

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023

COUNCILLORS: Wilkinson, Hannan, & Platten

Clerk: Martin Clark

1. Acceptance, or otherwise of apologies

Cllr's Jackson & Van Mourik have submitted their apologies.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

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 ordinary Council meeting held on 04 October 2023.

Resolved - That the minutes of the ordinary Council Meeting of the 04 October 2023 be approved.

4. Clerks Report

Received (verbal) – Clerks report (**Appendix A**).

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

5. Finance

5.1 November reconciliation and invoices for approval (submitted).

Additional invoices:

A. Breeze - £360 (allotments)

Home Task Handyman - £103.50 (Maintenance)

M. Kennan (floral) - £78.00

M. Roff (bonfire) - £21.23

John Wade (skip) (bonfire) - £394.00

Resolved – That the November reconciliation and payments be approved.

5.2 To consider an application for a grant from Gainford Babies & Toddlers (submitted)

Members agreed the group were a valuable asset in the village and were happy to support them in covering the village hall rental to assist in sustaining the group.

Resolved – (a) That Gainford Babies & Toddlers be awarded £550.00; (b) That support for Gainford Babies & Toddlers is considered during the budget setting process for 2024/25.

5.3 2023/24 Pay Agreement

Agreement has been reached on the pay award for local government services employees, covering the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (equates to 3.88%).

Resolved – (a) That the information is noted; and (b) That the arrear of pay is paid in November salary.

6. Village Issues/Maintenance

6.1 Village green Christmas tree – Raby Estates have acknowledged the request for a tree.

6.2 Christmas tree (Island) – Due to the risk that the tree would not be hoisted onto the island the order was not placed following discussions with the Chair.

Members previously discussed having lights on the large trees on the island. It is recommended to begin exploration of the costs.

Resolved – That having the trees on the island light to be explored for costs and logistics for 2024.

6.3 A loose paving slab was reported on the steps from High Green to Low Road.

Resolved – That the Clerk seek a repair.

6.4 Blooming Gainford Group – Floral competition

A response has been received on the proposed competition.

Best front garden (private residence) ;

Best community or commercial display (e.g. Scouts, school, shop front)

Best small display (window box/hanging baskets)

Best kept allotment.

The competition would be free to enter for anyone living within the Parish.

Prizes should be garden centre vouchers, with £30 for 1st, £20 for 2nd and £10 for 3rd in each category, giving a total cost of £240.

Resolved – (a) That the council cover the cost of the prize money for the floral competition (£240); and (b) That the parish council contribute a further £250 to assist in the establishment of the group.

6.4 A request was made to have the gullies cleared on Low Road.

7. Bonfire Event

Discussed at Clerks report (**Appendix A**)

Additional - Cllr Platten was concerned by the amount of plastic (shredded) on the village green post the firework event. The environmental impact should be looked at. Introducing a post event litter pick on the greens.

It was agreed an article on the fireworks event, and what it entails is written for the Parish News.

8. GAP Development

Discussed at Clerks Report (**Appendix A**)

9. Correspondence

Submitted – Details of correspondence received.

Durham Community Action	Community Halls network meeting
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TAP	Meeting date
Raby Estates	Newsletter

Resolved – That the information be noted.

10. Planning

DM/23//02467/FPA – Highcliffe Farm, Winston – Erection of an agricultural building for free range egg production for 12000 hens.

This is a planning application outside the parish but is considered to be one Gainford & Langton may wish to comment.

Resolved – That Gainford & Langton Parish Council submit comments supporting the objectors. Referring to concerns over the environmental issues from waste products from the barns; risk of pollution to the Tees – diffuse pollution and point pollution.

11. Date & time of next meeting

Wednesday 6 December 2023, 7pm

Meeting closed.

Appendix A

- Gainford in Bloom email post the October meeting about floral competition sent – response awaited.
- Bonfire/Fireworks event 4th November – Successful evening but attendance was lower and bucket collections amounting to approximately £1800.
- Told at the bonfire event that the guys letting the fireworks off will be giving up after 30 years!! So may need to look at a training course and volunteers going forward.
- A big thank you to everyone who helped.

GAP

- Playdale spoken to, and he can come out on the 30th at 2pm to re-look at original plans.
- The grant application is going through appraisal, and they have come back with questions that are being sorted. Will chase the Diocese as information required from them.
- Planners have confirmed that planning permission is not required providing equipment does not exceed 4 metres in height.
- Spoken to BHP Law on having them do the lease for the council - Estimate is in the region of £1500 plus vat and disbursements.
- The Christmas tree for the green has been requested from Raby. Due to the risk this year of not having the big tree hoisted onto the island, one has not been ordered one.
- Arranged for Home Task Handyman to paint the garage/store doors. He also removed the firework boxes left on the green post the bonfire event.
- Will be speaking to EON re the standing charge for the electric box on the island as recently increased.

- Traffic survey for village requested but no update available.
- Additional graffiti on bus shelter will be looked at to remove.

Clerk Report