



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 10th April 2019 at 7.30pm
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Ian Aston – Vice Chairman
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Keith Morland

In attendance: Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk & RFO)
County Councillor Robert Mitchell
Two members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Steve Watts
District Councillor James Abbott
District Councillor Kevin Bowers

19/038 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and provided a brief report:

1. Bellway site in Mill Lane. The Parish Council continues to monitor the situation at this site, particularly the condition of Mill Lane, and expressed appreciation for the involvement of Cllrs Mitchell and Abbott.
2. After the scheduled planning committee meeting at the end of April, there will be no further meeting until June, resulting in further delays to decisions.
3. ECC have submitted a holding objection to the outline application (18/00549/OUT) for 250 dwellings on land between Long Green and Braintree Road. They have raised very valid points, particularly in relation to the proximity to Cordon's Waste Site.
4. Further objections have been lodged relating to the Appletree development.
5. Only two existing Councillors have submitted nomination papers for the local elections on 2nd May, so the election will be uncontested. No other nominations have been received by BDC. The Clerk is in discussion with the Head of Governance to determine what actions are required for the Parish Council to remain operational. (Two councillors are insufficient for a quorum, but day to day business will continue.)
6. An interview with BBC Essex was undertaken on 1st April, together with a long-time resident of Cressing. People from Cressing Barns and the riding school were also interviewed. This shone a spotlight on Cressing and provided an opportunity to highlight the amount of unpopular development being approved for the village.

19/039 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Cllr Watts. **It was resolved to accept the apologies of Cllr Watts. Proposed: Cllr Haines, Seconded: Cllr Aston.** Apologies had also been received from District Councillors James Abbott and Kevin Bowers.

19/040 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the council are subject to the Local Authorities Code of Conduct Order 2007 (SI 2007/1159) (The Revised Code) with the additional, non-mandatory, section 12(2).
Declarations of non-pecuniary interest: All Councillors in respect of item 19/010.
There were no other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests to be recorded.

19/041 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Mitchell reported as follows:

1. Significant representation has been made to the Local Highways Panel in support of

- those schemes submitted for Cressing, which remain on the list for consideration.
2. The “unofficial” footpath along the B1018 leading to the Wyevale roundabout is unlikely to be made into an adopted footpath as it is on private land and the cost would be disproportionate to the benefit when the new A120 is planned. However, Essex Highways will be looking to lay a surface covering to improve it. A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could request the short length of adopted footpath to be extended. Due to of the potential development at that location it was unlikely to receive any investment, therefore the Parish Council will not be able to take this forward.
 3. A meeting was held with Cllr Kevin Bentley when Cllr Mitchell supported Cllr Abbott for stronger measures to prevent and against those drivers of large vehicles that cause damage to the bridge at Rivenhall.
 4. In response to a question from the public about the blocked drains on the bend near the National Grid site, Cllr Mitchell confirmed he would chase again and felt that when gulleys are being jetted, not enough attention is given to some blockages.
 5. Essex Highways are working to secure investment from the RIS 2 budget in order to progress the A120.

The Chairman read a short report received from District Councillor Abbott.

1. Cllr Abbott continues to liaise with Cllr Mitchell and BDC and residents re the Bellway site including the condition of Mill Lane, new street lighting (which is not of an appropriate design despite prior requests) and new footway. He understands it has now been agreed to improve visibility at the junction.
2. Highways Panel met on 4th April - Cressing bends scheme remains on hold until outcome of planning applications near there are known but in meantime fully supports Cllr Mitchell's plan to improve footway surface.
3. IWMF - Still no date for ECC to consider chimney stack height increase applications for waste incinerator. Cllr Abbott is disappointed to see that BDC has offered no comment on the most recent version of the plans.
4. Cllr Abbott has submitted his objection re the Appletree application to BDC and will attend Planning Committee when this is to be considered. Whilst Cllr Abbott does not support the current proposals, he feels a smaller scheme on the brownfield part of the site might gain support.
5. BDC Local Plan problems have led to a several large new sites being put in by landowners as "alternatives" to the known Garden Communities. Cllr Abbott has asked BDC for clarity as to the timeline and method for community consultation before the Plan goes back to the Inspector.

19/042 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The following items were raised:

1. How long does it take for a planning application decision to be made? It was explained that this depended on the size of the proposed works, comments received by planners, discussions between applicant and planners, and whether it is suitable for officer decision or whether it has to be considered by the Planning Committee.
2. Faded white lines at the Wyevale roundabout – the Clerk confirmed this has been reported on more than one occasion and had noticed on the Essex Highways reporting site that other people had also submitted reports. This location have been inspected recently by Essex Highways and the issue was not prioritised as serious as some of the other defects around the county. Essex Highways have recorded it and will monitor periodically to consider within planning future works in the area.
3. Grasscrete certain areas where vehicles park on verges – this request was discussed but considered inappropriate in terms of cost and benefit. Vehicles causing obstruction are doing so illegally and Essex Highways are seeking ways to deter motorists from doing so.
4. The subject of litter picking was raised again. This is being looked at.

19/043 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13th FEBRUARY and 13th MARCH 2019

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Morland, all in favour.** Minutes duly signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th March 2019 that was inquorate were confirmed as a correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Haines, all in favour.** Minutes duly signed by the Chairman.

19/044 ROADS

- i. Signage – The Chairman drew attention to the number of road signs that are missing or damaged. These have been reported to Essex Highways and repairs or replacements are awaited.
- ii. Flashing speed signs on B1018 approaching school – **IT WAS RESOLVED** to submit an offer to Essex Highways for the Parish Council to provide new speed signs that would then become the responsibility of Essex Highways. The Clerk was asked to submit a proposal to the Local Highways Panel and to seek funding for the sign, however if no funding is available the Parish Council agreed to fund from reserves. Cllr Mitchell agreed he would support this application. **Proposed: Cllr Aston, seconded: Cllr Morland** **Action: Clerk**
- iii. BDC Street Cleaning Agreement – **IT WAS RESOLVED** to continue the annual agreement and the Clerk was instructed to sign and submit the necessary invoice for 2019-20. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded: Cllr Morland** **Action: Clerk**

19/045 PLANNING**Applications determined**

18/01023/FUL | Erection of new detached dwelling | Land Between The Poplars And Lazells Long Green Crossing Essex – it was noted that the application has been refused.

19/046 PLANNING**New applications**

- i. 19/00558/HH | Conservatory to rear | 41 Mill Lane Crossing Essex CM77 8HP – the Parish Council had no comments to make.
- ii. 19/00510/HH | Erection of extension and alteration of existing bungalow to form chalet style dwelling | The Nook Ashes Road Crossing Essex CM77 8DW – the Parish Council had no comments to make.
- iii. 19/00347/ADV | 4 No. internally illuminated fascia signs, 1No. non-illuminated fascia sign and 1 No. internally illuminated Totem sign. | Kia Motors (UK) Ltd Westdrive Galleys Corner Braintree Road Crossing Essex CM77 8GA the Parish Council had no comments to make.
- iv. 19/00346/FUL | Erection of 5no. 2/3 Bedroom Dwellings with Garages and associated ground works (Revised scheme following withdrawal of application 17/01861/FUL. | Land Adjacent The Old Barn The Street Crossing Essex – the Clerk confirmed the Parish Council had submitted objections to this proposal within the timescale, but Cllr Aston could not trace this on BDC's planning portal. [Following the meeting, the Clerk confirmed the comments had been posted, but were shown in the list of documents as "St Barnabas" and not as the Parish Council.]

19/047 PAVILION

Councillors discussed the insurance claim that had been received and instructed the Clerk to undertake a full review of the terms of the lease to determine the responsibilities of both the Parish Council and the Crossing Sports & Social Club. The Clerk confirmed she had been trying to make contact with the Club, but had received no response from them. A formal letter will now be sent requesting a meeting. **Action: Clerk**

19/048 FINANCE

- i. A statement of progress against budget for the full year was presented and the Clerk drew attention to the following:
- Total spend of £28,775 was below budget of £46,940
 - Some costs incurred were still to be invoiced, but these would not be high
 - Salary costs and training were lower than budgeted with no overtime payments being incurred
 - A number of budgeted costs were not incurred, but will be during the coming year
- There were no queries from councillors.
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2019**
It was resolved that the bank reconciliation statement at 31st March be approved.
Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Haines, all in favour.
- iii. **A motion to approve retrospectively February 2019 Payments/Cheques**
The list of payments made in March was presented. There were no queries and **it was resolved** to approve the payments as follows:
- | | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| BT | 31.58 | Telephone |
| BT | 113.88 | Broadband |
| DAC Planning | 864.00 | Neighbourhood Plan |
| A&J Lighting | 278.04 | Light maintenance/repair |
| Attwaters Jameson Hill | 960.00 | Neighbourhood Plan |
| C A Marshall | 383.21 | Feb salary |
| J Adshead-Grant | 96.00 | Feb salary |
| HMRC | 95.80 | Feb PAYE |
| SSE | 268.42 | Street light power |
- Proposed: Cllr Aston, seconded Cllr Morland, all in favour.**
- iv. **A motion to approve March 2019 Payments/Cheques**
The list of payments was presented. There were no queries and **it was resolved** to approve the payments as follows:

Groundwork UK	63.46	Return unspent grant
BT	31.27	Telephone
EALC	422.25	2019-20 subscriptions EALC and NALC
Richard Edwards Group	90.90	Payroll services
Kemp & Co	42.00	Notices of Election
Unity Bank	22.80	Neighbourhood Plan
J Adshead-Grant	96.00	March salary
C A Marshall	383.21	March Salary
HMRC	95.80	March PAYE

Proposed: Cllr Aston, seconded Cllr Morland, all in favour. Cheques were duly signed by Cllrs Lawton and Aston.

19/049 CPC ACTION'S REPORT

The Clerk confirmed the internal audit was scheduled for 24th April.

Payroll contract will not be renewed, saving £26 per month. This will be undertaken by the Clerk using HMRC free software.

Action: Clerk

19/050 NOTICEBOARDS

Refurbishment of the notice boards will be undertaken during w/c 22nd April.

19/051 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A dedicated website for the Cressing Neighbourhood plan has been produced and can be accessed at www.essexinfo.net/cressingneighbourhoodplan/ or the Parish Council website.

It is anticipated that the Reg 16 consultation will start in May.

The Steering Group will produce exhibition displays to supplement BDC's publicity etc. for the referendum later in the year.

A grant from Locality will be sought to cover those expenses and any additional consultancy work that may be needed.

19/052 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced that Cllr Aston had resigned from the Parish Council and he wished to record the Council's thanks for Cllr Aston's hard work and contribution to Cressing Parish Council.

19/053 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meetings were confirmed as:

Annual Parish Assembly at 7.00pm

The Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm, followed by

Parish Council meeting at 8.00pm.

All meetings to be held at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing.

Items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 7th May 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.