

MINUTES OF GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 JULY 2018 AT THE PAVILION, THEPLAYING FIELD, CHURCH ROAD, GOSFIELD AT 7.15PM

Present:

Cllr Mandy Adams
Cllr Laurence Carter
Cllr Tricia Edwards – Vice Chairman
Cllr Isla Gill
Cllr Carol Hough
Cllr Thea Maragkakis
Cllr Maggie Pawsey
Cllr Tony Strudwick
Cllr Bob Waters – Chairman
Cllr John O’Reilly-Cicconi
Cllr Peter Schwier

Together with 8 members of the public.

Cllr Waters was delighted to report that the village had won two prizes at the RCCE presentation. The first was Class 3 winner and the second was third in the Essex village of year. We had received £150 for each prize which would go towards enhancing the village.

18/98 Apologies for absence – Parish Clerk, Jo Beavis

18/99 Declarations of interest – the Parish Council had a blanket dispensation in respect of the application for the village shop.

18/100 Public Statements and Questions – none.

Report from the District Councillor – nothing to report.

Report from the County Councillor – none.

18/101a to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Cllr Waters reported that the minutes had been amended following a meeting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk. Cllr T Edwards read the revised item at 18/85. It was noted that the ECC website was showing the incorrect minutes.

The following amendments were also made:

The date of the meeting was amended from 2016 to 2018
18/86a – the words “cannot be” were changed to “did not want to be”
18/95 – the role of the RFO should be Mr R Edwards and not Cllr Edwards.

The minutes were approved, proposed Cllr M Pawsey, seconded Cllr T Maragkakis. Cllr L Carter abstained as he was not present at the previous meeting.

Signed

20th August 2018

18/101b – matters arising from the minutes

Cllr Gill requested Cllr Waters to send an email re the car park as discussed at 18/86b of the last meeting.

18/102a approve the accounts for payment – approved, proposed Cllr M Pawsey, seconded Cllr I Gill.

18/102b approve the petty cash payments – approved, proposed Cllr T Maragkakis, seconded Cllr L Carter.

18/103 Braintree District Council planning updates – none.

18/104 Braintree District Council planning applications

Planning number: 18/01039/FUL. Gosfield School. New Centre for Performing Arts. It was agreed no comment, proposed Cllr T Strudwick, seconded Cllr M Pawsey.

Planning number: 18/00887/FUL. Retention of building for use of village shop. It was proposed by Cllr M Pawsey, seconded by Cllr M Adams and unanimously agreed to make the following comment to BDC: “The Parish Council fully supports the continuation of the village shop in its present site”.

18/105 Appoint a new clerk. Cllr R Waters reported on the interviews held by the Personnel Committee who were recommending Mrs Diane Jacob to replace our current Clerk, Mrs J Beavis. Mrs Jacob would be working alongside Mrs Beavis from 1 August until 30 September for 8 hours per week each. It was anticipated that the new clerk would have a fixed time per week to accept telephone calls. Cllr Waters proposed, Cllr Edwards seconded and it was agreed to appoint Mrs Jacob as the new clerk. Cllr Waters would be arranging a meeting at the social club for all Councillors to meet Mrs Jacob. Cllr Strudwick agreed to draw up a job specification. Cllr Waters was requested to obtain a letter of resignation from Mrs Beavis.

18/106 Gosfield Nature Reserve Warden. Cllr Waters read a statement in response to Mr S Westover’s statement at the previous meeting. Cllrs Waters and Carter had agreed a way forward to try and keep the balance. Cllr Strudwick said that this should have been approved at a Parish Council meeting. Cllr Carter had thought it would go before the next meeting and all agreed that a tree policy was needed. Cllr Carter indicated that he would step down as tree warden if the Councillors wished him to do so. Cllr Pawsey would like the tree warden from BDC to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss matters.

18/107 Suspend Standing Orders. It was agreed to suspend standing orders, proposed Cllr Waters, seconded Cllr Pawsey. It was agreed to appoint Mr Richard Edwards as the new Responsible Financial Officer to be re-appointed annually at the AGM. It was agreed that Cllr Gill be another signatory on the bank accounts, proposed Cllr Strudwick, seconded Cllr Waters.

18/108. Playing Field.

- a. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay the bill for the golf club to cut the grass but that the Playing Field Management Committee would pay the £150 for the repairs. Cllr Adams wished the minutes to be noted that the Fete Committee raised moneys for the Playing Field Management Committee and understood that the Playing Field Management Committee had sufficient moneys to cover the costs of the golf club.
- b. It was agreed to transfer the grass cutting duties to the Playing Field Management Committee, proposed Cllr Waters, seconded Cllr Pawsey.

18/109 Kings Head Vision Statement in relation to Braintree District Council Asset List. Cllr Waters agreed to speak to the Clerk to ascertain what was required to start the process. He would also speak to a contact in Pebmarsh. Cllr Strudwick would put an article in the Grapevine asking residents to return a sheet indicating what they would like to see happen to the Kings Head if it ever closed again.

18/110. St Margaret’s School cricket sign. Cllr Waters had received a letter requesting installing a sign attached to the pavilion as follows: Gosfield Playing Field and Pavilion. The home of cricket for St Margaret’s Preparatory School.” This was agreed, proposed Cllr Gill, seconded Cllr Pawsey. Cllr Waters to check on the size. This item to be reviewed in 12 months’ time.

18/111. Vegetable Collection Point and Library Book Share. Cllr Maragkakis indicated that she would be speaking to the shop volunteers regarding these two matters.

18/111. Harvest Festival. Cllr Maragkakis would be speaking to Rev Rose to discuss a non-religious but community-based service in the Maurice Rowson Hall.

18/111. Parish Council Youth Forum Advisory Group. Cllr Maragkakis reported that this group would meet before the Parish Council meeting to discuss the agenda and have a youth voice at the table. The group could also be advertised in the Grapevine.

18/112. To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, village representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Cllr Adams reported that she had visited the allotments in her role as Allotment Liaison Officer. The allotment holders had requested a “chat board”.

18/113. Correspondence. Cllr Waters brought up the email received from Westover Woodlands re tree works required in the pits. It was agreed that Westover Woodlands carry out the work and apply for the necessary TPO permissions.

18/114. Any other business. Public Statements and future agenda items.

Cllr Adams reported that the new manager at the Kings Head did not wish to retain the bottle banks and had approached BDC to have them removed. It was agreed to await the outcome.

Gosfield In Bloom - Cllr Adams reported on a very successful judging morning the previous Friday. The award ceremony for winners would take place on 12 September at Bury St Edmunds.

Cllr Pawsey requested an update on the map case. Cllr Waters to ask the Clerk for an update.

Cllr Pawsey reported that one of the seats in the children's play area needed removing as there was a broken slat, one required painting and one required levelling. Cllr Strudwick indicated that he would attend to these.

Cllr Pawsey read an article from the East Anglian Daily Times in relation to 20mph zones outside schools in Essex. It was suggested that we could apply for Hall Drive, together with Halstead Road in relation to Gosfield School.

Councillors noted that there was a meeting regarding the children's play area on 23 July at 7pm.

Cllr Strudwick reported that he had requested a trophy cabinet in the Maurice Rowson Hall. This requested had been denied and he asked for other suggestions.

Cllr Strudwick wished it to be noted that the Parish Council was unable to pay £500 to the Church in future.

It was agreed to ask the Clerk to contact Mortimers re clearing the Swims.

Cllr Waters was requested to investigate works being carried out at 10 The Cedars.

Cllr Waters agreed to investigate the nettles in New Road.

Cllr Waters to speak to the resident at The Sparrows re the trees/fencing which were covering the path.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.