

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023

COUNCILLORS: Wilkinson, Hannan, & Platten, Jackson & Van Mourik.

Visitors: Teesdale Mercury.

1. Acceptance, or otherwise of apologies

None

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 15 November 2023.

Resolved - That the minutes of the ordinary Council Meeting of the 15 November 2023 be approved.

4. Clerks Report

In the Clerks absence no report was available.

5. Finance

5.1 December reconciliation and invoices for approval (submitted).

Resolved – That the December reconciliation and payments be approved.

6. Village Issues/Maintenance

6.1 Balmer Hill Gas Governor

Cllr Platten gave members a report from his meeting with Northern Gas Network (NGN) on 4th December 2023. Members viewed the revised plans submitted. The main points from the meeting and discussion were:

- The existing 'Gas Governor' is currently below ground and located on the village green at Balmer Hill.
- The Governor supplies the whole village with gas, not just the Balmer Hill area.
- There is a need for a new one – a glass fibre building 2.3m high which cannot be partially submerged.
- The new Governor box would be 2m from the road.
- Work anticipated to start in September 2024.

- The visual impact was discussed by members who were informed NGN would be open to look at locating it away from the proposed area, but within the general location to reduce the visual impact this option within the location.
- If it is placed in a different location away from Balmer Hill green this would see significant disruption with new pipes having to be laid, and the road being dug up to lay and connect them. This would impact everyone in the village.
- NGN referred to anything they could do for the community.
- The proposed box would be housed within a small compound, with some pipes and taps below the surface – any groundwork needed would be reinstated.
- Members agreed that NGN should be communicating (consultation) with the local community around Balmer Hill.
- NGN should be invited to the January council meeting to further discuss.

Resolved – (a) That Cllr Platten produce written notes of his meeting to supply members; and (b) that Cllr Platten invite NGN to attend the January 2024 council meeting.

8. GAP Development

Cllr Wilkinson gave members a verbal update on the current position.

- Solicitors have been instructed.
- The lease (draft) has been received from the Diocese – 25 years with a modest rent of £250.00 per year.
- Things are well in hand.
- A meeting took place with Playdale who will supply new costings and designs – may have a shortfall in funding to look at.

9. Correspondence

Submitted – Details of correspondence received.

Northumbrian Water	Temporary Road Closure
Boundary Commission	County Durham final recommendations

Resolved – That the information be noted.

10. Planning

DM/23/03461/LB- Gainford Hall, Low Road – Erection of timber boundary fence (retrospective).

DM/23/03460/FPA – Gainford Hall, Low Road – Erection of timber boundary fence (retrospective).

Resolved – That the retrospective applications are noted.

Applications can be viewed online via Durham County Council's Planning Application System: <http://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/>

11. Date & time of next meeting

Wednesday 10 January 2024, 7pm

Meeting closed.