



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of a meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 11th December 2019 at 7.30pm
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

- Present:** Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Susan Simpson
Cllr Steve Watts
- In attendance:** Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO)
Three members of the public
- Apologies:** County Councillor Robert Mitchell
District Cllr James Abbott
District Councillor Bob Wright
Cllr Alison Lapper
Cllr Harvey Porrett

19/181 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance to the last meeting of the year and was pleased to have the support of Councillors and Clerk throughout the year. It was good to have new ideas and faces around the table. He reported as follows:

- The Clerk had apologised that for unavoidable reasons the Agenda had not appeared on notice boards, but had been posted on the website.
- Countryside Developments had been invited to donate a Christmas Tree to the village, but had not responded to the request.
- Preliminary discussions had taken place with the Cressing Sports & Social Club concerning the pavilion and playing field.
- The tax base details for next year's budget had been received which will enable the finalized budget to be accepted at the January meeting prior to precept request being submitted to Braintree District Council.
- The Chairman thanked Cllr Watts for displaying the Christmas lights around the village, which now looked very festive. Cllr Watts wished to thank those residents whose help had been invaluable – Ian Aston, Leo Reynolds, Harvey Porrett, Kevin Jones and Mark Lawton.

19/182 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received on behalf of County Cllr Robert Mitchell, District Cllrs Abbott and Wright. Apologies were accepted from Parish Cllrs Lapper and Porrett. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded: Cllr Simpson**

19/183 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 pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to items on the agenda to be recorded.

19/184 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Although Cllrs could not attend, the Clerk confirmed a short verbal report from County Cllr Mitchell reminding the Parish Council to nominate a small area of a footpath that needed attention. Refer to item 19/200. Flooding at the corner of the B1018 continues

- to be investigated and Cllr Mitchell will receive a copy of the report when available.
- A member of the public had hoped to raise with Cllr Mitchell issues concerning the B1018 where there have been a further three accidents in recent weeks. It is thought these are due to several factors: speed, road condition, poor signage, standing water and lack of adequate lighting. It was agreed the Clerk will raise these issues again with Cllr Mitchell and enquire whether it is possible to have reflective bollards or other measures that may assist. **Action: Clerk**

District Councillor Abbott had submitted a report as follows:

- Pleased to see that as per the wishes of the parish council, BDC Planning Committee refused application 18/00549/OUT to develop 250 houses at land between Long Green and Braintree Rd. However, it remains the case that BDC does not have an up-to-date Local Plan and so more applications in the area could be submitted for non-allocated land.
- A slot to speak at the Local Plan Examination which restarts in January has been allocated - main focus being on transport and infrastructure.
- At BDC the Green & Independent Group is asking for budget amendments including increased funding for the Local Highways Panel (budget was halved 3 years ago) and to reintroduce green waste collections at least until Christmas each year. The draft budget includes encouraging commitments by BDC to increase staffing in planning and planning enforcement which is essential to deal with workload and to better respond to enquiries from residents and councillors.
- The applicants for the proposed major waste site at Rivenhall Airfield did not submit an Appeal within the 6 months period available from April following ECC's refusal of their latest application. The decision from the Environment Agency is now key and is still awaited on the Permit application for a 35m stack.

19/185 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No requests to speak had been received, but a resident had called in to the office to report the grass verges on Mill Lane (between the B1018 and Claud Ince Avenue) were badly damaged by vehicles parking or driving over the edges. He was asked to report this to Essex Highways and the Clerk will follow up with Cllr Mitchell. **Action: Clerk**

19/186 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH OCTOBER 2019

The Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting and the Closed Parish Council Meeting, both held on 13th November 2019 were confirmed as correct records. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Haines, all in favour.** Minutes duly signed by the Chairman.

19/187 COUNCIL POLICIES

The Clerk/RFO presented reviewed policies: Risk Management rev.2 and Health & Safety rev.2. There were no queries and a motion to approve and adopt these policies was put forward. **It was resolved** to adopt these policies without amendment. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Simpson, all in favour.**

19/188 FINANCE

- Progress against budget:** The Clerk/RFO presented the report of progress against budget as at 30th November 2019. There were no queries and the reports were accepted. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, seconded: Cllr Watts, all in favour**
- A motion to approve bank reconciliation as at 30th November 2019: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 30th November be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, seconded: Cllr Watts, all in favour**
- A motion to approve November 2019 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments made and cheques to be signed against November expenditure was presented. There were no queries and **it was resolved** to approve the payments. **Proposed:**

Cllr Simpson, seconded Cllr Watts, all in favour.

BT	£113.88	
BT	£33.43	
SSE	£3.30	
SSE	£362.92	
East of England Ambulance	£514.00	Basic life support and defibrillator training – residents and councillors
J Adshead-Grant	£96.00	
C A Marshall	£2,310.85	Back-dated salary review and payment on account of additional hours worked in 2019
HMRC	£577.80	
C A Marshall (expenses)	£158.46	Christmas lights for village
SSE	£3.30	
SSE	£362.92	
A & J Lighting	£162.42	
	<u>£4,699.28</u>	

19/189 BUDGET 2020-21

The Clerk/RFO confirmed that the precept calculation base had just been advised by Braintree District Council which will enable the final budget and precept figures to be adopted at the January meeting. The budget was considered further and it was agreed the following items should be added to the calculations with decisions being made next month:

- i. Replacement of all sodium light fittings with LED units was discussed and the views of the public present were requested. It was agreed that this should be undertaken as one project in 2020-21. **Action: Clerk/RFO**
- ii. Website – a further quotation was awaited and Cllr Watts and the Clerk will consider those received and make recommendation at the January meeting. In the meantime, a figure will be added to the Budget calculations and potential grants sought. This is not a decision of the Parish Council, but has been imposed due to the removal of the facility by Essex County Council. **Action: Clerk/RFO & Cllr Watts**
- iii. Training for Councillors and Clerk – the Clerk tabled her suggested programme for Cllrs to be trained during the coming year. These were agreed and two Cllrs per course will attend to feedback information to the council. Attendees will be decided nearer the dates of the courses. **Action: Clerk/RFO**
- iv. Replacement noticeboard for St Barnabas Hall – it was agreed to include this (boards to consist of three locking panels, two for St B and one for the Parish Council. It was also agreed this should be undertaken by Roy Ingram who refurbished the other boards around the village. **Action: Clerk/RFO**
- v. It was also agreed to consider placing a noticeboard at the Bellway development and another at the Countryside development either later in 2020 or in 2021.
- vi. It was agreed to include bus shelters or seats at three locations around the village, subject to funding/sponsorship. The necessary licenses and agreement of adjacent residents will be sought. **Action: Clerk/RFO**
- vii. Cllr Simpson outlined her suggestion for live streaming webcam of Parish Council meetings. After discussion, it was agreed this will not be included in the budget.

19/190 PARISH DESIGNATION

- i. Cllr Simpson explained that in the planning officers' report for the recent Planning application 18/00549/OUT for 250 houses on land between Braintree Road and Long Green, discussed at the 3rd December Planning committee meeting, it was stated that Tye Green had been missed 'by mistake' from the listing of **Second Tier**

villages. The report states that Cressing consists of two separate villages and whilst 'Cressing' was included in the listing of **Third** Tier villages the suggestion is that this did not include Tye Green. Planners have said that in the Braintree Local Plan, due for inspection in January, that Tye Green on its own should be listed as a Second Tier village and would subsequently be so included. Cllr Simpson produced examples of the seven current Second Tier villages in the Braintree district which have facilities far in excess of those existing in Tye Green. It was agreed that Cllr Simpson should prepare a report for BDC to challenge both the suggestion of the split assessment and the assessment of Tye Green as a Second Tier village. It was also agreed that a meeting with BDC should be sought at an appropriate time, at which Cllr Simpson and the Clerk will make representation. Cllr Simpson will also contact previous District Councillors who may have more information about how the listing in the Draft Local Plan with Cressing as a single entry was originally made.

Action: Cllr Simpson

- ii. **Neighbourhood Plan** - Cllr Simpson reported on the Cabinet meeting held 2nd December when BDC Cabinet voted to approve the Cressing Neighbourhood Plan for Referendum. After the "call-in" period has expired, it is expected to be presented for public referendum in early February. Cllr Simpson advised that she will produce material for inclusion in the Parish Magazine (deadline dates permitting), website and a public exhibition to present the final Plan to residents and answer any queries they may have. Cabinet had welcomed the Plan, with Cllrs Spray and Mann being particularly supportive.

Action: Cllr Simpson

- iii. The Planning Committee on 3rd December refused permission for the development of 250 dwellings close to the "Wyevale" roundabout. The Planning Officer's Report had referred to the Neighbourhood Plan and this, together with the adverse Environmental Report were contributing factors to the decision.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Simpson on behalf of the Parish Council for her representation at both Cabinet and Planning Committee meetings.

19/192 PLANNING

18/02003/ELD - Woodpecker Barn Mill Lane Cressing Essex CM77 8NU - has been granted by Braintree District Council.

19/193 PLANNING

New applications

- i. 19/02050/PLD | Replacement of existing garage door with UPVC French doors with side lights in order to facilitate garage conversion. | 1 Leyfield Braintree Road Cressing Essex CM77 8HS -the Parish Council has no comment to make.

Since issuing the Agenda, two further applications have been received and a motion was tabled for these should be added to the Agenda for discussion. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, seconded: Cllr Haines**

- ii. 19/02161/HH | Single-storey side and rear extension. | 27 The Westerings Cressing Essex CM77 8HD – the Parish Council has no comment to make.

19/194 PLANNING

To note applications bordering parish for information and to consider if comments should be made:

There were no applications to note.

19/195 PLANNING

To note applications withdrawn:

None advised.

19/196 PLANNING

Appeals received by Braintree District Council:

- iii. 19/00105/HOUSE | Erection of a detached garage and garden store | Bufftons Tye Green Braintree Road Crossing Essex CM77 8HU– the Parish Council has no comment to make.

19/197 PLANNING

To note Enforcement enquiries through Braintree District Council

- iv. 19/00363/COU3 | Change of use enquiry | The Willows Inn The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DQ – it is understood a new planning application is pending validation by BDC

19/198 STREET NAMES

In response to the request from BDC for suggested names to be used on the Countryside development, it was agreed these should follow the same theme as those chosen for the Bellway development. The remaining WW1 memorial names are as follows:

Adams	Clayton
Drory	Joslin
Latham	Newman
Phillips	Stone
Tokley	Watson

As a total of eleven names were required, it will be suggested to BDC that the final name should be Dovehouse Field as this was the old name of the field upon which the development will be. It was further suggested that this should be the main spine road through the development, off which the other roads will be located.

Action: Clerk

19/199 HIGHWAYS

Cllr Simpson reported on the meeting held with Essex Highways Transportation Planning & Infrastructure Manager. Topics discussed included:

- safety issues along the B1018 and the impact of continuing development accesses onto this road.
- The Parish Council's concern at some of the decisions being made by Essex Highways in response to planning applications.
- The absence of any safe crossing or road improvement along Polecat Road due to the Appletree development.

Essex Highways invited the Parish Council to engage with them on any planning applications or other issues about which there are concerns.

19/200 FOOTPATHS

It was agreed to respond to Cllr Mitchell nominating the pavement along the B1018 between Jeffrey's Road and the petrol station that needs repair under the Member-led footway repair programme.

Action: Clerk

19/201 WEBSITE

Cllr Watts and the Clerk will report and make recommendation of supplier at the January meeting.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Watts

19/202 PLAYING FIELD AND ENVIRONMENT

Cllr Haines presented his report and the following was noted and agreed:

- Flooding to field adjacent to the parking area – it was agreed a soak-away was probably needed and the Clerk/RFO will seek a quotation for the work to be undertaken in the next financial year. **Action: Clerk**
- Evidence of dog fouling – it was agreed to purchase and display larger signs. **Action: Clerk**
- Empty alcohol bottles and beer cans are being discarded on the field – it was agreed to provide additional litter and dog bins. **Action: Clerk**

19/203 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next Agenda:

Website

Finalisation of budget and precept.

19/204 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 8th January 2020 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/RFO to be received no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 31st December 2019.

19/205 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.