social media page.

**11. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 7pm

**For news and council documents visit:** <https://gainfordandlangtonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

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