

GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
OF GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 25th MARCH 2024 AT 7.15PM
AT THE PAVILION**

Present:

Cllr Tricia Edwards (Chairman)
Cllr Bob Waters (Vice-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: Eight members of public present including invited guest speakers and
Cllr Chris Siddall

Item 24/0001 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2023.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting held on 27th March 2023, already confirmed,
approved/signed see minute number 23/061 Item 2.

Item 24/0002

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023-2024

2023/24 has again been a very busy year for the Parish Council. In May, we had an election for the new Parish Council but unfortunately only 7 persons applied and were elected. In July, Richard Edwards and Tony Farrelly were co-opted for the remaining term so we are now at full strength again.

The following items have been dealt with/discussed during the year:

The usual potholes, water leaks, hedges, streetlights, footpaths, etc.

The extension to the village shop was completed last year and the official opening took place on 14 June 2023. It was opened by Jaymie lee Tapsell from the National Lottery and Dave Monk, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex.

We have also agreed a lease with the shop.

Permission was given for the Coronation Garden to be placed at the rear of the pavilion. The shop will be responsible for all costs and future maintenance.

The old village sign has been refurbished and will shortly be erected as part of the Coronation Garden.

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

Signed:
Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 15th April 2024

Constitution for the Playing Field Management Committee – thanks to Richard Edwards we have finally agreed on the new constitution and this will be signed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Footpath map – thanks to Bob Waters we now have a new map for sale in the shop.

The village pump – we negotiated with Eastlight for them to repair the village pump outside The Cedars and the handyman has recently varnished this. We are now responsible for its upkeep.

Pavilion – the Parish Council agreed as part of the upgrade to the pavilion, to improve the changing rooms and this has been completed very successfully.

We were approached by the Community 360 Walks team to find out if anyone in the village would be interested in taking part in a monthly walk. Jo Colyer championed this but unfortunately no-one has taken up the offer.

Street lights at The Lindens – I am sure you have all noticed these. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had not been consulted on these and had obviously not given permission for their erection. It was also confirmed that ECC would be paying for their electricity.

Our well used children’s play area has again taken up a lot of our precept and perhaps Maggi or Carol could comment on this.

Precept – the Parish Council discussed the financial position of the Council and agreed to increase the precept by 3.96%. Richard Edwards would be pleased to answer any queries on this.

Section 106 moneys – we are still waiting for confirmation of the figure from BDC to put towards the new skate ramp. During the year, the Council agreed that we needed more spaces in the car park and it was agreed to site the new skate ramp beyond the zip wire along the left-hand side of the playing field. This will allow the car park to be squared off and provide extra spaces.

Edmund Green – as will be seen from Facebook and the Grapevine magazine, a shared ownership property has become available in Edmund Green. Unfortunately, Clarion Housing who own the properties were not aware that they are subject to a Section 106 agreement so the property was put up for sale on the open market. After consultation with Clarion, the correct procedure is now taking place and hopefully someone from the village will be able to take advantage of this scheme.

The Parish Council have two major priorities this year – the playing field car park and the playing field fencing. We have already received moneys from a golf day and Peter Schwier towards the fencing and we hope to approach the National Lottery in April for a grant towards the car park.

I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors for their time and effort during the year and a special mention and thanks to our Clerk and to Fiona our toilet cleaner and Christine litter picker.

Finally, I would like to thank County Councillor Chris Siddall and District Council Peter Schwier for their help, support, and grants during the year. We are very lucky to have both.

Item 24/0003 Cllrs Reports.

Cllr Willis reported and gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan and the Car park.

Item 24/0004

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

- Essex Police - Rural Engagement Team
- Cllr Siddall – Essex County Council
- Gosfield Community Shop
- Open Gardens
- Church
- Rowson Perpetual Memorial Fund
- Maurice Rowson Village Hall
- Social Club
- Village Circle

Signed:
Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 15th April 2024

- Gosfield Nature Reserve – Report read out by Chairman
- Gosfield Horticultural Society - Report read out by Chairman
- Gosfield Scouts, Cubs and Beavers
- Gosfield Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers
- Village Fete Committee
- Gosfield Players
- Gosfield WI

Item 24/0005

A question was raised regarding the situation at Wethersfield Airfield and Cllr Strudwick replied.

Item 24/0006

Date of next meeting to be confirmed

To take place from 1st March to 1st June 2025 inclusive – This to be confirmed and arranged by Gosfield Parish Council.

Meeting Closed at 8.35pm

Signed:
Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 15th April 2024