

GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
OF GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 30th MAY 2022 AT 7.15PM
AT THE PAVILION**

Present: Cllr. Cllr. T. Edwards, Cllr. B. Waters, Cllr S. Cowie, Cllr C. Hough, Cllr. S. Moutard,
Cllr M. Pawsey
Diane Jacob (Parish Clerk)
Apologies: Cllr. J. Colyer, Cllr. J. Beavis, Cllr. M. Bloomfield
Also Present: Eleven members of public present including invited guest speakers

Item 22/0001 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2019.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting held on 23rd May 2019, already confirmed and approved/singed see minute number 19/113.
Due to Covid restrictions no Annual Parish Assembly meetings could take place until now.

Item 22/0002

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The last year has seen the slow process of getting back to some kind of normality after the upsets of Covid and having to cancel our public meetings in favour of online meetings. We held 12 monthly meetings and one extraordinary meeting during the course of the year.

I suppose the biggest single issue which has confronted the Parish Council and the village is the future of the village shop. Very early on, the decision was taken to relocate the Shop from its present position where it only had temporary planning permission to a new extension on the side of the Pavilion. Planning permission was applied for and granted by BDC. The next step was to raise the money required to build it. Originally it was felt that the Shop Management Committee should get on with the job of running the Shop and setting up the new Community Benefit Society which would eventually have charge of it. The Parish Council would take on the task of applying for grants and organising fund raising,

As it turned out that was too optimistic. For a start it became impossible to have fund raising events during the pandemic and also grant givers were reluctant to give grants to a statutory authority like a Parish Council. The idea of borrowing money under a public works loan was discussed but the Council felt the idea was too divisive and could only be used as a last resort. So the task of applying for grants was handed over to the Shop Committee who as a volunteer body was thought to have a better chance. It is still too early to be certain, but it looks as if the National Lottery are giving serious consideration to the application for a sizeable grant and we hope to hear from them soon. We have passed stage one of the application which means our case officer is recommending acceptance to her board.

Meanwhile the Shop have launched the new Community Benefit Society and members of the village have invested £30,000 in buying shares in the new Society, and we have a promise of a grant from the Rowson Trust of £40,000.

Other issues which have been dealt with are-Maintenance of the Children's Play Area. We have been faced with numerous small repairs to equipment and the play surfaces and it is costing the Council

Signed:
Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 20th June 2022

quite a bit of money to keep it up to the high standard which safety requires. (And we are very careful to keep an eye on safety both of the equipment and safety surfaces.) It continues to be very popular with parents and children,

Unfortunately, we had to have the Skateboard Ramp removed because it had become badly corroded and was irreparable. It will be replaced eventually as we have earmarked the money from the developers of the 17 houses on the Limes site for this purpose.

The Council were approached by Wethersfield Parish Council for support in their effort to prevent the building of a huge new prison on the site of the old Wethersfield Airfield. While our Parish Council could not offer financial support, we did support them in principle.

The new estate at the top of Meadway will be completed this year adding 35 houses to the village. Also a start has been made on the proposed 17 houses by The Limes. This, together with other small developments means that the village housing stock will be increased by nearly 10%. The Council will eventually be given management of the Community land adjacent to the new estate at the top of Meadway and we intend to manage it as a community open space.

Other projects which the Council has in mind are the repair of the old water pump which is by The Cedars. The owners are the Eastlight property management company who have agreed that we can repair the pump as an historical reminder of a time when the whole village was dependent on wells for their water.

We are considering the doing something about the boundaries of the Playing Field. The Chain link fence around the field is getting old and quite frankly looks a mess. The idea is to replace the fence alongside the neighbouring field with a hedge and a start has been made on doing this. The fence bordering Hall Drive, we intend to replace with a proper bow topped metal fence which is more suitable to the historic parkland of Gosfield Hall. We may have to budget for this over several years.

Finally, after serving 7 years as Chairman, I am now standing down, a decision driven by poor health. At the May meeting the Council elected Tricia Edwards as Chairman so she will be delivering the report next year.

Bob Waters

Gosfield Parish Council expressed thanks to Cllr Chris Siddall and to all the local groups, organisations and volunteers in the village.

Item 22/0003 Cllrs Reports.

Cllr Moutard – read reports and gave updates on the following: -
Gosfield Nature Reserve – thanks expressed to Westover Woodlands.
Wethersfield Airfield Scrutiny Committee
Village Hall Management Committee
Speed Watch

Item 22/0004

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

- Cllr Siddall – Highways
- Gosfield Community Shop
- Open Gardens
- Gosfield In Bloom
- Church
- Rowson Trust
- Rowson Village Hall
- Social Club
- Village Circle
- Gosfield Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers
- Carpet Bowls Club

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Item 22/0005

Various questions were asked throughout item 22/004.

Item 22/0006

Date of next meeting to be confirmed

To take place from 1st March to 1st June 2023 inclusive – This to be confirmed and arranged by Gosfield Parish Council.

Meeting Closed at 8.28pm

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Chairperson of the Parish Council

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