

MINUTES OF GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 2024
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 Richard Edwards also (RFO)
Cllr Tony Farrelly
Cllr Carol Hough
Cllr Tony Strudwick
Mrs Diane Jacob (Parish Clerk)

County Cllr C. Siddall

Three members of the public

24/260 Welcome and Apologies for Absence. The Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr Willis (due to holiday) Cllr Pawsey (due to illness) and District Cllr P. Schwier (due to work commitments).

24/261 Statement by the Chairman. Chairman read out the following statement.

"I would like to make a short statement in relation to recent Facebook posts.

These posts have been very damaging to the Parish Council as a whole and I would like to remind councillors of our Code of Conduct which we approved at the last Parish Council meeting.

19.1 – our conduct as an individual councillor affects the reputation of all councillors

19.8 – Parish Councillors treat other councillors and members of the public with respect

19.8 – Parish Councillors do not bring their role or local authority into disrepute

I do not wish to go into any detail with regards to the posts.

I would however urge and encourage you all to ensure that you follow our code of conduct that we have approved and signed up to."

24/262 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.

Cllr Strudwick queried that the wording on the agenda for this item should be amended now that we have adopted the new code of conduct, Clerk to investigate the correct wording and for it to be on the January agenda.

Cllr R. Edwards non-pecuniary interest relating to item 24/266 was received and accepted.

24/263 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

A member of the public informed the Parish Council that he is still awaiting a decision notice from BDC to carry out tree works in the nature reserve. Gosfield Wood is partly on the market and a section being sold. It is protected through the national planning policy framework, he has sent a letter to BDC detailing his concerns and article 4 direction is a general development order which specifies items not required for planning permission, permitted development rights and he would like the Parish Council to support his letter.

A member of the public expressed his concerns relating for the late addition to the call for sites application, two previous planning applications have been refused in the past by BDC, the area is outside the village envelope, poor access/entrance onto the site and some of it is on a floodplain.

24/264 County and District Councillors to address the members if present.

County Councillor Chris Siddall – updated that the speed limit relating to Gosfield Road as discussed with Tom Cunningham was going through the process and is in the system. Essex County Council Highways looking at the speed limits in the area. Zebra Crossing in “The Street” also in the system to be investigated further to see if it would meet the criteria for the area proposed. Speed surveys will be required for both.

Manhole covers item 24/268 Item 6 has been chased up, work due to be completed in December also item number 24/268 item 7 it was confirmed that the white lines have been painted on Church Road near the Kings Head pub but not on The Street down to The Limes Cllr Siddall to follow up.

Budget setting is in progress possibly over a 5-year period. The devolution white paper on how Councils will look in the future has been published and across Essex will possibly become a combined authority. Upgrades on the Highways report it website has been implemented.

District Councillor Peter Schwier – Not present but continues to send regular updates.

24/265 Minutes.

Item 1. To confirm receipt of the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th November 2024.

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

Item 2. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th November 2024.

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

24/266 Planning Matters.

Item 1. Braintree District Council Call for Sites - Consultation – New site submitted GOS2415 East of Hedingham Road, Housing/Affordable housing.

Objection

Two previous planning applications have been refused in the past by BDC, the area is outside the village envelope, poor access/entrance onto the site and some of it is on a floodplain.

Proposed by Cllr Strudwick, seconded by Cllr Hough, Cllr. T. Edwards, Cllr Waters, Cllr Colyer, Cllr Farrelly in favour, Cllr R. Edwards abstained, resolution passed.

Item 2. Planning updates. Enforcement ref 673520 Woodland just past Gosfield Lake on the bad corner opposite Harmas Farm, Park Hall Road. Discussed and noted work has now stopped in this area it is a Historic parks and gardens area.

Item 3. New applications.

Ref: 24/02561/TPO

Description: Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO 11/78 T11 - Pine Tree - reduce by 2m away from the neighbouring property. Remove the deadwood from the tree.

Location: 2 Hall Drive Gosfield Essex CO9 1SX

No objection

Proposed by Cllr T. Edwards, seconded by Cllr Hough, Cllr Waters, Cllr Colyer, Cllr Strudwick and Cllr Farrelly in favour, Cllr R. Edwards abstained resolution passed.

Ref: 24/02594/TPOCON

Description: Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area.

T1. Holly (Ilex aquifolium). Reduce height by approximately 2m to previous reduction points, and spread by approximately 0.5m all round.

T2. Ash (Fraxinus excelsior). Repollard, in order to maintain the size of the tree in relation to its surroundings, and to prevent encroachment onto overhead power cables.

T3. Yew (Taxus baccata) Reduce height by approximately 2m, and spread by approximately 1m all round,

T4. Glory Tree (Clerodendron trichotomum) Reduce height by approximately 1m, and spread by approximately 1m to the north side.

Location: 6 The Limes Gosfield Essex CO9 1UA

No Objection

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

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Signed.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 20th January 2025

24/267 Financial Matters.

Accounts for payment approved, please refer to separate page as below.

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

It was noted that the invoices from Eon for electricity are incorrect because for the last few months we have only received one for daytime electric and still awaiting one of evenings and weekends.

Anglian water has sent an estimated invoice which is high, meter reading required.

24/268 Matters Arising from previous minutes.

Item 1. Previous Minute No. 22/029 woodland known as The Lodge Plantation, Gosfield parcel of land for inclusion into the Nature Reserve, update by Cllr R. Edwards.

Cllr R. Edwards explained that in 2022 Gosfield Parish Council had paid £1250 plus VAT for the quoted legal fees in respect of the registration of the land, deed of gift from the Letch family and registration in Gosfield Parish Council's name. He had now received an email from Holmes and Hills in which they have revised the fee estimate from £1250 plus VAT to £3500 plus VAT, hence they required a payment of £2700 including VAT. It was agreed that Gosfield Parish Council did not wish to have anyone acting on their behalf and that Cllr R Edwards should contact Holmes & Hills to register a complaint. If this complaint was not satisfied, then it was agreed to refer it to the Solicitors Regulation Authority. Cllr R Edwards will also check directly with Land Registry in order to ascertain the current position.

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

Item 2. Previous minute No. 24/107 Complaint letter to Clarion and BDC regarding affordable housing – the latest information is that they did follow the correct procedure, it was on the market and a Gosfield resident was going through the process but because they pulled out of the sale it is now on the open market again.

Item 3. Previous minute No. 24/138 VE Day 8th May 2025 – there will be a display of vehicles in the village hall car park and an event has been arranged, the Golf Club have kindly donated £250.00 towards this event.

Item 4. Previous minute No. 24/129 Open Space land at the top of Meadway – access gate to knee high fencing (BDC) public rights of way concerns regarding footpath 11, replacement of trees and to discuss the transfer of land, no new update ongoing.

Item 5. Previous minute No. 24/146 The Beacon – Ongoing.

Item 6. Highways - Two noisy manhole surface/covers have been reported to Essex County Council Highways ref: 2947272 and ref: 2924085 The Street and junction with Hall Drive – update by Cllr Siddall see item 24/264.

Item 7. Highways – White Lines. White lines on the edge of the road near the kerb from the Kings head pub down to the Limes. Reported to Highways ref numbers 373559, 3731561 and 2946334 – update by Cllr Siddall see item 24/264.

Item 8. Neighbourhood Plan - The next Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on 14th January 2025.

Item 9. Car Park – Awaiting news from the national lottery regarding funding and awaiting news from BDC relating to the S106 drainage funding.

Item 10. Public Footpaths 15 and 22 – Update is that this is still ongoing nothing has been agreed, however it was noted that it is very muddy and that the area has been ploughed.

24/269 To adopt New Council Documents/Policies.

Financial Regulations 2024 (New version issued by NALC to consider adoption) Finance working group meeting to discuss together with the budget to be held on Thursday 2nd January 2025. Item to be on the next agenda.

24/270 Street Lights.

Previous minute number 24/270 It was confirmed that there would be a saving if all changed over to LED at present if the replacement parts are no longer available then the lights are changed to LED at a cost of £359.00 each.

How many lights are still SOX and how many would need to be changed over to LED to establish how much saving would be made. Item deferred as further information required

24/271 Community Speed watch.

New co-ordinator and volunteers required for Community Speed Watch, this has been advertised in the Grapevine. To advertise again in the new year as volunteers will need to come forward for the speed watch group to continue to operate in the village. In the meantime, all equipment, road sign, two speed cameras and hi vis jackets to be returned to the Parish Council to place into storage.

24/272 Gosfield Wood.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should send a letter to Braintree District Council in support of a letter sent to Braintree District Council by a member of the public.

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

24/273 Gosfield Nature Reserve.

To the east of East Pond, by the old Oak pollard the footbridge is in poor condition, and needs to be re-decked at a cost of £219.72 (incl of £43.94 VAT) to supply and deliver.

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

24/274 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, village representatives, and Parish Council working groups.

Cllr Strudwick gave a report that the Christmas tree lights swich on event was held and thanks expressed to the Parish Council for its donation.

24/275 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.

Budget 2025/2026 (Cllrs to send item requests to the RFO)

Precept 2025/2026

Any new proposals/items to be sent to the Clerk prior to the next agenda.

24/276 Special Motion – To revisit.

Vote to suspend Standing Order 7 (a) as follows: -

7. PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

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 Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 7.

Gosfield Nature Reserve Management Plan

Allotment (S106 Funding now available)

Skate Ramp (S106 Funding now available)

Play area small slide climber platform

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

24/277 Gosfield Nature Reserve.

(Previous minute No. 24/232 item 2) Gosfield Nature Reserve Management Plan, to note that the 5-year management plan expires in February 2025 what extra work would the Parish Council like to see included? (Cllr Strudwick and Cllr R Edwards to discuss and take forward Parish Council ideas to Westover Woodlands).

The following ideas were discussed and mentioned.

A fairy trail through the woods (find the fairy).

Grass land in the middle to be cut back, pond clearance, footpaths cleared and vegetation/brambles/nettles to be cut back, dead birch tree removal.

Westover Woodlands to put an item in the next edition of the Grapevine (go out to public consultation) to obtain comments/ideas from members of the public as to what they would like.

24/278 Allotment S106 Funding.

(Previous minute No. 24/130, 24/188)

It was agreed to purchase a Polycarbonate greenhouse (applying for and using all the S106 funding available £1,175.47) the installation and gravel base costs to be put into the 2025/26 budget.

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

24/279 Skate Ramp.

(Previous minute No. 24/257)

Various options and quotes were discussed in detail, it was agreed to look at a concrete skate ramp design suggested by a member of the public (applying for and using all the S106 funding available £40,105.90), however this will not be

enough to cover the whole cost of the project, therefore to apply for funding. The Clerk to confirm deadline date for applying for the S106 funding and to check to see how long the quoted price is valid for.

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

24/280 Play area.

(Previous minute No. 24/258) To discuss and consider quote to repair the climber platform and small slide.

It was agreed to accept a quote for repair at a cost of £1,073.00

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

24/281 Date of Next Meeting.

Parish Council Meeting Monday 20th January 2025 (7.15pm).

Meeting closed at 8.59pm

Gosfield Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

| Vouche Code | Date | Minute | Bank | Cheque No | Description | Supplier | VAT Type | Net | VAT | Total |
|--------------|------------|--------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 134 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 88 | Grapevine printing | Paul Clark Printing Ltd | Z | 549.00 | | 549.00 |
| 135 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 89 | Streetlight repairs | A & J Lighting Solutions Ltr | S | 439.00 | 87.80 | 526.80 |
| 136 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 90 | Clerk's expenses | Jacob Mrs D | X | 5.54 | | 5.54 |
| 136 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 90 | Clerk's expenses | Jacob Mrs D | X | 8.68 | | 8.68 |
| 136 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 90 | Clerk's expenses | Jacob Mrs D | X | 6.34 | | 6.34 |
| 136 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 90 | Clerk's expenses | Jacob Mrs D | X | 31.50 | | 31.50 |
| 136 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 90 | Clerk's expenses | Jacob Mrs D | X | 8.40 | | 8.40 |
| 137 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 91 | Staff training | Essex Association of Local | S | 33.33 | 6.67 | 40.00 |
| 138 | 23/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 92 | Allotment water | Anglian Water Business (W | Z | 21.25 | | 21.25 |
| 139 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 93 | Streetlight repairs | A & J Lighting Solutions Ltr | S | 174.00 | 34.80 | 208.80 |
| 140 | 24/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 94 | Pavilion water | Anglian Water Business (W | Z | 355.72 | | 355.72 |
| 141 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 95 | Rental of former PO room in M | Maurice Rowson Hall | Z | 315.00 | | 315.00 |
| 142 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 96 | Room hire | Maurice Rowson Hall | X | 44.00 | | 44.00 |
| 143 | 18/12/2024 | | Barclays Current Acc | 97 | Toilet products | Tesco Stores Ltd | S | 40.93 | 8.19 | 49.12 |
| Total | | | | | | | | 2,032.69 | 137.46 | 2,170.15 |

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____

Name and Role

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Name and Role

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Name and Role