

MINUTES OF GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
MONDAY 15th AUGUST 2022
AT THE PAVILION, THE PLAYING FIELD, CHURCH ROAD, GOSFIELD AT 7.15PM

Present:

Cllr Tricia Edwards (Chairman)
Cllr Bob Waters (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Jo Colyer
Cllr Sam Cowie
Cllr Carol Hough
Cllr Sara Moutard
Cllr Maggie Pawsey
Mrs Diane Jacob (Parish Clerk)
Cllr Peter Schwier

Two members of the public.

22/159 Welcome and Apologies for Absence. The Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr Beavis, Cllr Bloomfield and Cllr Siddall (due to holiday and work commitments).

22/160 Declaration of Interests.

To receive any disclosable pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests, or interests relating to items on the agenda. Members of the council are subject to the Local Authorities Code of Conduct. A non-pecuniary interest (Para 8.1 of Gosfield Parish Council's code of conduct) was received and accepted from Cllr Colyer, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Moutard and Cllr Waters relating to agenda item 22/166 item 9 the community shop.

22/161 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

A member of the public spoke regarding the vehicles using Church Road and the speed and very heavy vehicles. The Clerk was instructed to contact Cllr Siddall to enquire as to the weight limit on the bridges near the Lake and Apple Tree.

Due to recent complaints from residents regarding hedges overhanging the pavements in The Street and Hedingham Road, we contacted Cllr Siddall and he advised us in the first instance to write to all residents in The Street and Hedingham Road requesting them to cut their hedges to their boundary, a draft letter was approved subject to a minor amendment. Council approved the draft letter and residents have 28 days to complete the works, Essex County Council will be advised of those not complying.

22/162 County and District Councillors to address the members if present.

Cllr Schwier reported as follows: -BDC have been issuing various young people and voluntary workers with awards. Five new art pieces will be installed on the roundabouts near the A120. 360 Community newsletter has been issued. BDC energy rebate schemes E to H tax bands £150.00 details on how to apply are on the BDC website. Love parks weeks BDC have a horticultural team of 30 Halstead Public Gardens have new play equipment and outside gym.

Cllr Siddall was not present, but sent a report read by the Chairman as follows:

Overhanging vegetation/hedges etc over pavements - the procedure is for the Parish Council to write to those residents who need reminding to cut their hedges back, give them two weeks to do so. Advise them that if this is not done, then ECC will write to them and if still not done then ECC will carry out the work and charge the residents for it (which will cost more than if they had it done themselves).

Councillors agreed for the Clerk to send a polite letter to all residents of The Street/Hedingham Road asking them to cut back overgrown hedges over the pavements.

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Signed.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 19th September 2022

He has requested a zebra crossing. ECC are looking at what they can provide, they may have to move the bus stop if we agree. Traffic study going to be carried out.

He has also requested looking at the possibility of making the area around the school 20mph.

There are also trials at the moment of a trewcam which will take the number plate of a car and the driver can be fined. We could opt into the scheme at ECC for say one day a month and this would be manned by ECC.

22/163 Minutes.

To confirm receipt of the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th July 2022.

They were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr Pawsey, seconded by Cllr Hough, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/164 Planning Matters.

Item 1. Planning updates. Planning application 22/01271/VAR Land to The West Of Hedingham Road Gosfield was refused by the Planning Committee.

Item 2. New Planning Applications.

Ref: 22/01749/HH

Description: Single storey side and rear extension with roof terrace.

Location: Gairsay House, Hedingham Road, Gosfield, Essex CO9 1PJ

No objection

Proposed by Cllr Waters, seconded by Cllr Moutard, all in favour resolution passed.

Ref: 22/01911/TPO & PP-11411006

Description: Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 23/82 - r/o 15 Edmund Green. Growing adjacent to the PROW that gives access to the nature reserve from the west, is a Purple Leaved Plum, within the Conservation Area. It has two stems, sub-lateral branches from which are resting on the garage roof of no 15. It is proposed to reduce the height of the smaller stem to the height of the existing fence, as previously done, and to crown lift the sub-laterals of the remaining stem to give approximately 0,5m clearance to the garage roof. r/o 56 Edmund Green, growing adjacent to the path that gives access to the nature reserve from Greenfields, is a group of 5 closely spaced Common Oak, that overhang the rear garden of no 56, to an oppressive extent. Also, branches from the tree numbered 2 on the attached plan are in contact with the tiled roof of the out-house. It is proposed to crown lift tree no 3 to give approximately 0.5m clearance to the out-house roof, and to reduce the lateral spread of the remainder (mainly trees 3 and 6) above the garden by approximately 2m, cutting back to suitable growth points.

Location: Land Rear Of 15 And 56 Edmund Green Gosfield Essex

No comments to be sent as this is our application.

The following application came in after the agenda had been published but has a deadline date to be met.

Ref: 22/02125/TPOCON

Description: Reduction in height of Silver Birch to 20m.

Location: Byford Cottage Church Road Gosfield Essex CO9 1TL

No objection

Proposed by Cllr Hough, seconded by Cllr Pawsey, all in favour resolution passed.

22/165 Financial Matters.

Approved accounts for payment.

Gosfield Parish Council						
Payment Approval & Reporting						
Council Meeting 15 August 2022						
Supplier	Invoice Date	Total Payable	VAT Input Tax Recoverable	Net Cost to GPC	Grant/ Amount Recoverable	Brief Description of Supply
For approval and payment						
Janet Stobart	06.05.22	220.00		220.00		Internal Audit
HandyKing	28.07.22	120.00		120.00		Clearing Ha ha ditch and cutting back section
HandyKing	03.08.22	75.00		75.00		Clearing Ha ha ditch, 2 bags bark, cut branches, orange post (play area)
HandyKing	09.08.22	20.00		20.00		Cutting back tree near red climbing frame
Paul Clark Printing Ltd	27.07.22	446.00		446.00		Printing the Grapevine
Mrs D. Jacob	29.07.22	60.84		60.84		Clerks expenses
Tesco	29.07.22	34.64	5.77	28.87		Cleaning materials
Playquip	29.07.22	1074.00	179.00	895.00		Repairs to roundabout handrails
Playquip	12.08.22	282.00	47.00	235.00		Zip wire suspension unit and cable
Total		2332.48	231.77	2100.71	0.00	
Reported under Financial Regulation 5.6						
Payments, which are approved annually, made during the period 18.7.22 to 15.8.22						
e-on	01.08.22	314.09	3.33	16.67	294.09	Pavilion electricity
Payroll costs		1234.40			1234.4	Salaries/PAYE
Previously Approved payments paid during the month						
Total Payments		3880.97	235.10	2117.38	1528.49	

Proposed by Cllr Pawsey, seconded by Cllr Hough, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/166 Matters Arising from previous minutes.

Item 1. Previous Minute No. 21/118 Playing Field Management Committee - the Parish Council would like the revised constitution to be more expanded and defined, Richard Edwards has offered to help we are still awaiting a reply from the Playing Field Management Committee regarding this item.

Item 2. Previous Minute No.21/192 Footpath Map – update by Cllr Waters awaiting photos etc, will then take to the print room at BDC for a draft version of a new map, to be on the next agenda.

Item 3. Special Constables – ongoing.

Item 4. Local Plan – Braintree District Council adopted Section 2 of the Braintree Local Plan 2013-2033 Local Plan at a meeting of Council on 25th July 2022. Please see the Local Plan Section 2 Adoption Statement:

www.braintree.gov.uk/directory-record/1062233/section-2-adoption-statement-july-2022

This has the effect (along with Section 1 adopted in 2021) of replacing earlier documents used to help determine Planning Applications received by Braintree District Council.

The Local Plan (Section 1 & 2), Policies Maps, and associated documents can be viewed at:

www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/section-2-examination-local-plan/12

Paper copies of the documents will also be made available as soon as practicable at Libraries within Braintree District Council's administrative and at the Braintree District Council Offices at Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree CM7 9HB.

Item 5. (Previous minute no. 21/133) Highways Priority list of highway improvements for Gosfield no update by Cllr Beavis as not present, item to be on next agenda.

Item 6. Previous Minute No. 21/111 Gosfield Nature Reserve Risk Assessment. Cllr Moutard is in discussion with Westover Woodlands and awaiting comments, item to be on next agenda.

Item 7. Previous Minute No. 22/029 woodland known as The Lodge Plantation, Gosfield parcel of land for inclusion into the Nature Reserve. Working group set up as Cllr Edwards, Cllr Moutard and Cllr Waters to hold a site meeting to inspect the land also with Westover Woodlands so as to consider any ongoing management costs. Documents from the current owners have been taken into the Solicitors but no title deeds available, our solicitors have advised that if they act for the family to deal with the registration of the parcel of land and subsequent gift, then they estimate the cost at £1,250.00 plus VAT for legal fees with some miscellaneous land

registry fees of about £100.00. The Council agreed to accept this, to be taken from reserves in order to move forward to obtain the land. Update to be on the next agenda.

Proposed by Cllr Moutard, seconded by Cllr Hough, all in favour, resolution passed.

Item 8. Previous Minute number 22/133 GNR Fishing Signs – Update by Cllr Moutard that we are awaiting comments from Westover Woodlands.

Item 9. Community Shop – Still awaiting information/update regarding funding applications.

Item 10. Previous Minute number 22/152 Bus Service – The bus service is now fully operational and back to the same time table as pre Covid.

22/167 Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Moutard reported that data from the surveys is taking longer to analyse and breakdown than expected, ongoing.

22/168 Play Area.

The Playquip report indicated it was probably vandalism to the handrails on the roundabout rather than wear and tear. It was agreed that every two weeks in the summer is frequent enough for play area safety inspections.

Proposed by Cllr Cowie, seconded by Cllr Colyer, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/169 Special Motion.

A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 3 councillors to be given to the Clerk/Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 7 (a). To revisit item - previous minute number 22/153 Item 2 – 82 Edmund Green to consider a request for removal of overhanging bushes over the fence

Proposed by Cllr Pawsey, seconded by Cllr Hough, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/170 82 Edmund Green to consider a request for removal of overhanging bushes over the fence. It was agreed to obtain 3 quotes to cut the hedge down to the top of the fence, to go with the cheapest and to carry out the work.

Proposed by Cllr Hough, seconded by Cllr Cowie, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/171 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, village representatives, and Parish Council working groups.

Cllr Moutard gave an update on the Village Hall – External decoration has been completed, gradual increase in the use of the hall, will be reviewing the hire rates. Works on the acoustics and lighting to be carried out in September.

Cllr Moutard gave an update on the Wethersfield Airbase Scrutiny Committee, a 40-page report has been produced with recommendations. No application has been submitted yet.

Cllr Edwards and Cllr Moutard attended a free webinar by 20s Plenty presented to Parish & Town Councils in the County on the awareness of speed through the villages of Essex. They campaign for a speed limit of 20mph to be normal on residential streets and in town and village centres, unless full consideration of needs or vulnerable road users allows a higher limit on particular streets.

Cllr Pawsey expressed concerns regarding the new development near the Limes, developers are using the wrong access onto the site and due to the heatwave, the dust and grit is a big issue to residents, Cllr Edwards will go and speak to the developers to see what can be done as BDC enforcement have already been notified.

22/172 New Items for next agenda.

Please note that no decisions can be lawfully made under this item, LGA 12 10 (2) (b) states that business must be specified therefore the council cannot lawfully raise matters for decision.

New items of request to be sent to the Clerk.

22/173 To exclude the press and public.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

'That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 22/174 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business subject to the public bodies admission to meetings Act 1960 Section 1 Sub-section 2.n

Resolution to exclude members of the press and public.

Proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Pawsey, all in favour, resolution passed.

Press and public were excluded.

22/174 Village Pump.

Previous minute number 22/050 Village Pump to discuss and consider the licence provided by Eastlight.

Cllr Edwards suggested that a copy of this should be sent to our Insurers regarding the liability, Council all agreed.

Proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Colyer, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/175 Date of Next Meeting.

Next Parish Council Meeting 19th September 2022 (7.15pm).

Meeting Closed at 8.25pm