

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Visitors: 2 members of the public; Teesdale Mercury

Public Participation

Members of the public present wished to discuss the annual bonfire & fireworks event - plans/training/committee make up to oversee future events following the retirements.

The Chair explained that the main issues would be discussed at the October meeting when it will be placed on the published agenda.

It was also noted that due the call for volunteers was not forthcoming in time, that this year's event would not take place. Explored the option of a private company setting things off this year, but they informed the council that they would not as they felt the site was too small. New regulations/guidelines known as the 'Red Book' will need to be examined in order to ensure any event is meeting the minimum requirements.

Main points from discussion:

4 volunteers have come forward recently; training is available (1 day) but no dates for next year as yet; bonfire committee should be bigger with an additional council contact other than Clerk; a more professional approach to ensure everyone stays safe; create a succession plan.

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 Council meeting held on 4 July 2024.

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

4. Clerks Report

Received – Clerks report

Resolved – (a) That the Clerks report is received and noted; (b) That Ruttle Plant are requested to consider offering the council a 25 year lease on the land used for allotments; (c) Confirm with Kebble the extent of their land ownership around St Peters, and do a land registry search if required; (d) that clarification is sought from Sport England on the obligations of the council in respect of the sports field (football pitch), its minimum

Minutes September 2024

requirements; (e) That rubbish bin is located back by the rec field; and (f) That Raby are asked to trim their hedge along the side of the recreation field.

5. Finance

5.1 September meeting reconciliation and payments.

Resolved – That the September payments and reconciliation be approved.

6. Village Issues/Maintenance

6.1 Vehicles parked on village green

Consideration will be given to the purchase of a further 'No Parking on village green' sign when the branding/logo issue is resolved.

6.2 Gas Governor

The Clerk referred to recent correspondence from Northern Gas Network (NGN) on the installation of a replacement Gas Governor at Balmer Hill.

- NGN will require a lease for the parcel of land
- Subject to contract NGN will grant a single payment to the council of £2,000
- NGN will pay the council legal and surveyors fees
- A draft lease has been drawn up

Resolved – (a) That the information is received and noted; (b) That the lease and offer to pay the council's reasonable legal and surveyor fees be agreed; and (c) That the grant of £2,000 be accepted, with the request that NGN consider assisting to complete the ducting and electrical works to the lights on the 'island'

6.3 Weed Killing/spraying

Due to recent complaints over the amount of weeds on the footpaths and through the main drag through the village the parish council would consider looking at a course the local handyman could complete.

Resolved – That the Clerk explore the possibility of available courses, dates and costs.

7. Correspondence

Submitted – Details of correspondence received.

Resident	Re GAP under 2's play equipment
Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP)	Local AAP boundary consultation
Northumbrian Water	Pipeline update
TAP	Board meeting

Resolved – That the information be noted.

8. Planning

DM/24/02208/FPA & DM/24/02209/LB

9 High Row, Gainford – proposed removal of sand and cement render from front elevation, cleaning of stonework and reinstatement of existing lead flashings.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

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

9. Council Meetings

Members to consider altering the time of its ordinary meetings from 7.00pm to 6.30pm from October 2024.

Resolved – That from October 2024 Parish Council meetings will start at 6.30pm

10. Parish Council Branding

The Parish Council requires updating and digitised. This can be done by the website designer. Cllr Platten will discuss this matter and refer back to the council.

Meeting closed.

Next meeting – Wednesday 2 October @ 6.30pm

04 September 2024 meeting - Clerks Report

- Lights on the tree at the 'island' installed – getting quotes for the additional ducting work being obtained
- GAP grant monitoring forms completed and returned
- Discussing minor questions from external auditor on council return – cleared and awaiting return.
- GAP regular cut and maintenance organised through local handyman
- Goal posts on recreation field painted by handyman
- Football field autumn selective herbicide and spreading of granular fertiliser being organised
- Discussed allotment rent with Ruttle Plant – they still own that site, and the rent will remain as is.
- Discussed potential timetable for works at St Peter's to begin – awaiting further approval from DCC on plans for the front section. This is likely to be given in late September. Additionally requested on behalf of the scouts having the frontage fence. This was agreed but not until buildings are complete.
- Issuing warning letters to allotment holders for non-cultivation (on behalf of allotment group)
- Liaising with grass contractors over cutting and strimming the 'Orchard' and riverside
- Dealing with insurance company on a claim but not against the council.
- Gainford in Bloom – prize money following competition paid as per approval by the council.

- Reported village paths (weeds) to DCC – spraying was completed and the section of the path up toward Ingleton was cut back (may require further work).