

GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT - MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
OF GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 23rd MARCH 2026 AT 7.15PM
AT THE PAVILION**

Present:

Cllr Tricia Edwards (Chairman)
Cllr Jo Colyer
Cllr Tony Strudwick
Mrs Diane Jacob (Parish Clerk)

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

Item 26/0001 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2025.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting held on 31st March 2025, already confirmed, approved/signed see minute number 25/058 Item 4.

Item 26/0002

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025-2026

2025/2026 has yet again been a busy and eventful year for Gosfield Parish Council.

When we started the year, we were seeking to co-opt one councillor. Unfortunately, John Willis resigned in September so we are now two councillors down. John was a great addition to our team and is sorely missed. Hopefully some new persons will step forward in the very near future to join us.

During the year we dealt with the usual issues, ie planning, potholes, streetlights, blocked gullies, public footpaths, etc.

On top of this, the following is just a sample of what we have dealt with during the year:

The open space land at the top of Meadway is still not yet owned by the Parish Council. Once Braintree District Council are satisfied that all the developer's conditions have been met, then this should take place by July at the latest.

The Parish Council have agreed to accept the lodge plantation to be part of the nature reserve and this matter is again still ongoing.

We are very pleased that the skate ramp which was installed late last year is being well used. This was made possible by Section 106 moneys/grants and at no cost to the Parish Council.

Signed:
Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 20th April 2026

Thanks must go to Cllr Strudwick for the fairy trail in the nature reserve. This was opened by Cllr Chris Siddall and was enjoyed by many children (and adults). Unfortunately Tony has decided that he is no longer prepared to continue with the project this year.

During the year the Parish Council acquired a new beacon for the playing field, and this was used for the VE Day celebrations. These celebrations went extremely well and were attended by a great many villagers and friends alike. Remembrance Sunday was also very well attended.

We are pleased that the village now has a pétanque court on the playing field which is well used.

We again contributed £150 to the social club towards the Christmas tree.

Unfortunately the toilets in the pavilion were subjected to vandalism this year. The Police were involved and we felt it necessary to close the toilets when the shop was not open. The toilets will be open again as previously with effect from 30 March. CCTV is monitoring the area so we will be able to identify the culprits if it happens again.

Allotments - Cllrs Strudwick and R Edwards have been holding regular meetings with the allotment holders and discussing an extension to the watering system, to be paid mainly by Section 106 moneys.

Gosfield Nature Reserve – again Cllrs Strudwick and R Edwards have held regular meetings with Stephen Westover, our nature reserve warden and a lot of work has been done this year to improve the nature reserve. Thanks must go to Cllr Chris Siddall and Cllr Peter Schwier for their grants for a lot of this work. We have had problems in the nature reserve this year in that we have had camper vans etc parking overnight and leaving litter, etc. We did put up a sign saying that camping and overnight parking was not allowed but unfortunately this was removed. We are in the process of erecting another sign in the hope that this will deter unwanted visitors.

Our neighbourhood plan which was championed by John Willis is progressing slowly but surely and we are nearly at the stage of a village referendum. Cllr Strudwick will be able to update you on this.

The Parish Council, together with Cllr Chris Siddall is still looking into the possibility of a zebra crossing. We have been advised earlier in the year that we do not meet the criteria but Chris is trying to find out how much a zebra crossing would cost if the Parish Council and grants were used to fund it.

The Kings Head freehold is up for sale and we are looking into the possibility of applying to make the Kings Head a community asset.

Looking forward, the playing field gets very boggy with games unplayable at certain times of the year. The remedy is drainage of the playing field by installing French drains, Moling and re-seeding. We hope that Braintree District Council will agree our plan for these works which can then be funded from Section 106 money from building development. Following this, funding is now in place to re-surface the car park and the scheme has been agreed by Councillors.

I would now like to thank our staff for all their hard work during the year, Diane Jacob, Fiona Martin and Christine Snowdon.

I would also like to thank Alan Summerland, the editor of the Grapevine magazine and Matt Jarvis who is our handyman.

Signed:
Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 20th April 2026

Special thanks must go as always to Chris Siddall, our County Councillor, and Peter Schwier, our District Councillor for their support during the year.

Finally, I would like to thank all our wonderful village volunteers, without whose help and support our shop, clubs and events would not be able to happen.

Item 26/0003 Cllrs Reports.

None.

Item 26/0004 Reports from County and District Councillors.

Cllr Chris Siddall – Essex County Council a full annual report can be viewed on our website.

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

Item 26/0005

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

- Rowson Perpetual Memorial Fund
- Maurice Rowson Village Hall
- Social Club
- Gosfield Nature Reserve (Report read out by Cllr Strudwick)
- Gosfield Scouts, Cubs and Beavers (Report read out by the Chairman)
- Gosfield Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers
- Village Fete Committee (Fete will be on Saturday 4th July)
- Church

Item 26/0006

Special thanks expressed to the editor of the Grapevine and all the volunteers in the village.

Item 26/0007

Date of next meeting to be confirmed

To take place from 1st March to 1st June 2027 inclusive – This to be confirmed and arranged by Gosfield Parish Council.

Meeting Closed at 8.05pm

Signed:
Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 20th April 2026