

# Gainford & Langton

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 3 JULY 2024**

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

**Visitors:** Louis Jerrom, & 6 members of the public.

Cllr Jackson took the Chair for the meeting.

### **Public Participation**

A member of Blooming Gainford spoke to advise the council of the work planting the village – the gateways to the village from the East and West, plus the Lord Nelson Island have been planted up. These areas will be watered during the summer.

They entered Northumberland in Bloom competition. This will be judged on 1 August.

Best garden competition has been launched. The council agreed to fund the prize money of £240 (Minute 6.4(a)/Nov/2023 refers). The prizes will be garden centre vouchers. They have an independent person to judge this. Entries by the end of July and judging to take place in early August.

General concerns were raised by those present about the state of the weed growth along the main road; the footpath overgrown impacting on the footpath at Stobb Hill; kerb sides; the and the verges on the Eastern approach to the village.

A concern over the weed growth at the riverside was mentioned, especially around the benches.

*The Clerk explained that the responsibility for the areas referred are Durham County Council and they will be reported. The Riverside Trust will be contacted about the overgrown areas under their responsibility.*

*Cllr Jackson thanked residents for their attendance, and opened the meeting.*

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

Cllr Wilkinson submitted his 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 Council meeting held on 5 June 2024.

**Resolved** - That the minutes of the Council meeting on 5 June 2024 be approved.

Minutes July 2024

#### **4. Co-Option - Parish Council Vacancy**

Members to consider the request received from Louis Jerrom for co-option to the Parish Council (Gainford Ward).

**Resolved** – (a) That Louis Jerrom be co-opted to the Gainford Ward of Gainford & Langton Parish Council; (b) That Cllr Jerrom signed his Declaration of Office; and (c) That Cllr Jerrom be issued his Register of Interest form to complete.

#### **5. Clerks Report**

The Clerk updated members on:

Organising final GAP strim and tidy prior to opening

Ice cream van organised at last minute after being let down with original booking

Audit submitted

Trying to ascertain final ownership of the land at St Peter's, especially the allotment site as it has not been clear if Ruttle Plant still retain this. Awaiting responses.

**Resolved** – That the Clerks report is received and noted.

#### **6. Finance**

6.1 July meeting reconciliation and payments.

Additional invoices:

Blooming Gainford - £81.99

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

#### **7. Village Issues/Maintenance**

7.1 Christmas lights (Wishing Tree)

Members discussed the one off cost to permanently light the tree or trees on the island. The Clerk informed members that by using the Bonfire and Christmas tree budgets, plus an element of the reserves the costs of £4,431.00 plus the ducting from the power supply box was achievable.

**Resolved** – (a) That the Christmas Plus quote to install 800m, 8000 individual LEDs on one of the trees on the island at a cost of £4431.00 financed from the Bonfire, Christmas Tree budgets.

7.2 Weed clearance/spraying & general village maintenance & the responsibility of Parish Council

Cllr Platten spoke on this issue Causing concern. It has become clear that Mr Ryman, our previous handyman, that he carried out a number of additional tasks out of goodwill, such as weed spraying. Our current village handyman at present is not qualified to administer Herbicides but is willing to go on a course.

In addition the roles and responsibilities of the parish council and Durham County Council have not been clear, due in part with Mr Ryman carrying out extra works to keep the village looking good. Making it clear to residents the areas of responsibility need addressing.

**Resolved** – (a) That a herbicide course is identified for Mr Tomlinson; and (b) That a table of responsibilities is produced and posted on the council website to show who is responsible for what.

## 8. Correspondence

Submitted – Details of correspondence received.

None	
------	--

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

## 9. Planning

**DM/24/01421/FPA** – Kebbell Ltd – site of former St Peters School – Erection of 5 no. dwellings and associated works. **Resolved** – That the application is noted.

**DM/24/01494/VOC** – Kebble Ltd – site of former St Peters School – Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) and condition 3 (materials) pursuant to permission DM/18/01980/FPA – substitute the house types and changes to layout. **Resolved** – That the application is noted.

The Clerk informed members of additional applications:

**DM/24/01630/FPA** – 4 Eden Lane, Gainford – Single storey side extension. **Resolved** – That the application is noted.

Dm/24/01539/LB – 28 Low Green, Gainford – Alterations to outbuilding and internal configuration to accommodate second floor WC. **Resolved** – That the application is noted.

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

## 10. Donation and Grant Award Policy Review

Received – Draft Donations Policy, Grant Awarding Policy and application form for review.

Cllr Platten spoke, and informed members of the work done to make the grant application and guidance easier for those wishing to apply for a grant. Some work is still required. Members will be copied the final document for comment in order to bring it in to use as soon as practicable.

**Resolved** – That Cllr Platten send the final document to members for comment.

## 11. Parish Council Branding

This item was deferred until the September meeting.

**Meeting closed.**

**Next meeting – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September @ 7.00pm**