

Gainford & Langton

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCILLORS: Wilkinson, Jerrom & Van Mourik.

Officer: M. Clark (Clerk)

Visitors: Teesdale Mercury

Public Participation

No members of the public present.

1. Acceptance, or otherwise of apologies

Cllr's Jackson, Hannan & Platten 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 Council meeting held on 6 October 2024.

Resolved - That the minutes of the Council meeting on 6 October 2024 be approved.

4. Clerks Report

Received – Clerks report (Appendix A)

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

5. Finance

5.1 November meeting reconciliation and payments.

Additional invoices - P. Ryman - £2,950*, & CE & CM Walker £679.20 (Grass cuts), Park Lane Playgrounds £120, Raby Estates £50 & £35 and Focus Magazine £50 (October)

*to be reclaimed

Resolved – That the November payments and reconciliation be approved.

At this point Cllr Jerrom declared an interest as part of the Santa Sleigh committee. He took no part in the decision or discussion.

5.2 Santa's Sleigh

Pursuant to minute 7.3/December/22 the council contribute £250 toward the upkeep of Santa Sleigh for 5 years (under review)

Resolved – That £250 be approved for Santa's Sleigh for 2024 with the funding coming from the Community Support budget.

5.3 2024/25 PAY AGREEMENT

Agreement has been reached on the pay award for local government services (Green Book) employees covering the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2025. The award represents an increase of 2.72%.

Resolved – That the arrears of pay be paid in November salary.

6. Village Issues/Maintenance

6.1 Allotments – request to allow small ponds to attract wildlife and reduce slug problem.

Resolved – (a) That permission is given for a small number of ponds on the allotment site; and (b) That any tenant with permission for a small pond fills it in if they vacate their allotment.

6.2 Recreation Field bin

Issues of the bin being emptied and then moved by DCC.

The Clerk will contact DCC to attempt to resolve the issues which will include repositioning the bin back along the recreation field track in a position that would allow easier access for emptying it.

6.3 Christmas Tree lights

The ducting work for the lights has been completed. A timer will now be required.

A small switch on event will take place on Friday 29th November @6.00pm.

6.4 GAP Inspection

The report from Park Lane identified works required on the sleeves of the Birds Nest Swing. This would cost £720. The rest of the play area was given a clean bill of health.

Resolved – That the repairs to the Birds Nest Swing is carried out.

6.5 Parish Paths

The Clerk informed members that Mr Paul Ryman will be retiring and no longer going to be doing this work from 2025.

Member agreed that it should look secure a replacement contractor.

6.6 Footpath (North Road)

This pavement has become overgrown and narrow. It will require scrapping back/digging out to allow safe access.

Clerk will report the matter to Durham County Council.

7. Correspondence

Submitted – Details of correspondence received.

Durham Community Action	News update
Raby	Newsletter
Gainford School	Admissions consultation

Resolved – That the information be noted.

8. 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 4 December @ 6.30pm

Appendix A

06 November 2024 meeting - Clerks Report

- Gas Governor – contacted BHP Law to act for the parish council on the lease required by NGN.
- Village maintenance operative to clear a couple of allotment plots
- Mr Tomlinson completed and passed the East Durham College pesticide courses
- Contacted DCC to request drain/gullies to be cleared
- Reported 2 street lights out of action
- Arranged for electrician to carry out ducting works to tree lights and completed
- Request for a medium sized Christmas tree for the village green from Raby
- GAP inspection organised
- Community Grant awarded – paid
- Grant application issued to Focus Parish Magazine
- Allotment warning letter issued to uncultivated plot

