

# **GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025 AT 7.15PM AT THE PAVILION**

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### **Present:**

Cllr Tricia Edwards (Chairman)  
Cllr Richard Edwards also (RFO)  
Cllr Jo Colyer  
Cllr Carol Hough  
Cllr Maggie Pawsey  
Cllr Tony Strudwick  
Cllr John Willis  
Mrs Diane Jacob (Parish Clerk)

**Also Present:** Seven members of public present including invited guest speakers and  
Cllr Chris Siddall  
Cllr Peter Schwier

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### **Item 25/0001 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2024.**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024, already confirmed, approved/signed see minute number 24/067 Item 6.

### **Item 25/0002**

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024-2025**

2024/25 has once again been a very busy year for the Parish Council.

The following items have been dealt with or discussed during the year: The usual planning applications, potholes, water leaks, hedges, streetlights, footpaths, etc.

Since the last meeting in March 2024:

We have had travellers at the top of Meadway and thanks must go to District Councillor Peter Schwier for his advice.

We have repaired the speed indicator device in Hedingham Road

The neighbourhood plan has progressed and John Willis as chairman of the subcommittee will be giving an update on this.

County Councillor Chris Siddall is assisting in trying to reduce the speed limit in Braintree Road to 40mph

The Zebra crossing in The Street – we are still waiting to see if we meet the criteria

The VE Day committee have been busy arranging a talk by Andrew Cox together with a picnic in the park on 10th May.

Land at top of Meadway – we are still awaiting final details so that we can sign the lease with the developers and receive the section 106 moneys.

We again donated £150 to social club towards Christmas tree

The children's play area – we are hoping that Braintree District Council will assist in weekly routine inspections. We have also arranged for the repair of the roundabout.

**Signed:** .....  
**Chairperson of the Parish Council**

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025

The beacon on the playing field will be replaced before the VE Day celebrations on 8th May.  
Precept – the Parish Council discussed the financial position of the Council and agreed to increase the precept by 8.96%. Richard Edwards our responsible financial officer would be pleased to answer any queries on this.

Skate ramp/crowd funding – we are still awaiting prices from a supplier of concrete skate ramps so that we can finalise the crowd funding in conjunction with the National Lottery who have pledged £7500 if we can raise a further £7500. This will be added to the £40,000 section 106 moneys from The Lindens.

Regarding the nature reserve, Councillors R Edwards and Strudwick have been having consultations with Stephen Westover, our nature reserve warden re his 5-year contract and agreeing which works are the important. In addition Stephen has repaired one of the footbridges in the nature reserve. Cllr Strudwick is helping find some homes for some little visitors to the nature reserve in a couple of months.

We now have a new pétanque court next to the pavilion and details can be found in the Grapevine. The village speed watch has been revived and hopefully will assist in keeping the speed in the village down.

Re the allotments, it was decided to increase plot fees from September 2025 for the first time for many years. We are also looking at a polycarbonate greenhouse for the allotment holders and we have around £1100 worth of section 106 moneys to come to assist with this.

We recently replaced the playing field fence at the top of the field in Hall Drive with the assistance of £10,000 from the Rowson Trust.

Our priorities this year are the playing field car park and further fencing around the playing field.

I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors for their time and effort during the year. Unfortunately, I must report that Tony Farrelly resigned last week so we are looking to co-opt a further person onto the council.

I would like to thank our Clerk, Diane Jacob, our toilet cleaner, Fiona Martin and our litter picker, Christine Snowdon, for all their hard work during the year.

Finally, I would like to thank our County Councillor Chris Siddall and our District Councillor Peter Schwier for their help, support and grants during the year.

#### **Item 25/0003 Cllrs Reports.**

Cllr Willis reported and gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan, final plan will be sent to BDC in the next couple of weeks.

Cllr Strudwick reported and gave an update on the Fairy trail soon to be opened in the Nature reserve.

#### **25/0004 Reports from County and District Councillors.**

Cllr Chris Siddall – Essex County Council a full annual report can be viewed on our website. Speeding issues throughout Gosfield were discussed in detail, speed surveys have been carried out by Essex County Council Highways and the results can be viewed on our website, Braintree Road is in compliance with the current speed limit and it was confirmed that Gosfield do not meet the criteria for a pedestrian crossing, traffic calming measures to be considered, Cllr Siddall to follow up with Highways.

Cllr Peter Schwier – Braintree District Council a full annual report can be viewed on our website.

#### **Item 25/0005**

This was a very informal meeting, and reports were read out by Representatives of the following organisations, outlining their activities and events throughout the year.

#### **GUEST SPEAKERS IN ATTENDANCE**

- Village Circle (Report read out by Chairman)
- Gosfield Community Shop
- Open Gardens
- Gosfield in Bloom

**Signed:** .....  
**Chairperson of the Parish Council**

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025

- Church
- Rowson Perpetual Memorial Fund
- Maurice Rowson Village Hall
- Social Club
- Gosfield Nature Reserve
- Gosfield Horticultural Society
- Gosfield Scouts, Cubs and Beavers
- Gosfield Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers
- Village Fete Committee

**Item 25/0006**

A question was raised regarding the open space areas listed in the Neighbourhood plan and was answered by Cllr Willis.

Special thanks expressed to the editor of the Grapevine.

**Item 25/0007**

Date of next meeting to be confirmed

To take place from 1st March to 1st June 2026 inclusive – This to be confirmed and arranged by Gosfield Parish Council.

Meeting Closed at 8.46pm

Signed: .....  
Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025