

Minutes of Gosfield Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st May 2018 at The Pavilion, The Playing Field, Church Road, Gosfield at 7.15pm. **These are draft minutes and yet to be agreed by the Parish Council.**

Present.

Cllr. Mandy Adams.

Cllr. Laurence Carter.

Cllr. Tricia Edwards - Vice Chair.

Cllr. Isla Gill.

Cllr. Carol Hough.

Cllr. Thea Maragkakis.

Cllr. Maggie Pawsey.

Cllr. Tony Strudwick.

Cllr. Bob Waters – Chairman.

Amanda Degnan – Relief Clerk.

Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi.

Together with 16 members of the public.

18/69 Apologies for absence. Parish clerk County Councillor Jo Beavis.

18/70 Declarations of interest. Cllr. Gill declared an interest in 18/00766/FUL, 18/00767/LBC and 18/00279/OUT. Cllr. Hough declared an interest in 18/00279/OUT.

18/71 Public Statements and Questions. Chris Manhire of Manhire Surveyors LLP spoke on behalf of Gosfield School, Halstead Road about their proposal to build a Performance Arts Centre. This will be for school use only to enhance and replace existing facilities. The aim of his visit to the meeting was to inform the Parish Council of the upcoming planning application for this. He handed out some documentation regarding the proposed building. It was noted that the school had already had a Pre Plan meeting with Braintree District Council (BDC) who had been very supportive. The location of the building will be behind the Astroturf area and not next to the listed building. There is also plenty of car parking. Mr Manhire took some questions from the public and Councillors, including one from District Cllr. John O'Reilly Ciccone regarding the footpath along the Halstead Road which is still blocked by the hedge owned by the school. Mr Manhire offered to raise it with the school. It was noted that if the school wish to eventually hire the building out it will need planning permission for public use. Mr Manhire then left the meeting.

A resident asked when the Playing Field carpark will be tarmacked. Cllr. Gill has asked and suggested the Chairman write a letter to Transporter asking for a date. The Chairman, Cllr.

Waters agreed to write a letter and will have an answer for the next meeting. **Action: Cllr. Waters.**

Residents raised concerns regarding Planning Application 18/00279/OUT. This included the size and access to the development. A resident asked about the damaged SID on Hedingham Road. It is in the hands of the insurers. A resident asked why the speed sign on the Halstead Road had not been moved to its next site. The Chairman will enquire. **Action: Cllr. Waters.**

Report from the County Councillor None. District Councillor. District Cllr. John O'Reilly Ciccone raised two points. 1. £375.00 available to the Parish Council from his Councillors Community Grant Fund. 2. BDC had recently lost a major court case regarding planning. They had apparently been misinterpreting the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) regarding isolated homes in the countryside. The Court of Appeal decided that due to there being no plan, BDC need to go by the NPPF and that isolated means the middle of nowhere. This means that anybody who applies to build a home in proximity to a settlement will get permission. All the information regarding this matter is online on BDC's website. A resident asked about the 5-year plan, Cllr. O'Reilly Ciccone replied that BDC are no closer to completion on this. Cllr. O'Reilly Ciccone informed the meeting that he will not be seeking re-election next year. The Chairman, Cllr. Waters thanked Cllr. O'Reilly Ciccone for all his work.

18/72 a). Approve the minutes of the previous meeting. With some amendments on 18/44 and 18/46. The minutes were duly approved. **b). Matters arising from the minutes.** It was noted that the Playing Field Management Committee have paid towards the Parish Council insurance. They will be obtaining their own insurance from next year. The Parish Council post box and the Allotments are being dealt with by the Clerk. **Action: Clerk**

18/73 a). Approve the accounts for payment. These were duly approved. **b). Approve the petty cash payments.** None

18/74 Braintree District Council planning updates. None.

18/75 Braintree District Council planning applications. Planning no: 18/00766/FUL and 18/00767/LBC. Conversion of redundant storage barn and associated buildings into proposed new dwelling house, swimming pool and garden area. Cllr. Gill, having declared an interest, left the room while this application was discussed. After a brief discussion, Cllr. Strudwick proposed "no Comment" which was seconded by Cllr. Pawsey. The Councillors unanimously agreed "No Comment".

Planning no: 18/00279/OUT. Outlining planning with all matters reserved, except access, to erect up to 135 new (including affordable) homes. Cllr Gill and Hough, having declared interests, left the room while this application was discussed. After a lengthy discussion, Cllr. Pawsey proposed "to object", seconded by Cllr Maragkakis The Councillors unanimously agreed "to object" to this application. They gave the following grounds for refusal.

1. Access to the site. It was noted that other sites have been refused access off the Hedingham Road because of the lack of adequate sight lines and the need to remove hedges.

2. The increase in size of the village. Concerns were expressed that the village will be unable to cope with the additional households. Together with the sites already given permission, (Total number of houses 64) this would represent a 33% increase in the size of the village
3. In danger of becoming a suburb of Halstead.
4. Pressure on the A1017.
5. Lack of infrastructure. E.g. NHS, Schools etc.
6. Lack of an EIA statement.

It was also noted that there has not been a public consultation on this application. Cllr. Gill and Hough returned to the meeting.

The following agenda item was amended from the published agenda to read as follows.

18/76 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18. The meeting was opened for Richard Edwards to explain that the Annual Accounts were approved at the last meeting and the figures are used in the AGAR. A public notice and the AGAR needs to be placed on the website and the noticeboard by the 4th June.

(a) to receive and note the annual internal audit report from Maurice Lake & Co Ltd.

Proposed Cllr. Carter, seconded Cllr. Hough. Received and noted.

(b) to review the annual governance and accountability return for completeness before sending to the external auditor. Meeting approval to be minuted and then signed by chairman and clerk to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr. Strudwick and seconded by Cllr. Carter that the AGAR be approved. It is duly minuted that approval was unanimously agreed by all Councillors. The AGAR was signed by the Chairman and clerk to the meeting.

(c) to receive, review and approve accounting statements for 2017/18. Parish Clerk to sign.

18/77 Data Protection Policy – update. Cllr. Edward provided an update on this. It is noted that a Data Protection Officer is no longer required but the Parish Council still need to abide by GDPR. It was noted that payroll is now on a portal. Councillors should receive a form by the 25th May containing the data held on them.

18/78 Village parking issues. (Cllr. Maragkakis). There was a discussion on this issue. Cllr. Waters would like to see double yellow lines on every corner in the village. It was noted that a car had been parked in the playing field carpark for 10 days, Cllr. Strudwick will speak to the owner.

18/79 Village sign. Update from the Twinning Association. The meeting was opened for Ken Fuller from Twinning's to speak. He explained the background to the sign. Pictures of the proposed sign were distributed to the Councillors. The decision on which image to use was put to the vote: image 1 = 6 for, image 2 = 2 for. Image 1 was duly approved. The sign will be doubled sided at an angle to the road. Funding is from the following: £2000 Art Fund, £250 Gosfield Lake Gold Club, Twinning's and The Maurice Rowson Trust. Ken Fuller will inform the sign makers. He was thanked for his work on this matter. Cllr. Waters will check planning and Greenfields. Action **Cllr. Waters.**

18/80 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, village representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. It was noted that the grasscutter had been repaired under warranty. When returned, Does representative will provide guidelines on its use, while Matt Jarvis will be in control of who can use it. It was noted that the Golf Club have been cutting the grass in the absence of the machine. Cllr. Adams provided an update on Gosfield in Bloom. Planters are being put in place, and during the weekend of the 2nd June planting will take place. Approval was needed for planting on the HA HA – agreed. Judging will take place during the 5th – 21st July. A new map needs to be placed in the Parish Path noticeboard. It was agreed that hanging baskets can be hung from the Pavilion. For the bus shelters they will need to approach Highways and the Bus Companies. Residents, Local Companies and Halstead in Bloom have been very supportive. A note will be placed in The Grapevine asking residents to tidy up their front gardens before the judging takes place.

18/81 Correspondence. Cllr. Gill reported that Gosfield have been shortlisted for Rural Essex Village in Bloom. The relief clerk circulated the correspondence.

18/82 Any other business (Chairman). Public statements and future agenda items. Cllr. Strudwick asked that the area by the post box in Chestnut Avenue be added to the Grass Cutter’s list. The Chairman, Cllr. Waters will be calling a meeting of the Personnel Committee to discuss the appointment of a new clerk. It was noted that the current clerk will be leaving in February. The Chairman will draft an advert and circulate it to the committee members and discuss how to proceed with the changeover. **Action. Cllr. Waters.**

Cllr. Edwards raised the issue of the Asset Register. It was noted that the play area had been under insured. There will need to be a discussion before October on what to do.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed.....

Chairman of Gosfield Parish Council.

Date.....