

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9 APRIL 2018

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: L. Johnstone (Chair) M. Charge
S. Platten A. Smith
S. Hannan L. Britton

Clerk: Martin Clark

Visitors: Teesdale Mercury. 3 Residents whose names were recorded

Public Participation:

A resident spoke on the subject of the 27 names on the village war memorial. The idea put forward is to create 27 Gainford 'Tommies' type figures and have them placed around the village as a way to commemorate the 100 year anniversary. The resident hoped this would become a community owned project, with hopefully a number of groups getting involved. *Members were in support of the idea and hoped it would receive the support across the community it deserved*

A resident spoke of his concern over the safety of children crossing using the School Crossing Patrol. The position for crossing had been moved but the warning lights for drivers had not been. Would the parish council contact DCC and seek assurances this lights will be repositioned.

It was agreed as this was a safety issue the Clerk would contact DCC Highways as a matter of urgency.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were tendered and approved for Cllr's Coomer and Roff (both abroad)

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None

3. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2018:

RESOLVED: The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 5 February 2018 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Hannan and seconded by Cllr Britton

4. CHAIRS REPORT:

Cllr Johnstone gave a verbal report:

Parish News article completed

Met with resident to talk about Gainford 'Tommies' idea

Sorting out sports coaching and war memorial cleaning
Met with Clerk on several occasions to discuss issues and agenda

5. PROGRESS REPORT:

The Clerk went through the report issued with the agenda

RESOLVED: The Progress Report was noted.

6. FINANCE REPORT:

The April Financial Report

Members noted the report covered transactions for March and April.

RESOLVED: The April Financial Report was proposed as a true record by Cllr Charge and seconded by Cllr Platten

7. CO-OPTION TO COUNCIL VACANCIES:

Mr Dave Greenland and Ms Carole Bayles were present having put forward applications for co-option to the parish council.

The Clerk informed members that as only 2 of the 3 candidates were in attendance, under the adopted policy for co-option Mr Greenland and Ms Bayles were automatically co-opted to the two vacancies.

8. DECLARATION OF OFFICE FORMS:

Cllr Greenland and Cllr Bayles signed their declaration of Office forms, witnessed by the Clerk. Both were issued by the Clerk their Register of Interest forms for completion and return within 28 days.

9. LOCAL MAINTAINANCE:

9.1 Stone Labyrinth – request from St Mary’s Church & Gainford CE School to temporarily site a labyrinth on part of the village green. **RESOLVED:** Proposed by Cllr Hannan and seconded by Cllr Smith approval is granted.

9.2 Damage to village greens by vehicles:

Members had viewed photos taken of the damage on the corners and some edges of the green. A discussion took place on the possible actions the council could consider:

- The number of cars has increased
- The road is narrow
- Delivery and service vehicles have problems navigating round the green – this leads to driving over corners
- The poor winter weather can be attributed to some of the damage
- Make repairs and consider protecting the corners by the use of planters, stones or bollards
- The greens are maintained by the council for Raby Estate – they would need to agree to any changes
- The roads around the green are maintained by Durham County – the parish council could not alter them

RESOLVED: Following the discussion it was agreed the Clerk contacts the estate (Raby) to

discuss the repairs and also seeks expert advice from Durham Highways on how the roads could be widened or re-engineered to alleviate the problem long term.

9.3 War Memorial Cleaning

Cllr Johnstone informed members she had spoken to stonemasons concerning a professional clean of the war memorial. The quote in excess of £800 but would be carried out by professionals.

The issue of the 2 names that are not on the memorial was discussed. The Stonemasons have said to add the names directly on to the memorial would cost thousands as it would need to be removed to carry out the work. The members agreed an alternative solution should be explored for adding more names from conflicts. **Action:** It was agreed Cllr Johnstone would speak to Teesdale Memorials to discuss alternatives and costs. The Clerk will explore what grant money was available.

10. COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2018/19:

Members discussed the draft Action Plan presented by the Clerk

RESOLVED: Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr Britton the draft Action Plan for 2018/19 is approved subject to two amendments – On-going actions include ‘continue cycle of refurbishment and replacement of benches. Under future considerations add ‘To look at replacements for the ‘poover’. Seconded by Cllr Charge.

Action: Clerk will make amendments and publish document.

11. SPORTS COACHING SPRING/SUMMER 2018:

Cllr Johnstone reported a sports coach had been approached who could deliver multi sports coaching on Saturday mornings at a cost of £50 per session. Age ranges would be 5-11 and 12 to 17 years.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Platten the council make arrangements for the coaching to begin in due course. Seconded by Cllr Hannan.

12. CORRESPONDANCE:

12.1 Ron Hogg (Crime & Victims Commissioner) – Police Engagement with Local Councils
Members noted the commissioners statement about Police attending meetings, this after being repeatedly told they would not. **Action:** An invitation to be extended to the local Beat Team to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in May

12.2 Durham Women’s Gala – requests for donation

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Britton that a donation of £100 is given towards the Gala. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hannan.

12.3 County of Durham School Benevolent Fund – Donation request

As the Benevolent Fund has not provided details of numbers assisted by it within the parish it is not able to support any request.

13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Cllr Britton gave an update on behalf of the steering group

Cllr Smith has worked with Planning Potential on all the data collected to date. As some data from DCC is out of date it is possible the council undertake some surveys to strengthen the plan.

Kebbell reported the had over 100 attend at their recent consultation - 65 filled out forms. Of these only 2 objected to the proposed development giving an approval rate of 97%. They still need to reach agreement with Ruttle but are confident this will happen soon

DCC has yet to reschedule the meeting with representatives of the county's NPs to discuss their County Plan.

A stand has been organised for the Gainford Fun Day on 23rd June. This would be an opportunity to engage further with the community on how things are progressing

14. PLANNING:

DM/18/00823/LB – Mr & Mrs Bennett, 27 Low Green – Listed Building Consent (internal alterations). Noted.

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

Monday 14 May 2018, 7.00pm (Annual Council Meeting) – Village Hall (Upstairs committee room)

Monday 21 May 2018 6.30pm Annual Parish Meeting (provisional/subject to change)

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Signed.....

Dated.....

