

# Gainford & Langton

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2024**

**COUNCILLORS:** Wilkinson, Platten, Hannan, Jerrom & Van Mourik.

**Officer:** M. Clark (Clerk)

**Visitors:** 1 members of the public; Teesdale Mercury

### Public Participation

None

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

Cllr Jackson submitted her 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 4 September 2024.

**Resolved** - That the minutes of the Council meeting on 4 September 2024 be approved.

*With the agreement of members the Chair requested agenda item 6 (Bonfire) be brought forward*

#### 4. Clerks Report

Received – Clerks report (Appendix A)

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

#### 5. Finance

5.1 October meeting reconciliation and payments.

Additional invoice - CE & CM Walker £679.20 (Grass cuts)

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

#### 5.2 Safe use of Pesticides, and Safe Handling of Pesticides

Approval required to enrol the village handyman on the above courses at a total cost of £535 with the money from the Maintenance budget.

**Resolved** – That the Safe use of Pesticides, and Safe Handling of Pesticides courses be approved for payment from the Maintenance Budget.

#### 5.3 Community Grant application (submitted)

A grant application has been received from the Dog Fouling Campaign for consideration.

**Resolved** – That the award of £30 be approved

Minutes October 2024

## 5.4 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24

Pursuant of Minute 7.1 & 7.2/May/24 and the council's approval of Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement and Section 2 (Accounting Statements), the Annual Return, together with all supporting documentation, were duly submitted to the Council's External Auditor (Mazars LLP by the agreed date.

There were no material matters affecting the opinion.

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

## 6. Bonfire/Fireworks Future Events

Following the cancellation of the 2024 event discussions took place on how things could go ahead in 2025. Following the retirement from those who set the fireworks the council looked at the potential of bringing in a professional firm to set things. This has proved a problem following their advice, and on checking current/new guidance (Red Book) which meant the location was no longer suitable for a public display.

- Another location has been explored but this presents a number of additional problems to be considered.
- Potential volunteers have now come forward to carry out firework training.
- If fireworks are to continue on the village green, it would mean ground level/low level fireworks only.
- Make the event in 2025 more of a 'festival of fire' with more of a community feel, with low level fireworks and other activities to supplement it.
- More volunteers are needed for the 'committee'

**Resolved** – (a) That provision in the 2025/26 budget is made for 2 volunteers to go on the firework training in Luton with reasonable travel expenses; and (b) the parish council work with the volunteer's bonfire committee to look at having a 2025 Festival of fire event.

## 7. Village Issues/Maintenance

- (i) Rubbish bins on School Lane/Rec field – movement
- (ii) A lot of leaf debris accumulating – could the drains be cleared by DCC
- (iii) GAP – book in playground inspection (Park Lane)

## 8. Correspondence

Submitted – Details of correspondence received.

Woodland Parish Council	Hamsterley Development
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**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## 9. Planning

None

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

**Meeting closed.**

**Next meeting – Wednesday 6 November @ 6.30pm**

## **Appendix A**

### **02 October 2024 meeting - Clerks Report**

- Spoken to Houghall College about courses that our handyman could do re weed killing. They have a Safe use of Pesticides, and Safe Handling of Pesticides. Both one day courses with both being required to complete. Total cost £535. The next available dates for these are 18th and 31st October. I have spoken to Anthony, and he is happy to do the courses. As an add on we should cover the milage so just a few quid more. **Subject to approval at the meeting Anthony will be booked on the course.**
- Contacted Ruttle Plant regarding a longer lease - They are not prepared to alter or amend the current agreement which they feel is fair and reasonable and in accordance with the Allotment Act.
- Spoken to our insurance company about the council's liability for fireworks and bonfire - Simply the council must take reasonable care to mitigate risks when managing any activity, and abide by any rules, guidelines or professional advice given. If not the liability falls.
- I await a response from NGN on the next steps re Governor lease and request for electricians – response received and yet to be examined.
- Contacted Sport England to refer to the T&Cs from the grant received for the football pitch – Responsibility is to maintain the ground – cut and fertilise
- Contacted Raby to request the hedge by the rec field to be cut back
- Arranged for the rubbish bin to be returned to the rec field

