



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 14th August 2019 at 7.30pm
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Susan Simpson
Cllr Harvey Porrett
Cllr Alison Lapper
Cllr Steve Watts (from item 19/096)

In attendance: Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk & RFO)
County Councillor Robert Mitchell
District Councillors James Abbott and Bob Wright
One member of the public

Apologies: None

19/094 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and reported as follows:

- The Clerk has been speaking with the Local Highways Panel about the schemes currently with them for consideration. She has also requested that a member of the Panel meets with the Parish Council **Action: Clerk**
- Community Speed Watch is being investigated with a view to sharing the equipment with a neighbouring parish, but this depends on achieving the number of volunteers (10) to work the scheme. **Action: Clerk**
- Bellway site – further complaints have been received concerning HGV vehicles using the residential end of Mill Lane as access. This has been referred to BDC seeking their action to address this again. *Since the meeting, BDC have spoken with the site manager who has confirmed that additional signage has been installed and he will be sending an email to the site's contractors to remind them again how the site should be accessed.*
- A scarecrow competition is being held in September and the Chairman confirmed the Parish Council's support.

19/095 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies to record.

19/096 CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR

The Chairman confirmed that there had been a further application for co-option and **Councillors had agreed** that Mr Steve Watts (who was a councillor until earlier this year) should be invited to join the Parish Council. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Simpson, all in favour**

Mr Watts accepted his co-option and the Chairman invited him to join the other Councillors at the table.

Cllr Watts was asked to sign his Acceptance of Office, agreement to receive Parish Council documents by e-mail and agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct. The Register of Interests will be completed and returned to the Clerk after the meeting. **Action: Cllr Watts**

19/097 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:

There were no other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to items on the agenda to be recorded.

19/098 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Robert Mitchell reported on outstanding reports on road within the parish as follows:

- Essex Highways are looking at ways to crack down on mud and gravel on to the highway and early plans are that parish councils will be empowered to act on behalf of Essex Highways to remind residents of their responsibilities about this, vegetation and ditches.
- Central white lines in The Street will not be re-instated as this is classed as a “country road” and not wide enough for lines to be painted.
- Highways Rangers will be addressing the vegetation in Polecat Road that is obscuring the 30mph signs.
- Parking in the roads around Galleys Corner is an issue and Highways are looking at what can be done to prevent this without hindering the businesses in that area.
- A scheme has been put to the Local Highways Panel to tarmac the pavement from the Wyevale roundabout to join the concreted path at the bends.

District Councillor James Abbott reported as follows:

- Cllr Abbott has attended several meetings relating to the Braintree District Council Local Plan. The two partner councils (Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council – garden communities) have been doing likewise. The same process as previously will be followed and public consultation will commence on 19th August for six weeks. Debate at BDC Full Council meeting had been disappointing as it concentrated on Government targets, the motion to shelve the garden communities was turned down and transport was not discussed sufficiently.
- A12 has been postponed until 2023 and no funding has yet been identified for the A120.
- Highways England have confirmed that neither A12 nor A120 will have dedicated lanes for the BDC proposed rapid transport system. The back-up suggestion is for them to run on existing roads, which Cllr Abbott feels are totally unsuitable.
- Confusion about whether BDC can achieve their 5-year housing target, despite having previously stated that they had sufficient. More applications for multiple dwelling developments are being submitted.
- Cllr Abbott is aware of the Cressing Action Group, but stated that he is unable to discuss this or any planning matter due to his position on the BDC Planning Committee.
- Grant funding is available for planting woods, which would be available if Cressing decided to plant trees to mark the 125-year anniversary of the creation of parish and town councils.

Cllr Bob Wright reported on the recent advertisements for TV recording of residents’ experiences and views on development.

Cllrs Abbott and White left the meeting.

19/099 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The following items were raised:

1. Vegetation: Whilst the grass along PROW 74_22 from Millennium Way has been cut, brambles and fallen tree still need to be removed. Other footpath issues include:
 - a. hedge by the school,
 - b. brambles at rear of Jeffrey’s Road, PROW 74_15
 - c. footpath from Bulford Close to Mill Lane, PROW 74_38 overgrown
 - d. report had been made to Greenfields where hedges from their properties are overgrowing footpaths and pavements.

- Need to check whether these are included in the BDC contract. **Action: Clerk**
2. A pothole on the B1018 has been reported where the join of a recent repair is deteriorating.

19/100 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th JULY 2019

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Haines, all in favour.** Minutes duly signed by the Chairman.

19/101 COUNCIL POLICIES

- i. An amendment to the arrangements for Public Participation at Parish Council meetings was tabled. There were no queries and a **motion** to amend the Public Participation Statement as follows was put to the Council:

Public Participation Session with respect to items on the Agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

- Members of the public wishing to speak are required to register their intention by contacting the Clerk before 5.00pm on the day before the meeting, to include a note of the topic/s to enable any relevant information to be gathered prior to the meeting.
- A member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes unless previously requested and agreed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- The maximum length of the public session shall not exceed 15 minutes unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
- The Council reserves the right to decline any requests to speak if they are not received in time, unless the matter is urgent when the speaker should indicate their intention to the Clerk by 5.00pm on the day of the meeting. The Chairman of the meeting will direct whether or not the item may be included.

Members of the public can remain to observe the remainder of the meeting with the exception of any closed items.

The motion as tabled and the action to reflect this change in the Parish Council's Standing Order 3.w was agreed. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded: Cllr Porrett**

Action: Clerk

- ii. A revised Grant Funding Policy, Rev'n 2.0, as previously circulated was discussed. A **motion** to adopt the Grant Funding Policy Rev'n 2.0 was tabled and agreed. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Lapper** **Action: Clerk**
- iii. The revised Financial Regulations Policy, Rev'n 2.0, as previously circulated was discussed. A **motion** to adopt the Financial Regulations Policy, Rev'n 2.0 as tabled and agreed. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, seconded: Cllr Lawton** **Action: Clerk**

19/102 FINANCE

- i. The RFO presented the report of progress against budget as at 31st July 2019. There were no queries.
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation as at 31st July 2019**
It was resolved that the bank reconciliation statement at 31st July be approved.
Proposed: Cllr Lapper, seconded Cllr Simpson, all in favour.
- iii. **A motion to approve July 2019 Payments/Cheques**
The list of payments made and cheques to be signed against July expenditure was presented. There were no queries and **it was resolved** to approve the payments.
Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Porrett, all in favour.

10/06/2019	BT	33.20	DD
09/07/2019	BT	33.61	DD
31/07/2019	BHIB	782.14	300159
25/03/2019	Crossing PCC	722.00	300160

25/07/2019	Braintree District Council	60.29	300161
31/07/2019	K Vince & Sons	396.00	300162
30/07/2019	Kempco Ltd	156.00	300163
02/07/2019	SSE	572.49	300164
14/08/2019	J Adshead-Grant	96.00	300165
14/08/2019	C A Marshall	412.90	300166
14/08/2019	HMRC	103.20	300167
		3367.83	

- iv. The RFO tabled a request to undertake a virement of funds to pay for the printed flyer within the Parish Magazine in the sum of £130.00. A **motion** to undertake virement in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.2 of £130.00 from budget group Election Costs to budget group Crossing Action Group. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, seconded Cllr Porrett, all in favour.** **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Mitchell left the meeting.

19/103 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Clerk reported on an application received from the Parish Magazine. It was agreed the application was successful and a grant of £750.00 will be paid in September. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded: Cllr Simpson, all in favour.** **Action: Clerk**

19/104 CRESSING ACTION GROUP

Cllr Simpson advised this group held their first meeting on 7th August 2019 which was well-attended (between 80 and 100 residents). Since then a core group had met on 13th August to discuss next steps, they will work independently of the Parish Council. The group will be producing some standard letter templates that residents will be able to use for planning application responses. The group decided not to have a formal structure (and Cllr Simpson was asked to remind them that without a formal structure they would not be able to apply for any grant funding from the Parish Council). The next open meeting is being held on 21st August.

19/105 PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEES

Terms of Reference to create three sub-committees of the Parish Council were discussed and it was suggested that the Planning Committee and S.106 Committee could be merged. The Clerk will produce a new TOR for a combined committee to be discussed at the September meeting.

The TOR for an Employment Sub-Committee was tabled. It was agreed to accept this subject to amendment to name members of the committee (Cllrs Lawton, Watts and Simpson). A motion for adoption will be put to the September meeting. **Action: Clerk**

19/106 DATES OF MEETINGS 2020

Dates of meetings to be held in 2020 were confirmed for 7.30pm on the second Tuesday monthly as follows:

January	8 th	July	8 th
February	12 th	August	12 th
March	11 th	September	9 th
April	8 th	October	14 th
May	13 th	November	11 th
June	10 th	December	9 th

19/107 PLANNING

Applications determined

None advised

19/108 PLANNING

New applications

- i. 19/01345/HH | Erection of rear conservatory | 6 Crozier Drive Cressing Braintree Essex CM77 8GE – The Parish Council had no comment to make.
- ii. 19/01352/FUL | Construction of a Class A1 food store (Aldi) with associated car parking, access roads, servicing and landscaping, including the reconfiguration of the car park for the approved DIY store. | Land Off Millennium Way Cressing Essex – the original planning permission on this site for a DIY outlet had been passed with the following conditions:

30 Parking Spaces

The DIY Store shall not be opened for trade unless and until the vehicle parking area indicated on the approved plans, including any accessible parking spaces for disabled users, have been hard surfaced, sealed and marked out in parking bays, in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only be implemented in accordance with the approved details. The vehicle parking area and associated turning area shall be retained as approved at all times. The vehicle parking shall not be used for any purpose other than the parking of vehicles that are related to the use of the development.

Reason

In the interest of highway safety and to ensure sufficient parking provision is provided on the application.

31 Use Restriction

The premises shall only be used for the sale of bulky comparison goods consisting of building and DIY products, garden products and plants, pets and pet supplies, furniture, carpets, floor coverings and household furnishings, electrical and gas products, vehicle accessories and parts, bicycles and cycle accessories, office supplies, computers and accessories, caravans, tents and camping and boating equipment and any other goods which are ancillary and related to the main use of the premises for the sale of bulky comparison goods.

Reason

For the avoidance of doubt on the scope of this permission and to ensure that the use of the site does not have a detrimental impact upon the vitality and viability of Braintree Town Centre.

It was agreed the Parish Council would object to this application for the following reasons:

Action: Clerk

As in the application for the DIY store, the development of a supermarket at this location will have a detrimental effect on town centre supermarkets
 Insufficient parking provision
 Over-development of the site
 Application is tenure blind

- iii. 19/00739/REM | Development of up to 225 residential dwellings; associated access (including provision of a new roundabout on Braintree Road); public open space; play space; pedestrian and cycle links; landscaping; and provision of land for expansion of Cressing Primary School | Land Adjacent To Braintree Road Cressing Essex – Councillors agreed to object to these amended plans raising the issue of the design of the development and making sure there is no traffic flow permitted between the Bellway and the Countryside developments.

Action: Clerk

19/109 PLANNING

Appeals received by Braintree District Council:

None advised.

19/110 CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY: 125 Years of the Parish Council

Following discussion, it was agreed the Parish Council will identify locations suitable for the planting of trees, with the objective of planting 125 in Cressing and Tye Green. Clerk will look into potential grants and site owners. **Action: Clerk**

19/111 PLAYING FIELD AND ENVIRONMENT

- i. Following discussion, it was agreed to appoint a Playing Field's Officer to undertake regular inspections and provide reports of those inspections to the Clerk. It was further agreed to appoint Cllr Haines to this role. The Clerk will provide report template. **Action: clerk**
- ii. Rainbow Field – The Clerk advised that Westover was unable to undertake the work to this site in 2019 and alternatives are being sought. The urgency to have this work carried out before a new crop is planted was noted. **Action: Clerk**
- iii. Pavilion – It was agreed to discuss the possibility of erecting a pavilion on the playing field at the September meeting.
- iv. Benches – It was agreed to discuss the locations for placing additional seating in the parish at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
- v. Update on highways reports – this has been covered elsewhere in the meeting.

19/112 SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

It was agreed to delegate this to the Chairman and Clerk who will report back.

Action: Chairman and Clerk

19/113 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Items to be discussed will include:

- i. Sub-Committees
- ii. Protection of greensward (e.g. Rainbow Field)
- iii. Pavilion for the playing field
- iv. Locations for new benches

19/093 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 7.30pm 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 3rd September 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.