

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30 MAY 2018

Present: Cllr's Johnstone, Coomer and Bayles

County Cllr George Richardson

Police Beat Team representatives

6 residents

Clerk: Martin Clark

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr's Hannan, Platten, Roff, Smith, Greenland and Britton.

County Cllr Rawlinson

Canon Neil Russell (village hall)

2. CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO PRESIDE:

Cllr Johnstone presided, opened the meeting by welcoming all present

3. GAINFORD CHARITABLE REPORTS 2017/18:

Montablo Village Hall & Recreational Charity

The Clerk read out the report in the absence of a village hall representative being available (Appendix A)

Gainford Riverside Millennium Green Trust

The Clerk reported that unfortunately the Trust had not submitted a report this year.

Gainford Parish Charitable Trust

The Clerk read out the report from the Trust (Appendix A)

St Mary's Church, Gainford

Rev'd Harrop read of the report from St Mary's Church (Appendix A)

4. GAINFORD & LANGTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL CHAIR'S REPORT:

Cllr Johnstone read out his 2017/18 report (Appendix A)

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident thanked the parish council for purchasing the land at Balmer Hill to create a new village green. A wonderful accomplishment.

He thanked the council, as a bus user, for the 2 additional bus shelters it had installed.

- Would the council consider responding to 'bigger' consultations on behalf of residents
- Some government funding is still available for broadband 'not' spots. The council push the agenda to help the area secure some funding

- Aware the council employs a litter picker but would the council look at community litter picks and spring cleans – *Cllr Johnstone explained these have taken place; one only 2 weeks ago and was referred too in her report. An invite was extended for the resident to attend the next one.*

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

6. MEETING CLOSED.

Appendix A

Charitable Reports

Gainford Montalbo Village Hall and Recreational Charity – Charity no. 520799

Annual report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2018

Firstly, I want to thank the Trustees and Management Committee for all they do to maintain the fabric of this building, raise much needed money to ensure financial viability and respond to requests from hirers when something is not working, or they need help. The hall has no paid staff although special thanks must be given to Vicki and Michael of Spotless Cleaning who keep the Hall in best condition for everyone.

Most of the bookings are taken and administered by our Treasurer. The volume of work this involves can be imagined when I say that in 2017/8 the hall was booked for 667 sessions. This is very high and has enabled us to have a successful year financially. We've covered costs including a full repaint externally. Also we now have built up sufficient reserves to be able to look to further work.

We have been taking a long, hard look at the fabric of the building and major work is planned on the exterior and internally this year. Full details will be shared when the final decisions are made.

For many years we have been aware that the charity's constitution needs revision to make it workable and acceptable for the 21st century. As a result, we have appointed specialist charity lawyers to change the charity into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This in essence will result in a structure similar to a limited company. At the moment all the Trustees have personal liability but under a CIO, this will be removed. It is a major change but necessary for the future management of the Hall.

We are always looking for help and would love to hear from anyone who would like to be part of the life of this precious village facility. Our Annual Meeting will be in the Supper Room on Monday 4 June at 7-30pm. We would love to see you and hope you can offer your skills.

Neil Russell
Secretary

GAINFORD PARISH CHARITABLE TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 (JAN-DEC 2017)

Established in 1990, the remit of the Gainford Parish Charitable Trust is to benefit the inhabitants of Gainford and this is achieved by the awarding of grants for projects that are deemed to enhance Village life.

2017 saw four grants being awarded to a total of £5127.85 as follows

Village Hall - Defibrillator	£857.85
Gainford Baby and Toddler Group	£170.00
1st Gainford Scout Group	£3600.00
Gainford Horticultural Society	£500.00

The value of the Trust holdings are approximately £89,000 at present.

The Trustees were saddened to hear that Margaret Foster had passed away shortly after retiring from the Trust. Margaret served as a Trustee for many years and her unstinting contribution to the work of the Trust was invaluable. The remaining Trustees continued their commitment and at the end of the year were Sarah Hannan, Ann Lavender, Patrick Langdon (Chair), Ann Napier (Secretary), Mike Roff, Anthony Sillars (Treasurer), and James Wood. The Trustees, at the Annual General Meeting held in May 2017 agreed to the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary of the Trust continuing in their posts.

Common themes at each meeting of the Trust were the need to recruit new Trustees and to raise awareness of the Trust to all in Gainford who might benefit from a grant and these discussions will continue into 2018

The Parish Church of St Mary, Gainford and the Parish and Community of Gainford: 2017 – 2018

Gainford is blessed with its history and as a place of natural beauty with ideal conditions for an appreciative community to tend, nurture and enjoy together. The Parish Church of St Mary is the mother church of Teesdale and has been a living church loved, active, open, and refreshed since the early 9th Century. As remarkable as the church is for bearing the hallmarks of good stewardship and thoughtful development, it is its openness, inspiration, service, and participation in the parish and community that testifies to the life and blessing of its ministry.

Over the past year, the church has deepened its relationship with the school. We have a weekly presence with music, help with the curriculum, art, drama and creative writing at the school. Children have been encouraged to express their developing understanding of spirituality in the form of Prayer Spaces from All Souls and Remembrance, through Advent and Christmas, to Good Friday, Easter and finally Ascension and Pentecost. This culminated in the first outdoor Labyrinth, a gift to the whole community with the consent of the Parish Council and the Riverside Trust to

lay the stone path, that everyone could walk and reflect on it for 10 days until Whit Sunday.

Teen Beat, our monthly offering for young people (almost 10s to 14 year olds), was conceived after the church's 'Leap of Faith' – abseil event – from the church tower. It was clear to me that we were missing a provision for our young people and after encouragement of support from Lisa Johnstone, Chair of the parish council, Teen Beat was launched. After 9 months, from a start of 6 boys we now have 25 boys and girls across the whole age range who have come to Teen Beat. Our recent 3 months average is 17 with new members each time!

In addition to new initiatives, a growing team of church members are actively involved in a wide range of parish groups and are volunteer leaders of other civic organisations. We are all mutually grateful for the social events and leisure groups, almost too many to name for a modest rural parish, that makes for a thriving, caring and hospitable community. The welcome and authenticity of our church services draw people from the wider area to nourish their faith, and we are thankful for the several times a year when services are held on the Green including our Blessing of Animals service and Sunday after Fun Day, and Ascension Day service by the river. The Gainford Star has endeared itself to young and old, shining over the whole village from Advent through Epiphany. We are on the one hand a traditional historical parish church and on the other leading and proactive in encouraging community cohesion and creativity.

On behalf of the church and my colleagues of Churches Together in Gainford, I wish to thank the Parish Council for its interest in us and indeed in all the groups and organisations in our community, and for its active support where this is sought.

Rev'd Eileen Harrop
Vicar, Gainford
Churches Together in Gainford
Governor, Gainford C of E Primary School
May 2018

Report from the Chair of the Parish Council May 2018

I have just completed my first year as chair of the parish council and am happy to report that I was re-elected at the annual parish council meeting earlier this month.

We said goodbye this year to Clive Dennis and welcomed Cllr's Coomer, Greenland and Bayles.

It has been an interesting year and has seen the parish council tackling some quite unexpected issues.

GDPR affects the work of parish councils and the council is indebted to the work of our clerk who has attended seminars and meetings to ensure that the council are well advanced in working towards compliance. Having attended some GDPR events

myself I know it was close to mass hysteria at times but Martin's experience and common sense has helped steer our parish council along a sensible route.

The purchase of land at West View/Balmer Hill has been one of the year's highlights and our celebrations included the hiring of an ice cream van providing free ice creams for children (and some parents and grandparents!). We had a good turnout with Councillor Hannan and me enjoying the sunshine and ice cream on one of Gainford's green spaces.

Balmer Hill Green is safe for all to enjoy as the sale and Land Registry documentation for the land has now been completed and under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 the PC as the land owner can now move forward to voluntarily register the area as village green. It can also be protected under our NP. Becoming classified as a village green enables the land to enjoy all the protection from development similarly to other village greens.

Throughout the year I have enjoyed working alongside Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan committee, Cllr Britton and members of the Neighbourhood Plan committee. The celebration event hosted on the 15th of October in the village hall was a great success with attendance much higher than we had anticipated. The afternoon tea, gin and champagne tasting was a master stroke by Cllr Britton and made for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Since the celebration event we have been asked what is happening with the plan. Understandably all those fantastic ideas and opinions readily given in October needed to be assimilated and are helping form the basis of the information gathering platform of the plan.

Work continues. My hopes are that this document is adopted by the parish as a statutory binding plan for the continued sustainability of Gainford. The neighbourhood plan committee are in a unique position to be able to create a statutory document taking account of all of our views in order to protect what we love about our wonderful parish whilst ensuring it continues as a vibrant village with businesses, school, a post office, public transport, organisations, churches, the Parish News magazine, events, our beautiful and historic village hall, shops and a pub.

I feel it is hugely important to support our village infrastructure and the Parish Council is committed to doing so. We are doubly blessed: we live in a most attractive parish; and we benefit from the convenience of a range of local amenities. We are not a sleepy village. We are an active, living community.

Gainford Fun Day takes place on 23rd June and the parish council are delighted to support this event. We are this year funding the climbing wall in order that children can enjoy this challenging but fun activity. The committee of the Neighbourhood Plan will be attending the Fun Day and we hope that everyone will take the opportunity to visit the stand. Find out more, ask questions, and get involved. In order for the plan to become a legal document it must represent all views.

It has been a pleasure throughout the year to work with some of Gainford and Langton's many other organisations and individuals. The Village Hall committee, Trees for Tees, Scouts, Toddlers our churches and litter picks organised by residents, are just a few we have worked with.

The Parish Council supported the school in their quest to hold a science week. It is an unfortunate fact that school funding does not allow teachers to do everything they would like to do in providing activities and events which often are the things a child remembers about his school life.

Being able to support the school and then being invited to attend a pop up planetarium in the school hall was... a unique experience. Crawling in stockinged feet along an inflatable tunnel in pitch-black darkness behind a similarly clad Mr Martin and class 2 was an absolute highlight. Supporting our school is one of my personal passions and one which the PC is committed to.

Throughout the year our recreation field has been used for organised and less formal sporting activities and this is one area of development the council will be working on. We are working towards increased use of the rec field for multi sports activities. We are researching providers and as of now checking insurance liability for providers. During a recent consultation there was support for the installation of outdoor gym equipment on the rec field and this is another area of development for the PC.

The Christmas light turn on saw a good turnout of residents and this is an event which the PC would like to develop. Providing residents with the opportunity to come together and celebrate is a one of the nicer things about being a member of the PC.

Communications between the PC and residents has seen sustained improvement with a variety of media being employed. An informal report following each meeting has been written and published in the Parish News every month. Our website holds all content: minutes, agendas, audits and so on. Our Facebook feed has been our primary social media platform however an instagram feed has been employed with great effect into the website for the neighbourhood plan using the #lovegainfordandlangton.

In conclusion I would like to thank: my fellow councillors for their work throughout the year; the help they have given me in my first year as chair; and for caring enough about our village to be parish councillors.

I'd like to thank Martin our clerk who is a wealth of advice and ensures the council runs efficiently; and Paul Ryman who carries out lots of work maintaining our beautiful parish.