

MINUTES OF GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
MONDAY 16th OCTOBER 2023
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 Maggie Pawsey
Cllr Tony Strudwick
Cllr John Willis
Mrs Diane Jacob (Parish Clerk)

County Cllr Chris Siddall
District Cllr Peter Schwier
Two members of the public.

23/211 Welcome and Apologies for Absence. The Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr Carol Hough (due to holiday).

23/212 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 (Para 8.1 of Gosfield Parish Council's code of conduct) received and accepted from Cllr Waters relating to agenda item 23/216 ref: 23/02418/VAR.

23/213 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

A member of the public spoke regarding item 23/216 ref: 23/02256/TPOCON and removal of the trees at 3 The Limes, Gosfield. They are in a conservation with no TPO on them they do screen The Street and The Limes – shade to the property in the mornings -The Sycamore was hit in the past and so has exposed wood and is repairing itself no evidence of disease. No shrinkage of clay in the area and no evidence of property damage. The very overgrown willow may need to be removed but the other 3 trees are fine and should remain to enhance the area as they are.

23/214 County and District Councillors to address the members if present.

Cllr Siddall gave an update on Braintree Road, confirmed that he has discussed safety aspects with (CMA) Cabinet Member Authority Inspector, a continuous 40mph of the area is being proposed without a speed survey being carried out, item will be on the next (LHP) Local Highway Panel agenda to be discussed at the next meeting in March 2024, to be put to the panel for consideration.

Cllr Schwier reported that over 9,000 people have signed up for the early bird green bin waste collections so take up is good so far. BDC are seriously looking at the budget which has a shortfall and trying to increase efficiency. The boundary review is under way by the Boundary Commission and results will be released early next year, before the elections in 2025. Funding has been given to the food bank (£98,000 across Essex) 271 new businesses have been supported by funding. A chewing gum machine has been purchased to clean the pavements.

23/215 Minutes.

Item 1. To confirm receipt of the draft minutes for Parish Council meeting held on 18th September 2023. Proposed by Cllr Waters, seconded by Cllr Colyer, all in favour resolution passed.

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Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 20th November 2023

Item 2. To resolve that the minutes for Parish Council meeting held on 18th September 2023 be signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Willis, seconded by Cllr Farrelly, Cllr J. Colyer, Cllr T. Edwards, Cllr R. Edwards, Cllr Pawsey, Cllr Waters in favour, Cllr Strudwick abstained, resolution passed.

23/216 Planning Matters.

Item 1. Planning updates.

Item 2. New Planning Applications.

Ref: 23/02256/TPOCON

Location: 3 The Limes Gosfield Essex CO9 1UA

Description: Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Removal of 4 trees - Conifer, Willow and two Sycamore

Objection

In a conservation area and would change the street scene, therefore all existing trees to remain.

Proposed by Cllr Pawsey, section by Cllr Strudwick (No other votes so proposal not carried).

Parish Council have no objection to the willow tree being felled but the other 3 to remain because of the following reasons:

Removal would adversely affect the street scene.

We believe the sycamore tree is not diseased.

Conifer roots should not affect the house as we believe there is no clay in the vicinity.

No report by appropriate expert to support "other structural damage"

We would request TPOs be put on the three remaining trees.

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

Ref: 23/02418/VAR

Location: Land Adjacent Tennis Club Braintree Road Gosfield Essex

Description: Variation of Condition 1 (Approved Plans) of permission 20/02244/REM granted 02/09/2021 for: Application for approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout & scale) pursuant to outline planning application ref 19/00998/OUT - Erection of 5no. Dwellings with access and car park for Tennis Club. No objection.

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

Ref: 23/02276/VAR

Location: Land Rear Of 10 New Road Gosfield Essex

Description: Variation of condition 1 'Approved Plans' of permission 20/00500/REM granted on 05/05/2021 for Application for approval of Reserved Matters (appearance and landscaping) of outline planning consent 17/00119/OUT - Demolition of existing buildings and hardstanding and construction of 8 no. new dwellings together with new vehicular access onto New Road and associated development. Variation would allow design changes to Plots 1-8.

No comment from Gosfield Parish Council - Braintree District Council to decide.

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

Ref: 23/02456/TPO

Location: Gosfield Nature Reserve Halstead Road Gosfield Essex

Description: Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 23/82: Carry out works as per Tree Report 2023.

No comment as this is our application.

23/217 Financial Matters.

Item 1. Approved accounts for payment, please refer to separate pages as below.

Payment has been recovered for the part cost of the skip. The Holmes & Hills invoice for legal fees for the shop lease, money held has been allocated and £1.00 deducted for the rent therefore £510.90 to be passed onto the community shop.

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

Item 2. Approved the quarterly bank reconciliation up to 30th September 2023.

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Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 20th November 2023

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

Item 3. Confirmed that the Cambridge & Counties accounts have been set up and are in place.

Item 4. Confirmed the External Auditor's Report and Certificate for 2022/2023 has been received and approved. Thanks expressed to Richard Edwards (RFO).

Item 5. Total donation of £2,322.23 from the golf day has been received on the basis it is used for replacement fencing of the playing field.

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

Item 6. It was agreed to transfer £15,000.00 to a suitable Barclays deposit account.

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

Item 7. Budgets 2024/2025 information required by the RFO, before the 1st December so that figures can be discussed at a budget meeting scheduled to be held on 4th December.

23/218 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, ongoing with Solicitors and Land Registry and could take up to 2 years.

Item 2. Previous minute No. 22/162 The Street/Hedingham Road Hedges overhanging pavement – All work now complete so item to be removed from next agenda.

Item 3. Previous minute No. 23/179 Play area – The Aerial runway is still being worked on, awaiting new cable.

Item 4. Previous minute No. 23/139 Trees along Church Road – update by Cllr Willis that all work has been completed, so item to be removed from next agenda.

Item 5. Previous minute No. 23/126 Essex County Council Highways – Proposal for Improved Road Safety in Gosfield – Cllr Willis reported work still in progress item to be on the next agenda.

23/219 Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting had taken place grant applications discussed, awaiting quotes for writing the plan. Ongoing grant applications should have been submitted.

23/220 Replacement guttering for the pavilion.

Quotes discussed and considered it was agreed to accept the quote for £595.00.

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

23/221 Decking platform/area in the GNR.

Westover Woodlands confirmed this repair will be part of the maintenance contract.

23/222 Play area.

Item 1. Replacing with wood and not composite was preferred proposed by Cllr Pawsey, seconded by Cllr R. Edwards no other votes so proposal not carried therefore the quote for £150.00 was approved to replace the decking top area on the small slide with composite.

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

Item 2. No quote received to pressure wash the small table and little seats, this has been hand washed and will require repainting in the spring of 2024. Thanks expressed to Matt Jarvis for cleaning the equipment.

23/223 Weeds along Braintree Road – Tennis Courts to Sparrows.

The two quotes were discussed and it was agreed to accept £280.00 to clear the vegetation and verge areas.

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

23/224 Red litter bin.

Quote discussed and accepted to secure the red litter bin near the far side of the pavilion at a cost of £40.00

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

23/225 Signs.

Item 1. To consider quote for the village pump plaque. No quote to consider item to be on the next agenda.

Item 2. It was agreed to get replacement signs regarding dogs to be kept on leads.

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Signed.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

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3 x A3 signs on 5mm PVC, to design supplied before £30.00 each + VAT
Proposed by Cllr T. Edwards, seconded by Cllr Pawsey, Cllr Willis, Cllr Farrelly, Cllr J. Colyer, Cllr R. Edwards, Cllr Waters in favour, Cllr Strudwick abstained, resolution passed.

23/226 Trees.

To discuss and consider quotes for works as recommended to trees in the GNR by Westover Woodlands. Item deferred to be on the next agenda.

23/227 Room Hire.

It was discussed and agreed to rent the small room for £300.00 per year in the Maurice Rowson Hall, for the storage of Parish Council documents.

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

23/228 Playing Field Management Committee.

Previous Minute No. 21/118 To consider and approve the revised constitution. Item deferred to be on the next agenda.

23/229 Fencing boundary around the Playing field.

Previous minute no. 23/272 Along the Top (Hall Drive) and left-hand side from the top (Hall Drive) down to the Play area. Specification to be sent out to obtain quotes item to be on the next agenda.

23/230 Car Park.

Cllr Willis reported that the specification and plan has been drawn up. E-mail sent and awaiting a reply from BDC to see if planning permission is required. Item to be on the next agenda.

23/231 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, village representatives, and Parish Council working groups.

Cllr Strudwick reported that the solar panels are going to be fitted to the village hall roof next week, they are in profit for September and bookings are up.

Wethersfield security committee still on going.

23/232 New 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.

Wethersfield Museum

23/233 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 23/234 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.n

Resolution to exclude members of the press and public

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

23/234 Council Documents.

The Litter picker risk assessment was discussed and requires updating, "does not need to be accompanied at all times" and the employee will need to sign it.

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

23/235 Date of Next Meeting.

Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 20th November 2023 (7.15pm).

Meeting Closed at 8.47pm

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Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 20th November 2023

Gosfield Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
109	25/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	72	Skip Hire	All Clear Skip Hire Ltd	S	250.00	50.00	300.00
110	25/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	73	Insurance	CAS Ltd	Z	2,097.07		2,097.07
111	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	75	Relief litterpicker	HandyKing	Z	100.00		100.00
112	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	75	Repair to bin lock Halstead Rd	HandyKing	Z	20.00		20.00
113	23/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	76	Grapevine advertising	Post Office Ltd	Z	69.75		69.75
114	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	77	Payroll processing	Richard Edwards Group	S	89.61	17.92	107.53
115	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	78	Grapevine printing	Paul Clark Printing Ltd	Z	452.00		452.00
116	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	79	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	9.25		9.25
116	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	79	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	23.30		23.30
116	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	79	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	41.40		41.40
117	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	80	Poppy wreaths	Halstead & District Branch R	X	60.00		60.00
118	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	81	Streetlight repairs	A & J Lighting Solutions Ltd	S	314.00	62.80	376.80
119	17/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	82	Pavilion electricity	E-ON UK plc	S	25.00	5.00	30.00
119	17/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	82	Pavilion electricity	E-ON UK plc	X	426.25		426.25
120	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	83	Streetlight electricity	npower	L	682.35	34.12	716.47
121	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	84	Remove pine tree	David Self Tree Surgery	Z	520.00		520.00
122	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	84	Grind out 2 trees	David Self Tree Surgery	Z	180.00		180.00
123	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	85	Legal fees re shop lease	Holmes & Hills	S	1,956.00	391.20	2,347.20
124	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	86	Toilet products	Tesco Stores Ltd	S	24.62	4.93	29.55
125	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	86	Toilet products	QD	S	4.99	1.00	5.99
126	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	87	Grass cutting	MD Landscapes (Anglia) Ltd	S	195.00	39.00	234.00
126	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	87	Grass cutting	MD Landscapes (Anglia) Ltd	S	30.00	6.00	36.00
127	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	88	Election costs	Braintree District Council	Z	70.05		70.05
128	18/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Donation Community Shop	Gosfield Community Shop Ltr	X	510.90		510.90
Total								8,151.54	611.97	8,763.51

Gosfield Parish Council
BANK ACCOUNTS

Barclays Current Account	£63,004.81
Barclays Reserve Account	£7,284.84
Cambridge & Counties Bank	£12,576.25
Total in Banks	82,865.90
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Cash	
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GRAND TOTAL (Banks and Cash)	£82,865.90