

MINUTES OF GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2025
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 Jo Colyer
Cllr Richard Edwards also (RFO)
Cllr Tony Farrelly
Cllr Carol Hough
Cllr Maggi Pawsey
Cllr Tony Strudwick
Cllr John Willis
Mrs Diane Jacob (Parish Clerk)

County Cllr C. Siddall
Two members of the public

25/001 Welcome and Apologies for Absence. The Chairman welcomed everyone, no apologies for absence received.

25/002 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 non-pecuniary interest relating to item 25/006 Planning application 24/02260/HH was received and accepted.

25/003 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.

A member of the public raised concerns relating to the new road surface from the Kings Head down and round the bend of The Street/Braintree Road which is coming up due to the water running constantly down the road due to blocked gully/drains which has been reported on several occasions – Cllr Siddall to chase up.

Cllr Strudwick spoke regarding 25/006 Planning application 24/02260/HH and explained the current situation relating to houses front gardens in that area.

25/004 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. Speed surveys to be carried out to collect the data. 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 survey now in progress for this area.

The devolution white paper on how Councils will look in the future has been published and Essex will possibly become a combined authority, Essex County Council voted in favour of the restructure.

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

25/005 Minutes.

Item 1. To confirm receipt of the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th December 2024.

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

Item 2. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th December 2024.

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Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 17th February 2025

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

25/006 Planning Matters

Item 1. 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. The Chairman updated regarding the enforcement at Low Ley plantation near the lake and the owner confirmed that they are trying to preserve the roots of the trees near the lake, no further action required.

Item 2. New applications.

Ref: 24/02579/FUL

Description: Proposed single storey log drying extension.

Location: Gosfield Shopping Village Petersfield Lane Gosfield Essex

No Objection

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

Ref: 24/02260/HH

Description: Installation of new driveway and dropped kerb.

Location: 18 Park Cottages The Street Gosfield Essex CO9 1TP

Objection, was based on the reports read out by the Chairman from the Historic Building consultant and ECC Highways.

Proposed by Cllr T. Edwards, seconded by Cllr Waters, Cllr Pawsey in favour (no further votes)

An amendment that further information is required to be able to comment on the application.

Proposed by Cllr R. Edwards, seconded by Cllr Hough, Cllr Colyer, Cllr Farrelly, Cllr Willis in favour resolution passed further information required, Clerk to contact BDC.

25/007 Budget/Precept for 2025/2026.

As required by section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, Parish Councillors are obliged to leave discussions where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest. To participate in the setting of a budget and precept for the Council, the councillors will require a dispensation, and for this purpose, Gosfield Parish Council resolves to delegate to the Clerk the power to grant a dispensation from exclusion to all Councillors for the purpose of considering and setting the budget and precept.

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

25/008 Budget/Precept for 2025/2026.

Item 1. The Budget for 2025/2026 was discussed in great detail, it was agreed to pledge £20,000.00 of reserves for the car park project in order for Cllr Willis to go out to match fund and source further grant funding, the budget was therefore set at £50,090.00

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

Item 2. The Precept for 2025/2026 was set at £50,090.00 the Parish element of the band D tax rate for 2025/26 was set at £76.03 compared to £69.78 last year which was an increase of 8.96%. The reserves would be replaced over 4 years with £5,000.00 per annum included in the budget.

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

The Parish Council expressed thanks to the Responsible Financial Officer for all the work carried out on the above.

25/009 Financial Matters.

Item 1. Approve accounts for payment, see separate page.

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

Item 2. To approve the quarterly bank reconciliation, see separate page.

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

25/010 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, no further update by Cllr R. Edwards to contact solicitors, ongoing.

Item 2. Previous minute No. 24/268 Complaint letter to Clarion and BDC regarding affordable housing – The Chairman gave an update re Edmund Green that the property had been sold for 80% in accordance with the conditions placed on it. Further clarification requested from Clarion.

Item 3. 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 update from BDC.

Item 4. Previous minute No. 24/146 The Beacon – No update, ongoing.

Item 5. 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 –Cllr Siddall will chase – ongoing.

Item 6. 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 – Cllr Siddall will chase – ongoing.

Item 7. Neighbourhood Plan – Consultation is now closed and collecting all the information, Cllr Willis updated on the new grant funding application regarding design codes.

Item 8. Car Park – Cllr Willis confirmed that the National Lottery had declined the funding application and to now try to obtain funding from other sources.

Item 9. Skate Ramp previous minute 24/279 – Ongoing Clerk to contact suppliers to confirm the exact specification and cost to be able to go out to obtain funding for the project, to contact Sport England.

Item 10. Gosfield Nature Reserve previous minute no. 24/277- Update 5 Year Plan will be on the next agenda, Cllr Strudwick and Cllr R. Edwards to hold a meeting to discuss with Westover Woodlands.

Item 11. Public Footpaths 15 and 22 – No update from Essex County Council Public Rights of Way.

Item 12. Speed watch Previous minute no. 24/271 Update - A new volunteer has come forward to become the co-ordinator he has completed Speedwatch Training with Essex Road Safety, and the instructor said that Speedwatch groups do not need to have calibrated speed guns anymore as a larger margin of error in speed readings is established due to issue of guns not being calibrated, so no further action required. Clerk to contact to see how many and when shifts will recommence.

Item 13. Gosfield Wood – Update. Gosfield Wood is partly on the market and a section being sold, it is protected through the national planning policy framework, the Parish Council has sent a request to BDC. The Chairman updated regarding the enforcement at Low Ley plantation near the lake and the owner confirmed that they are trying to preserve the roots of the trees near the lake, no further action required. for an article 4 direction which is a general development order which specifies items not required for planning permission, permitted development rights to be put in place, still awaiting a reply from BDC.

25/011 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.

25/012 Street Lights.

Previous minute No. 24/251 and 24/270

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.

25/013 Braintree District Council Waste Collection Consultation.

The consultation opens at 10.00am on Monday 6th January 2025 and will close at midnight on Sunday **2nd March 2025.**

We are inviting you to participate in the consultation by completing an on-line questionnaire which can be accessed at www.braintree.gov.uk/wasteconsultation

Garden Waste Renewals 2025/26 (you will need to renew in April 2025).

For information, which will also be published in the Grapevine, residents encouraged to take part in the consultation.

25/014 Fairy trail in Gosfield Nature Reserve.

Cllr Strudwick gave an update, and it was discussed and considered to go ahead with a Fairy trail in the nature reserve, approximately 17 areas are suitable for fairy houses, a map will be produced and fairies for sale in the Community shop. Project cost approximately £500.00 was approved to be taken from the Gosfield Nature Reserve earmarked reserves.

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

25/015 VE Day Event 8th May 2025.

Previous minute No. 24/268 VE Day 8th May 2025 – the Parish Council agreed to donating £250.00 towards the event, ongoing meetings to be held by the volunteers.

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

25/016 Gosfield Nature Reserve.

Quotes for tree survey works in the Nature Reserve, were discussed and it was agreed to accept the cheapest at a cost of £1,200.00 Plus VAT.

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

25/017 Parish Council Meetings.

To consider starting future Parish Council Meetings earlier at 7.00pm and to last for a maximum of 2hrs as per Standing Orders.

Proposed by Cllr T. Farrelly, seconded by Cllr Hough, Cllr Pawsey in favour, (no further votes)

Counter proposal to consider leaving the time at 7.15pm and to last for a maximum of 2hrs as per Standing Orders.

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

Parish Council meetings will remain at 7.15pm start time.

25/018 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, village representatives, and Parish Council working groups.

None.

25/019 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.

25/020 Date of Next Meeting.

Parish Council Meeting Monday 17th February 2025 (7.15pm).

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Gosfield Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
150 Streetlight Electricity	22/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	98	Streetlight electricity	npower	L	1,152.47	57.62	1,210.09
151 Stationery & Office Supplies	22/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	99	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	6.33		6.33
151 Telephone & Broadband	22/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	99	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	8.68		8.68
151 Telephone & Broadband	22/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	99	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	6.34		6.34
151 Car Mileage Allowance	22/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	99	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	22.95		22.95
152 Software Licences	22/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	100	Email renewal	Microsoft	S	529.20	105.84	635.04
153 Software Licences	22/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	101	LCN domain name renewal	Trend Capital Ltd	S	35.99	7.20	43.19
154 Toilet Sundries	22/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	102	Bins for toilets	QD	S	6.65	1.33	7.98
155 Village General Maintenance	22/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	103	HaHa Ditch	Charlie Jarvis	Z	30.00		30.00
156 General Maintenance	22/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	103	Play area maintenance	Charlie Jarvis	Z	97.50		97.50
Total								1,896.11	171.99	2,068.10

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role

Gosfield Parish Council
BANK ACCOUNTS

Barclays Current Account	£30,992.95
Barclays Reserve Account	£7,428.52
Cambridge & Counties Bank	
Cambridge & Counties 95 day notice	£25,000.00
Cambridge and Counties 2 year bond	£20,000.00
Total in Banks	83,421.47
Cash	
GRAND TOTAL (Banks and Cash)	£83,421.47