

DRAFT - MINUTES OF GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2026
IN THE BERNARD BROOKS COMMITTEE ROOM,
AT THE MAURICE ROWSON HALL, CHURCH ROAD, GOSFIELD AT 7.15PM

Present:

Cllr Tricia Edwards (Chairman)
Cllr Bob Waters (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Richard Edwards also (RFO)
Cllr Jo Colyer
Cllr Carol Hough
Cllr Maggi Pawsey
Cllr Tony Strudwick
Mrs Diane Jacob (Parish Clerk)

Four members of the public.

26/020 Welcome and Apologies for Absence. The Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies for absence received and accepted from County Cllr C. Siddall and District Cllr P. Schwier (due to work commitments).

26/021 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 was received and accepted from Cllr Strudwick relating to item 26/026 item 2 Ref: 26/00224/TPOCON Saltdean Kings Head Field, Gosfield.

26/022 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

A member of the public confirmed that work has taken place in the Nature Reserve clearance of the willow around the ponds, and the hedge behind Edmund Green. One bridge is to be completed next week. Footpath from Kings Head Field is extremely wet and will try to clear the ditch next to it to help with drainage eight volunteers took part in bramble and vegetation clearance.

A member of the public raised concerns relating to the surface water flooding at Sloe Hill, Halstead and blocked drains were discussed.

A member of the public spoke on planning application 26/026 item 2 ref 26/00294 tree works at 5 Highgates, Church Road and said that the work was necessary due to the heavy branches being dangerous.

26/023 County and District Councillors to address the members if present.

County Councillor Chris Siddall – continues to send regular updates.

District Councillor Peter Schwier – continues to send regular updates.

26/024 Minutes.

Item 1. To confirm receipt of the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th January 2026.

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

Item 2. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th January 2026. Chairman then signed the minutes as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Pawsey, seconded by Cllr Hough, Cllr T. Edwards, Cllr Waters, Cllr R. Edwards and Cllr Strudwick in favour, Cllr Colyer abstained (as not present at the meeting) resolution passed.

26/024 Co-option Two Cllr Vacancies.

It was noted that Gosfield Parish Council now has two Cllr vacancies, no applications received. Item to continue to be advertised in the Grapevine magazine, website and noticeboard and to be on the next agenda.

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Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 16th March 2026

26/025 Planning Matters.

Item 1. Planning updates.

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against an enforcement notice issued by Braintree District Council on 2 September 2024. Petersfield Farm Petersfield Lane Gosfield Essex CO9 1PU. Alleged Breach: Appeal against The unauthorised material change of use of the land for the siting of containers for storage purposes and the construction of an earth bund along the Eastern boundary.
Awaiting decision.

Item 2. New applications.

Ref: 26/00143/TPOCON

Description: Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: T1 - Lime - Deadwood clean and removal of any branches near power line (up to 1m).

Location: 2 The Lindens Gosfield Halstead Essex CO9 1GW

Support this application.

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

Cllr Strudwick left the meeting.

Ref: 26/00224/TPOCON

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

Walnut (T1) crown reduction of 3m back to the previous cuts where possible to leave a suitable growth point, is in need of a reduction to maintain a sensible size and reduce risk of failure from excessive end weight.

Location: Saltdean Kings Head Field Gosfield Essex CO9 1TN.

No objection.

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

Cllr Strudwick returned to the meeting.

Ref: 26/00294/TPO

Description: Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 3/87 - T1 Lime (T1) crown clean to remove crossing/ rubbing branches and reduce epicormic growth by 50% crown lift to 6m (sprout removal only)

Location: 5 Highgates Church Road Gosfield Essex CO9 1TL

Support this application.

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

Ref: 26/00256/PLD

Description: Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed development- Siting of a twin-unit mobile home.

Location: Hope Cottage Hedingham Road Gosfield Essex CO9 1UP

Due to the type of application for notification only – no comments required.

26/027 Play Area.

Old chains and seats removed - new chains required for the toddler swings. As per inspection report carried out by Braintree District Council.

To supply and install 2 sets of stainless-steel chains onto the existing swing hangers and cradle seats £418.65. + VAT
Two new cradle seats also required, they are £225.00 each plus VAT, (£450.00 for both) as the new chains cannot be fitted to existing.

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

26/028 Financial Matters.

Accounts for payment were approved see separate page.

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

26/029 Matters Arising from previous minutes.

Item 1. Previous Minute No. 24/268 woodland known as The Lodge Plantation, Gosfield parcel of land for inclusion into the Nature Reserve, update by Cllr R. Edwards, who read out a email from a member of the family, explaining

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Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 16th March 2026

that they still want to gift the land and that they were not happy with the solicitors, solicitors to return legal fees previously paid by Gosfield Parish Council.

Item 2. Previous minute No. 24/268 Complaint letter to Clarion and BDC regarding affordable housing – update re Edmund Green. Ongoing to be on the next agenda.

Item 3. Highways – Blocked gully/drains. Ref: 3766624, and Ref: 35321973 What three words: puffed.rival.nurtures – no update by Cllr Siddall – ongoing.

Item 4. Highways – 30mph/40mph sign down, (propped up in the hedge) along Braintree Road Ref: 2977068- no update by Cllr Siddall – ongoing.

Item 5. Highways – Ref: 3829092 Overgrown vegetation, Hedingham Road – no update by Cllr Siddall – ongoing. It is for residents to cut back any hedges overgrowing the pavements and to clear the vegetation.

Item 6. Highways – Ref: 2991483 Potholes junction at Hall Drive – have been temporary repaired, to remove from future agendas.

Item 7. Highways - issues raised at September Parish Council meeting blocked drains/gullies throughout the village from Russell Road to Halstead Road 27 are blocked solid and need digging out and near Shardlowes Farm to Petersfield Lane 33 are blocked solid. We understand that Essex Highways have unblocked some but there are still a large number which have not been cleared, Cllr Siddall to chase up. Some have been cleared along The Street, however not along Braintree Road or Halstead Road down to Russells road.

Item 8. Highways Noisy manhole surface/cover has been reported on 6th January to Essex County Council Highways ref: 4011284 The Street. No update – Cllr Siddall to chase.

Item 9. Highways - previously reported pothole, gully (noisy) surface broken up ref: 4015244 Outside Tye Beams, in The Street opposite the Limes still causing problems Cllr Siddall to chase. The drain/gully was cleared but the cover was left as a dangerous trip hazard – Clerk to contact Highways.

Item 10. Highways - previously reported ref: 3602795 Blocked gully Halstead Road.

Item 11. Highways – pothole Braintree Road ref: 4018425 opposite Petersfield Lane turning. (Resident damaged wheel and will be making a claim to Essex County Council Highways 2/2/2026). This has now been temporary repaired to be removed from future agendas.

Item 12. Highways – Cllr Siddall to advise cost of a new zebra crossing if paid for by the Parish Council.

Item 13. Public Toilets – Thanks to the CC TV footage the Police have carried out a full investigation, and this will now be closely monitored.

Item 14. Neighbourhood Plan – no further update.

Item 15. Previous minute no. 143 Quality Council Bronze Award – ongoing work in progress.

Item 16. Previous minute no. 25/185 item 1 and item 4 –Rat treatment inspections are continuing to be carried out by Braintree District Council and improvements to existing water supply to be carried out in the spring.

Item 17. Gosfield Nature Reserve – see item 26/022 above. Fly tipping in the car park was discussed, the sign is missing and overnight camping is taking place item to be on the next agenda.

Item 18. Update on the new gate installed at public footpath 23. The Essex County Council Public Rights of Way Officer has attended the site and has confirmed that the gate has been removed, he is therefore satisfied that there is sufficient access for walkers, but it hopefully deters cyclists. Clerk to ask the Public Rights of Way Officer to check footpath 22 the Braintree Road access.

26/030 To adopt New Council Document/Policy.

Financial Regulations 2024 (New version issued by NALC to consider adoption). Ongoing, item to be on the next agenda.

26/031 Street Lights.

Previous minute No. 24/251 and 24/270, 25/012 and 25/030

To discuss and consider replacing the street lights with LED at a cost of £359.00 each ongoing – item to be on the next agenda.

26/032 Allotments.

Previous minute no. 25/033, 25/136, 25/140, 25/163 To discuss and consider granting permission for the allotment holders to set up a constitution for the Gosfield Allotment Gardens Association.

Allotment holders no longer want to set up a constitution, as it would involve meetings, agendas, minutes, bank accounts, this item to be removed from future agendas.

26/033 Open Space land at the top of Meadway.

Item 1. Update, the Parish Council are still awaiting ownership legal documents to be received. Public Rights of Way Footpath signs to be checked.

Item 2. Once the Parish Council owns the land to consider erecting bollards at the top near new path. Item deferred.

Item 3. Once the Parish Council owns the land to consider erecting a sign stating, "Dogs must be kept under control at all times". Item deferred.

Item 4. Once the Parish Council owns the land to consider granting permission for a resident to maintain the flower borders. Item deferred.

The above items to be on the July agenda for updates.

26/034 Picnic Bench.

It was agreed to purchase a Clifton picnic table at a cost of £686.94 plus VAT plus installation cost, near the new skate ramp.

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

26/035 Car Park.

Update by Cllr R. Edwards, the contractor is waiting for better weather to commence work. It was agreed for a timber open fence to be installed along the front, in keeping with the street scene.

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

26/036 Playing Field at the Recreation Ground Church Road Gosfield. Improvements to drainage on the Playing Field at the Recreation Ground Church Road Gosfield will need to commence before the car park works.

A specification of drainage works required had been sent to the contractor who was awarded the contract for the car park resurfacing. That contractor had provided the Parish Council with an indication of cost which the Parish Councillors considered to be value for money from a local contractor. It was resolved to put this price forward to Braintree District Council in order to determine whether it would be acceptable for S106 moneys.

Proposed by Cllr Waters seconded by Cllr Pawsey all in favour resolution passed.

26/037 Fairy Trail Map.

Braintree District Council have agreed to help with the production of this, photos and text confirmation of size layout and design required. Cllr Strudwick to liaise with BDC via the Clerk. Item to be on the next agenda.

26/038 Indoor Gym Facility for Teenagers in Gosfield.

Gosfield Parish Council discussed and considered indoor gym facilities as requested by a member of the public it was agreed that it would not be practical for the village hall or the pavilion, the cost of equipment and installation. A qualified instructor would need to be present at all times, and insurance in place, it would not be feasible or cost effective. It was suggested the member of public contact Gosfield School, in Halstead Road as they may have a club for teenagers to be able to attend.

Proposed Cllr Pawsey seconded by Cllr Waters all in favour resolution passed.

26/039 Access to The Lindens from The Limes.

A meeting has taken place with the Chairman, Cllr R. Edwards, Cllr Strudwick and the Parish Clerk with the Management Company who are going to investigate the legal practicalities, awaiting feedback - Item to be on the next agenda.

26/040 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, village representatives, and Parish Council working groups. The Rowson Trust require more details on their application forms when applying for grants – The Chairman attended BALC and is still appointed on the Local Highway Panel as one of their representatives. Cllr R. Edwards attended a Community Shop meeting and gave a full explanation of works relating to the car park.

26/041 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 to be sent to the Clerk.

Kings Head Pub – Community Asset.

26/042 Date of Next Meeting.

Item 1. Parish Council Meeting Monday 16th March 2026 (7.15pm) In the Pavilion, Church Road, Gosfield CO9 1TL confirmed.

Item 2. Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly (Village Meeting) 23rd March 2026 (7.15pm) in the Pavilion, Church Road, Gosfield CO9 1TL confirmed.

Item 3. It was agreed to change the May Parish Council meeting date to Monday 11th May. Proposed by Cllr Hough, seconded by Cllr Colyer all in favour resolution passed.

Meeting closed at 8.49pm

Gosfield Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

16 February 2026 (2025-2026)

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
185	19/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	122	Pavilion electricity	E-ON UK plc	X	189.84		189.84
185	19/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	122	Pavilion electricity	E-ON UK plc	L	28.59	1.43	30.02
186	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	123	Play area repairs	Playquip Leisure	S	868.65	173.73	1,042.38
187	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	124	GNR work	Ficris Ltd	S	560.50	112.10	672.60
188	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	125	Grapevine printing	Eden Print Ltd	Z	656.00		656.00
189	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	126	Grapevine postage	Gosfield Community Shop	Z	27.84		27.84
190	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	127	Chicken wire	Suregreen Ltd	S	76.78	15.36	92.14
191	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	128	Dog bin	Braintree District Council	Z	304.97		304.97
192	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	129	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	8.06		8.06
192	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	129	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	7.92		7.92
192	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	129	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	6.34		6.34
192	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	129	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	23.40		23.40
193	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	130	Room hire	Maurice Rowson Hall	Z	25.50		25.50
194	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	131	GNR tree work	Second Nature Tree Serv	S	450.00	90.00	540.00
195	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	132	Toilet products	Tesco Stores Ltd	S	37.82	7.57	45.39
196	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	133	GNR work	Westover Woodlands	Z	1,903.50		1,903.50
196	17/02/2026		Barclays Current Acc	133	GNR work	Westover Woodlands	Z	375.00		375.00
Total								5,550.71	400.19	5,950.90

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Name and Role _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Name and Role _____ Date: _____