

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

County Cllr Chris Siddall
District Cllr Peter Schwier

Eight members of the public.

23/185 Welcome and Apologies for Absence. The Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr John Willis (due to family commitments).

23/186 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 T. Edwards, Cllr Waters and Cllr Colyer relating to agenda item 23/202 the community shop.

23/187 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

Members of the public raised concerns regarding speeding along the Braintree Road from the High Garrett traffic lights into the village, not sure why but there are various speed limits along this road 60mph, 40mph and 30mph, not safe for pedestrians to walk along the verge to the bus stop or children walking to school as it is very overgrown with vegetation. Very difficult for residents to pull on and off driveways. Speed watch have been approached by residents but unable to carry out shifts in that area, due to safety issues.

Cllr Siddall has been and investigated this area and is fully aware of the ongoing issue several accidents along this road. A speed survey was carried out a few years ago in the 40mph zone and it met compliance Cllr Siddall to send a copy of the report to residents due to the LHP (Local Highway Panel) only having a limited budget and very little funding available he suggested that residents could group together and pay for a speed survey (wires across the road) in the 60mph limit, and that highways could revisit the issue as more properties (11 now in the area) a small hamlet, Cllr Siddall to continue to work with residents on this issue.

23/188 County and District Councillors to address the members if present.

Cllr Siddall reported on the Waste strategy for Essex 2024-2054 on how to dispose of waste in the future, public consultation now being carried out deadline date 22nd November. Cllr pothole scheme still ongoing send photo and what three words to Cllr Siddall. Grants available from ECC Ride London Scheme (help for young people). RACC concrete problem in schools etc, flue and covid vacations programme in process for the over 65. Sepsis awareness day.

Chairman discussed various LHP proposals in Gosfield, as they appear on the LHP agenda - speed survey for the Street, zebra crossing, raised kerbs in Halstead Road, Church Road priority give ways signs near the lake.

Cllr Schwier reported that over 6,0000 people have signed up for the early bird green bin waste collections so far. The Cllr Community grant funding is available until February, the Royal Prosperity fund (maybe for the carpark) to contact Emma Goodings (Planning BDC). Wethersfield still ongoing.

23/189 Minutes.

Item 1. To confirm receipt of the draft minutes for Parish Council meeting held on 21st August 2023.

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

Item 2. To resolve that the minutes for Parish Council meeting held on 21st August 2023 be signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Pawsey, seconded by Cllr Colyer, Cllr T. Edwards, Cllr R. Edwards, Cllr Hough, Cllr Farrelly, Cllr Waters in favour, Cllr Strudwick abstained (as they are not verbatim word for word of the meeting but an edited version) resolution passed.

23/190 Planning Matters.

Item 1. Planning updates.

Item 2. New Planning Applications.

Ref: Street Naming & Numbering application Planning approvals 19/00998/OUT and 20/02244/REM allowed for 5 new dwellings to be built.

Location: Suggested Road name for development of 5 houses at Land adjacent Gosfield Tennis Club

Description: The developer has suggested the following road name: Roman Close

The applicants chose the name of Roman Close as the site sits on an old roman road and like the historical context.

No objection

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

Ref: 23/02045/VAR

Location: Rookery Cottage The Street Gosfield Essex CO9 1TJ

Description: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of approved application 20/01504/HH granted 09.12.2020 for: Erection of a two-storey garage with study and WC in roof space. Variation would allow: -

1. Roof pitch increase

2. Rooflights provided to front roof slope as well as rear roof slope

Objection

(Gosfield Parish Council agreed with all the items raised in the letter from the listed building report)

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

Ref: 23/02082/HH

Location: Woodland House Halstead Road Gosfield Essex CO9 1PE

Description: Retrospective front porch

No comment from the Parish Council, BDC to make the decision.

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

23/191 Financial Matters.

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

Proposed by Cllr Waters, seconded by Cllr Pawsey, Cllr Colyer, Cllr T. Edwards, Cllr R. Edwards, Cllr Hough, Cllr Farrelly in favour, Cllr Strudwick abstained (as he had not checked his e-mails and seen the latest version) resolution passed.

Item 2. After discussion between Cllrs and advice from the RFO it was confirmed that the application for the 95 day investment had been sent, so will hopefully be accepted.

23/192 Insurance renewal October 2023 to September 2024.

Renewal confirmed of the Parish Council insurance with effect from 1 October 2023 subject to updating of wage roll and income declarations. Premium currently £2088 (last year 2022), budget £2400.

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

23/193 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 – some works has been carried out, Essex County Council Highways have contacted residents, some residents would like to remove the hedge BDC landscaping confirmed that his could be done as it is in a conservation area and therefore the Hedgerow Act does not apply.

Item 3. Previous minute No. 23/148 Horse Chestnut Tree – As permission would be required from Essex County Council and a letter of support from Cllr Siddall a member of the public confirmed that this is no longer required.

Item 4. Previous minute No. 23/179 Play area – The pine tree has been removed so that no branches will now fall from it - work has been carried out to the play equipment but on inspection of the Aerial runway further work is required, due to a health and safety issue it was agreed to approve the quote for £703.00 and for the work to be carried out as soon as possible. Proposed by Cllr Hough, seconded by Cllr Waters, all in favour, resolution passed.

Item 5. Previous minute No. 23/139 Trees along Church Road – update. Officers have attended this site and assessed the trees. Two oaks adjacent to the roadside had a decay detection survey and this revealed both trees to be healthy and they will remain in place. Both will have the decayed wood removed to prevent any further Health & Safety risk of it falling into the road.

There was also a small dead tree noted within falling distance of the adjacent road, which will be removed by Officers. The job has been issued and the work is likely to begin within the next couple of weeks.

Item 6. Previous minute No. 23/126 Essex County Council Highways – Proposal for Improved Road Safety in Gosfield – update by Cllr Willis that he had carried out a risk assessment along Braintree Road but given that he now has further information that was discussed in item 23/164 above this will continue to be work in progress and ready for the next meeting. Item deferred to be on the next agenda.

23/194 Training.

It was noted that new Cllr training days 1 and 2 for Cllr Farrelly as budgeted have been booked with the EALC.

23/195 Old village pump.

Previous minute number 22/208 now that the restoration works have been completed by Eastlight, permission has been received from Eastlight to consider the purchase of a plaque. Also, to note permission has been received from Eastlight for Gosfield in Bloom to purchase and place a planter on the manhole cover and bulbs/plants under the existing small hedge. Wording was agreed for the plaque as follows: "This restored pump and well used to provide water to all of the Cedars until the late 1950s. Nearly all of the village would have had similar pumps. This pump is no longer operational." Vice-Chairman to purchase.

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

23/196 Village Fete 6th July 2024.

Permission was granted to the village fete committee to be able to use the playing field on 6th July 2024.

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

23/197 Open Space Land at the top of Meadway.

It was agreed that Gosfield Parish Council would maintain this area as an informal recreation ground to be left as a meadow area in accordance with the S106 agreement.

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

23/198 Neighbourhood Plan.

Item 1. Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting had taken place grant applications discussed, awaiting quotes for righting the plan.

23/199 Internal Audit 2023/2024

It was agreed to appoint Jan Stobart as the Internal Auditor for financial year accounts end 2023/2024 at a cost of £255.00.

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

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Signed.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 16th October 2023

23/200 Parish Calendar 2024/2025.

Gosfield Parish Council adopted the Parish Calendar for 2024/2025.

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

23/201 Royal British Legion.

The Parish Council instructed the clerk to purchase 3 poppy wreaths.

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

23/202 Community Shop.

The lease of part of the pavilion to Gosfield Community Shop Ltd was approved and signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, witnessed by the Parish Clerk.

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

23/203 Benches/Bus Shelters etc.

To discuss reports from Cllr. Strudwick regarding maintenance to benches, bus shelters etc. Clerk to obtain a quote for the decking platform/area in the nature reserve, item to be on the next agenda.

23/204 Trees.

The report received from Westover Woodlands was discussed and considered and the recommended works to trees in the GNR was agreed for Westover Woodland to obtain the necessary consent/permission from BDC to carry out the works and for quotes to then be obtained. Quotes item to be on the next agenda.

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

23/205 Playing Field Management Committee.

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

23/206 Fencing boundary around the Playing field.

Along the Top (Hall Drive) and left-hand side from the top (Hall Drive) down to the Play area – Cllr Hough and Cllr T. Edwards have been looking into replacing this, an exact specification required for both bow top and replacement chain link fencing, then to obtain 3 quotes – item to be on the next agenda for consideration.

A golf day organised by Cllr Hough raised £2,200.00 for the fencing thanks expressed to Cllr Hough and a letter of thanks to be sent to Gosfield Lake Golf club for not charging £500.00 for the day.

23/207 Car Park

The Chairman reported that Cllr Willis is arranging minor changes to the tender documents and he will then send out for 3 quotes hopefully costs to be obtained ready for the item to be on the October agenda.

23/208 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, village representatives, and Parish Council working groups.

23/209 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.

Replacement guttering for the pavilion.

Weeds along Braintree Road Tennis Courts to Sparrows.

Room hire in the Maurice Rowson hall for Parish Council achieve/files.

Quote for the decking platform/area in the nature reserve

23/210 Date of Next Meeting.

Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 16th October 2023 (7.15pm).

Meeting Closed at 9.09pm

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Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: 16th October 2023

Gosfield Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
93	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	62	HaHa Ditch	HandyKing	Z	30.00		30.00
94	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	63	Grass cutting	MD Landscapes (Anglia) Ltd	S	418.00	83.60	501.60
94	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	63	Grass cutting	MD Landscapes (Anglia) Ltd	S	60.00	12.00	72.00
95	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	64	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	4.74		4.74
95	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	64	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	6.34		6.34
95	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	64	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	27.90		27.90
95	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	64	Clerk's expenses	Jacob Mrs D	X	16.96		16.96
96	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	65	Pavilion water	Anglian Water Business (Wav	Z	43.27		43.27
97	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	66	Gutter clearing	HandyKing	Z	75.00		75.00
98	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	67	Pavilion electricity	E-ON UK plc	S	25.00	5.00	30.00
98	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	67	Pavilion electricity	E-ON UK plc	X	419.84		419.84
99	13/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	68	GNR work	Westover Woodlands	Z	370.00		370.00
100	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	69	Play area repairs	Playquip Leisure	S	2,880.00	576.00	3,456.00
101	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	70	Toilet cleaning - pavilion	Carol Hough	X	104.20		104.20
103	20/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	71	External audit fee	PKF Littlejohn LLP	S	315.00	63.00	378.00
Total								4,796.25	739.60	5,535.85

Gosfield Parish Council
Payment Approval & Reporting
Council Meeting 18 September 2023

Supplier

Invoice Date

Total Payable

VAT Input Tax Recoverable

Net Cost to GPC

Grant/ Amount Recoverable

Brief Description of Supply

For approval and payment

5535.85

739.60

2000.00

2796.25

Please see attached sheet

Total

5535.85

739.60

2000.00

2796.25

Reported under Financial Regulation 5.6
Payments, which are approved annually, made during the period 18.8.23 to 18.9.23

Payroll costs

1317.93

1317.93

1317.93

Payroll

Previously Approved payments paid during the month

Total Payments

6853.78

739.60

3317.93

2796.25

Signed
 Chairman- Gosfield Parish Council