

MINUTES OF GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER 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 Carol Hough
Cllr Maggie Pawsey
Cllr Tony Strudwick
Mrs Diane Jacob (Parish Clerk)

County Cllr C. Siddall and District Cllr P. Schwier

One member of the public

24/242 Welcome and Apologies for Absence. The Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr Willis (due to holiday) and Cllr Tony Farrelly (due to illness).

24/243 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.
None.

24/244 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

The member of the public raised the question as to why a quotation was accepted for the car park for such a large cost, (considerably more than expected). The Vice-Chairman explained that the process had been carried out correctly 8 tenders were sent out to contractors and only 2 replied with quotes and that the Parish Council had accepted the cheapest. The specification was discussed between Councillors and it was suggested that perhaps the specification was too high.

This item to be revisited and to be on the next agenda for further discussion.

24/245 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. Financial contribution from residents to be chased up by Essex County Council.

Manhole covers item 24/249 Item 10 to be chased up also item number 24/249 item 11 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. Residents/members of the public are asked to complete a survey if they would like to be involved with budget setting. NHS 111 are now able to suggest a local pharmacy for medication which should be quicker. Household support fund available for food, heating, health & wellbeing survey. Cllr grants available

District Councillor Peter Schwier –

Wethersfield asylum centre - 360 is now up to 800 gradually increasing and BDC and the Home Officer are monitoring the situation. Braintree Diagnostic centre is due to open for scans, blood tests etc which hopefully will be quicker. *Heddingham medical centre work to commence this winter and completion spring 2026.*

Cllr grants available.

24/246 Minutes.

Item 1. To confirm receipt of the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st October 2024.

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

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Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 16th December 2024

Item 2. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st October 2024.

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

Item 3. To confirm receipt of the draft minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 4th November 2024.

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

Item 4. To confirm the minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 4th November 2024.

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

24/248 Planning Matters.

Item 1. Braintree District Council - Consultation – New Design Code Document.

Would any Cllrs be interested in attending future Design Code workshops, Cllr Strudwick to check the date and register if interested and available to attend.

Item 2. Planning updates.

Item 3. New applications.

Ref: 24/02390/TPO

Description: Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO - 8/78 Horse Chestnut to be reduced by 3m Sycamore to be reduced by 3m

Location: 19 Chestnut Avenue Gosfield Essex CO9 1TD

No objection

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

Ref: 24/02374/HH

Description: First floor side extension with pitched roof projection over, front porch, single storey rear extension with flat roof and alterations to fenestration at ground floor level.

Location: 7 Meadway Gosfield Essex CO9 1TQ

No objection

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

Ref: 24/02404/HH

Description: Erection of garden room

Location: 21 The Lindens Gosfield Halstead Essex CO9 1GW

No objection

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

24/248 Financial Matters.

Item 1. Accounts for payment approved, please refer to separate page as below.

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

Item 2. The quarterly bank reconciliation received at the October Parish Council meeting was approved.

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

The Responsible Financial Officer presented to the Parish Council an expenditure v actual spreadsheet and asked for information from all Parish Councillors relating to setting the budget for 2025/26.

24/249 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 that this is still with the Land Registry, ongoing.

Item 2. Previous minute No. 24/107 Complaint letter to Clarion and BDC regarding affordable housing – update re Edmund Green, we are still awaiting information.

Item 3. Previous minute No. 24/138 VE Day 8th May 2025 – The event organisers have held meetings and this progressing.

Item 4. Previous minute No. 24/129 Open Space land at the top of Meadway – update still awaiting information regarding the knee-high fencing access gate from BDC and Public Rights of Way have concerns relating to the public footpath number 11 and are in discussion with the developer.

Item 5. Previous minute Kings Head Field footpath – The gate is to remain open for access, no further action will be taken by Public Rights of Way unless they receive complaints that the access is restricted as no permission has been given for this gate.

Item 6. Previous minute No. 24/130 and 24/188, S106 Funding Allotments BDC have now confirmed that the S106 funding can be spent on a Polytunnel 4 x 3mtrs with shelving to be placed on a base of gravel to check with all Allotment holders as to if this is required, Cllr Waters to find funding for it to be installed and for the base. Further information - item deferred and to be on the next agenda.

Item 7. Previous minute No. 24/146 The Beacon – ongoing.

Item 8. Car Park from previous minutes 24/239 and 24/240 – update received by report from Cllr Willis as follows, I have completed a check of the MDS tender and can confirm that they have met all the requirements of the Specification including examples of similar projects they have completed.

I have had a telephone conversation with them and have arranged to meet them next week.

They have confirmed that they have no issue with an Easter 2025 start date.

I have completed the Lottery Community Fund application and the Lottery will respond within 12 weeks of receiving the application.

The Parish Council noted we would not be receiving S106 funding from Braintree District Council as hoped, therefore now relying on alternative funding, Councillors suggested we have a plan B option in place as soon as possible.

Item 9. Previous minute No. 24/232 item 2 Gosfield Nature Reserve Management Plan, to note that the 5-year management plan expires in February update by Cllr Strudwick and Cllr R Edwards that a meeting was held with Westover Woodlands and for the plan to be drawn up with possible extra work. Input required from Parish Councillors as to the exact use of the nature reserve. Item to be on the next agenda.

Item 10. 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 to chase for update.

Item 11. 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 to chase for update.

Item 12. Previous minute No. 24/220 Neighbourhood Plan.

To confirm that the neighbourhood plan is now out for public consultation all 150 copies have been distributed. The mandatory consultees have been notified, the closing date has been extended to 3rd January, 2025. There will be a public meeting on the 23rd November in the Rowson Hall between 10.00 and 1400hrs when we will be available to answer questions. Posters in the Community Shop, Social Club and on the village Facebook pages.

24/250 To adopt New Council Documents/Policies.

Item 1. Code of Conduct (New version issued by BD) was adopted. Cllr training is provided by the EALC if required. Proposed by Cllr Pawsey, seconded by Cllr Strudwick, Cllr T Edwards, Cllr Waters, Cllr Colyer and Cllr Hough in favour, Cllr R Edwards abstained, resolution passed.

Item 2. Financial Regulations 2024 (New version issued by NALC to consider adoption to set a date for a Finance working group meeting to discuss together with the budget. Item to be on the next agenda.

24/251 Street Lights.

Item deferred as further information required as to how much saving would be made if the lights were changed to LED. Item to be on the next agenda.

24/252 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. Fencing along the top of the playing field (Hall Drive) – Previous Minute number 24/233.

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

24/253 Fencing along the top of the playing field (Hall Drive) – The Chairman gave an update/recommendation by Braintree District Council Landscaping officer, Parish Council to consider if Bow top fencing is required. To note funding has been confirmed from the Rowson Perpetual Memorial Fund for this project.

Gosfield Parish Council confirmed that Bow top fencing is required as per quoted previously, hedges would take too long to grow, all accesses to remain as existing.

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

24/254 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, village representatives, and Parish Council working groups.

Cllr Strudwick gave a report on the Wethersfield asylum centre and that a meeting is going to be held at Wethersfield Village Hall on 29th November with James Cleverly in attendance, booking required if you would like to attend as numbers are limited.

The Parish Clerk gave an update on the Clerks refresher course attended at the EALC, new legislation etc was covered.

24/255 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.

To be sent to the Clerk prior to the next agenda.

24/256 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 24/198, 24/199, 24/200, 24,201, 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.

Resolution to exclude members of public.

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

24/257 Skate Ramp.

To go out to public consultation, in the Grapevine, social media etc as to what type of ramp would members of the public require, item to be on the next agenda.

24/258 Play area.

Repairs to the climber platform and slide and quotes discussed, further information required, item deferred and to be on the next agenda.

24/259 Date of Next Meeting.

Parish Council Meeting Monday 16th December 2024 (7.15pm).

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Vouche Code	Bank	Minute	Date	Description	Cheque No	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
120	Village General Maintenance	20/11/2024	20/11/2024	Handyman	82	Charlie Jarvis	Z	7.50		7.50
120	Pavilion & Playing Field Gener	20/11/2024	20/11/2024	Handyman	82	Charlie Jarvis	Z	30.00		30.00
121	Subscriptions	17/12/2024	17/12/2024	ICO	83	Information Commissioner:	X	35.00		35.00
122	Section 137 Payments	20/11/2024	20/11/2024	Poppy wreaths	84	Halstead & District Branch	X	60.00		60.00
123	Stationery & Office Supplies	20/11/2024	20/11/2024	Clerk's expenses	85	Jacob Mrs D	X	11.19		11.19
123	Car Mileage Allowance	20/11/2024	20/11/2024	Clerk's expenses	85	Jacob Mrs D	X	22.50		22.50
123	Telephone & Broadband	20/11/2024	20/11/2024	Clerk's expenses	85	Jacob Mrs D	X	8.68		8.68
123	Telephone & Broadband	20/11/2024	20/11/2024	Clerk's expenses	85	Jacob Mrs D	X	6.34		6.34
124	Grasscutting	20/11/2024	20/11/2024	Grass cutting	86	MD Landscapes (Anglia) Lt	S	209.00	41.80	250.80
124	Grass Cutting -CPA	20/11/2024	20/11/2024	Grass cutting	86	MD Landscapes (Anglia) Lt	S	30.00	6.00	36.00
125	Christmas Tree	20/11/2024	20/11/2024	Christmas Tree	87	Gosfield Social Club	X	150.00		150.00
Total								570.21	47.80	618.01

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Name and Role _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Name and Role _____ Date: _____