

# Gainford & Langton

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2023

**COUNCILLORS:** Wilkinson, Jackson, Platten & Hannan

**Clerk:** Martin Clark

**Visitors:** Mrs C Van Mourik, M. Kennan, Teesdale Mercury

### **Public Participation:**

Concern was raised over the condition of the two Cherry trees on the village green that appear to be potentially diseased. The Oak tree planted for the Coronation has had a tree protector placed around the trunk.

*It was agreed to have the trees examined by a professional in order to ascertain what the problems are.*

The Blooming Gainford group would like to make an entry to the Northumbria in Bloom competition-Community Gardening section.

*The council will look into what is involved in an application.*

### **1. Acceptance, or otherwise of apologies**

None

### **2. Declarations of Interest:**

Members are asked to consider whether they might have a personal or a pecuniary interest in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting. If so, it is requested that any such interest be declared now. If subsequently during the consideration of any matter, it becomes apparent to any member that he/she does, indeed, have an interest, it should then be declared immediately.

**Resolved** – No personal or pecuniary declarations were made.

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17 May 2023.

**Resolved** - That the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of the 17 May 2023 be approved.

### **4. Clerks Report**

- The Clerk referred to the issue of grant applications for GAP which will be discussed at item 8 on the agenda
- Revised costs from DCC for the proposed feeder pillar on the green were due shortly
- External Audit preparations/completion
- Website training

**Resolved** – That the Clerk's Report be received and noted

### **5. Co-Option – Parish Councillor Vacancy**

Members were asked to consider the request from Mrs Christine Van Mourik for co-option to the Parish Council (Gainford Ward).

**Resolved** – (a) That Mrs Christine Van Mourik be co-opted as a member of Gainford & Langton Parish Council.

Cllr Van Mourik duly completed her Declaration of Office, was issued with the Register of Interest form, Good Councillor Guide, and advised of new councillor training taking place on the 5<sup>th</sup> July (zoom)

Cllr Van Mourik was invited by the Chair to join the meeting.

## **6. Finance**

6.1 June reconciliation and invoices for approval.

Additional invoices for approval:

C. Squires (repay) £135.98 Allotments (coverings)

C. Squires (repay) £58.94 Allotments (padlocks)

CE & CM Walker (grass cuts) £648.00

**Resolved** – That the June reconciliation and payments be approved.

### **6.2 Grant Application**

Members to consider the application for grant funding from Gainford Warm and Welcome for the continued provision of the 'Chatty Café' (received).

Members discussed the application submitted.

**Resolved** – (a) That an award is approved of £1,540.00 being the indicative costs of room hire for the project; (b) That the group are advised that the full request submitted could not be supported without additional costings; and (c) That a further separate grant request would be considered at a later point with appropriate justified costings.

### **6.3 Reserve Movement**

Members to consider moving £2,000 from General Reserves to the Community Grant Budget heading.

**Resolved** – That £2,000 is moved from General unallocated reserves to the Community Grant Fund.

### **6.4 External Audit 2022/23**

Submitted - Annual Governance Statement (external audit).

To approve the end of year accounts 2022/23 (subject to audit)

**Resolved** – That Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 be approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk/RFO.

## **7. Financial Regulations Review**

Submitted – Financial Regulations

**Resolved** – That the following amendments to the council's Financial Regulations are made:

3.2 Add – a 10% variance on budget heading if required would be authorised by resolution of the council

5.9 Change - £500 limit increased to £1,000 (to expedite urgent works, and counter authorised by the Chair)

## **8. GAP**

The Clerk referred to the S106 application for funding previously made. This application is withdrawn as the funding would now be considered by Teesdale Action Partnership Neighbourhood budgets, and the Towns and Villages fund.

The Chair referred to discussions with the Diocesan Chair over the final structure of the lease and rent review. A summary of this will be given to the Diocese for its meeting late June. The council will need to instruct solicitor following confirmation. Members discussed the design of the play area following consultation with children.

**Resolved** - Members agreed that Cllr Wilkinson looks at the children's 'shopping list' before asking Playdale to re-visit, if a planned layout change is being considered.

## 9. Village Issues/Maintenance

### (i) Annual Bonfire Event – Planning/Preparation

- The issue of creating the bonfire and the difficulties obtaining pallets
- Additional volunteers would be needed
- Parish Council supports with the administration to support the bonfire committee
- Bonfire Committee should be more structured
- Invite the committee to the July meeting

### (ii) Gas Governor – Balmer Hill

Cllr Platten referred to his meeting with representatives of Northern Gas Network in relation to their proposed installation of a Gas Governor located at Balmer, and the issues the council was raising over its size and location being inappropriate. Following the conclusion of the meeting Northern Gas Network agreed to go back and produce a revised design.

### (iii) Council store

Cllr Wilkinson informed members of the council store being tidied, with the help of Cllr Jackson. Shelving to store paperwork in boxes would need to be considered.

### (iv) Commemorative Stone

Cllr Platten referred to the chosen stone once cut was found to have a fault in it. A new stone will be selected.

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

## 10. Correspondence

Submitted – Details of correspondence received.

TAP	Annual Report
Northumbrian Water	Meet the Contractor
CDLAC	ASB Briefing

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

## 11. Planning

None.

The Clerk advised that the Planning Officer that dealt with the recent St Peter's demolition approval will be attending the July meeting.

## 12. Date & time of next meeting

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 7pm

**Meeting Closed**

