



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 12th February 2020 at 7.30pm
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Alison Lapper
Cllr Susan Simpson
Cllr Steve Watts

In attendance: Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO)
Nine members of the public
County Councillor Robert Mitchell
District Cllr James Abbott

Apologies: Councillor Harvery Porrett
District Councillor Bob Wright

20/019 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing his appreciation to the members of the public for their attendance. He then advised that the Referendum on adopting the Neighbourhood Plan had received overwhelming support and the final decision would be made by Braintree District Council at their Full Council meeting on 17th February. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman thanked all those involved in producing the plan. The Parish Council will remain vigilant to monitor all planning applications submitted to BDC, especially those “ad hoc” applications for the development of multiple properties. The Litter Pick and dust cart were confirmed for Saturday 25th April and notices will be published.

A preliminary discussion has taken place with BDC to clarify the process for payment of S.106 money. All schemes have to receive BDC's approval prior to any work being commissioned, it was also noted that the Parish Council will need to settle any invoices for work prior to the money being released by BDC. There is one other critical criterion that applies where it must be noted that work will need to be carried out in phases to meet the scheduled availability of S.106 money in accordance with Agreements between developers and BDC.

20/020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received on behalf of Cllr Harvey Porrett and District Cllr Bob Wright.

20/021 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). There were no pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to items on the agenda to be recorded.

20/022 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- County Cllr Mitchell reported:
 - ECC budget 2020/21 will provide £1,500 grant funding per parish and Cllr Mitchell wishes to see this utilised for projects related to environmental needs. Administration of the fund not yet determined.
 - The Leader's speech and ECC budget information can be found at essex.gov.uk under the heading “A budget for all and a budget for hope”.
- District Cllr Abbott reported:
 - BDC will be setting budget on 17th February at Full Council Meeting. This will include provision for additional staff in both Planning and Enforcement teams. It

is also hoped to include funding to extend green bin waste collections, re-instate collection of Tetra packs as well as additional money for the Braintree Local Highways Panel. Cllr Community Grants are confirmed for 2020-21.

- Cllr Abbott has been re-appointed to the Planning Committee.
- Local Plan Part 1 examination concluded at the end of January and the report is awaited. This will decide whether the garden communities proceed, prior to examination of Part 2 which includes allocation of sites within the parish.
- IWMF incinerator has completed consultation after the Environment Agency refused to host additional public sessions. Independent meetings were held, attended and addressed by Priti Patel, MP, who would like the proposal stopped. PAIN (Parishes against incinerators) have actively encouraged residents to submit their views and it is understood approx. 4,000 objections have been submitted. The height of the stack has permission, but the concerns being expressed now relate to air quality and level of emissions that will be released.

20/023 ESSEX HIGHWAYS (EH)

- i. Responses to planning applications – the Chairman expressed the Council's concerns that EH, in its responses to planning applications, were not raising issues that reflected the serious adverse conditions that Cressing roads, and in particular the B1018, would suffer as a result of recent large applications (Appletree 19/00920, Bellway 17/01671 and Countryside 16/02144 sites together with proposals by Gladman 19/01968 and Begin 18/00549). Public opinion showed that the cumulative effect of these sites and associated roundabout/exits would be disastrous. Cllr Mitchell advised that EH are restricted by Government guidelines in how they can respond to applications, but they are looking at how to "future proof" development impact on roads. Cllr Simpson asked for assurance that the traffic assessments are undertaken by appropriately trained personnel, but this was not forthcoming. Cllr Abbott drew attention to a recent example when a developer offered to provide a safe crossing point, this was refused by EH who favour small island crossing points close to the roundabouts.
- ii. Potholes were discussed and Cllr Mitchell implied that these had become worse through recent bad weather. ECC and the Government were making additional funding available to address these in the coming financial year.
- iii. A new version of the EH reporting tool will be released in a few months which will provide progress reports and responses by email direct to whoever submitted the report.
- iv. Cllr Mitchell has no update on flooding drains at Cressing bends but re-iterated that any major works to the drainage system at this location would entail traffic management systems to be put in place at the same time as restrictions on the A120. Consequently, resulting in serious traffic queueing.
- v. Speeding along Mill Lane was discussed and a member of the public referred to a response received from EH that cars parked in the road might help to keep speeds down. Although additional speed signs have been requested of EH, Cllr Mitchell stated that these would not have an effect on those motorists who ignore signs and exceed speed limits. Resources are not available to monitor speeds and address these problems and it was suggested that speeding traffic should be reported with details of vehicle and assumed speed. In response to a question about installing speed humps, as have been placed on the Bellway development, Cllr Mitchell advised that these can only be installed in new developments.
- vi. Cllr Mitchell was requested to look into the temporary speed restriction that was in place on Mill Lane for the Bellway development as well as the expired permit for the haul road at this location.

20/024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No requests to speak or discussion topics had been received.

20/025 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th January 2020

Subject to the amendment raised by Cllr Simpson under item 20/011 that Cressing and

Cressing Tye Green should both retain the Tier Two category (not third tier as quoted in the Minutes), the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, seconded Cllr Watts, all in favour.** The Chairman amended the Minutes and these were duly signed.

20/026 PARISH MAGAZINE

Cllr Haines advised that the magazine was not received well by residents in the Stileman's Wood area. The gentleman who delivers these had received comments that people did not want it, did not feel they lived in Cressing or simply disposed of it without reading. The proposal was put that deliveries to this part of Cressing should cease. After discussion, it was agreed that an article should be put in the next available magazine advising residents in this area that deliveries would cease unless specifically requested. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, seconded Cllr Lawton.** A member of the public offered to deliver magazines to this area if the current gentleman delivering them was unable to do so. **Action: Clerk**

20/027 FINANCE

- i. **Progress against budget:** The Clerk/RFO presented the report of progress against budget as at 31st January 2020. There were no queries and **it was resolved** the reports be accepted.
 - ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation as at 31st January 2020: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 31st January be approved.
 - iii. **A motion to approve December 2019 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments made and cheques to be signed against December expenditure was presented. There were no queries and **it was resolved** to approve the payments.
- All motions proposed by: Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Porrett, all in favour.**

Adler Business Systems	31.14	Office supplies
A & J Lighting	1,652.52	Street light repairs
S Simpson	152.00	Neighbourhood Plan printing
Bradwell with Pattiswick PC	128.77	Condolence sheets
RCCE	60.00	Subscription re playing field
J Adshead-Grant	128.00	Salary
C A Marshall	777.12	Salary
HMRC	194.20	PAYE
Sue Lees Consultancy	360.00	Deposit re new website
	£3,483.75	

20/028 PARISH DESIGNATION

Cllr Simpson confirmed a meeting had been arranged with BDC for 19th February.

20/029 PLANNING

A motion to amend the agenda to include discussion on recently received planning applications regarding temporary vehicular access off Braintree Road (Countryside development) and The Willows change of use application.

A further motion to amend the agenda to include discussion and decision on new footpath proposed by Countryside Developments at the playing field.

Both motions were proposed by Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Simpson, all in favour.

Determined: The decisions noted on the Agenda were noted.

New applications

- i. 20/00227/FUL | Temporary Vehicular Access onto Braintree Road for construction traffic in association with the approved development of 225 dwellings – the Parish council will be writing to BDC on the following points:
 - a. The access is in an unsuitable place

- b. Loss of hedgerow
 - c. Insufficient vehicle visibility splay
 - d. Parking of workers' and contractors' vehicles within the site to be strictly adhered to
 - e. Detailed method statement for equipment and process to be used for wheel cleaning prior to vehicles leaving site (refers also to Condition 5 of the decision granted under 16/02144 and decision pending under 19/02288/DAC)
 - f. Method statement for preventing mud being dropped onto B1018 Braintree Road and cleaning of the road when necessary
 - g. Details for disposal of waste water together with standing water on site prior to drainage being installed
- ii. 20/00075/FUL | Retrospective Change of Use from a Public House (A4) to a Restaurant (A3) | The Willows Inn The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DQ. The Parish Council will be writing to BDC on the following points:
- a. The Willows is quoted in the Crossing Neighbourhood Plan as a Public House and the Parish Council would prefer to see this as the predominant use of the facility as there is no similar asset within the parish
 - b. The Willows public house was listed as an Asset of Community Value on 19/11/2015 under reference number 021 by CAMRA whose views should be sought
 - c. The Heritage, Design and Access Statement has some broad sweeping statements without the evidence to support them:
 - i. Consultation with local community – no such consultation has been carried out to the knowledge of the Parish Council who would like to see the evidence of this
 - ii. What evidence is there that only seven members of the public visited without ordering food
 - iii. What evidence is there that 99% of local residents have welcomed this change
 - iv. The external signs are not in keeping with the age or design of the Grade II listed public house
 - d. Generally, the Parish Council wishes to see the building remain occupied and in use, but requires a facility within the community where people can meet in a relaxed atmosphere whilst consuming a beverage without having to order food.
- iii. 19/01968/OUT | Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for access for the demolition of all buildings and structures, and for the erection of 350 dwellings (including 40% affordable housing), with public open space (including children's play areas), landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS). Vehicle access to be taken off Braintree Road. | Land Off Braintree – a draft response objecting to this development has been prepared and will be submitted following final revision.
- iv. 20/00024/TPOCON | Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Re-pollard 9 Lime trees to be carried out every 2-3 years | All Saints Church Church Road Crossing Essex – the Parish Council will comment as follows: Whilst these trees cannot be located on the map for Tree Preservation Orders, they are protected within the conservation area. The trees do need pollarding and the Parish Council supports this application for works and a maintenance plan. The churchyard is well maintained and supports a variety of tree species, therefore it would be sensible if routine pollarding of these trees was covered by a 5 or 10 year maintenance plan. The Parish Council are willing to assist the Church to develop a maintenance plan for this site.

Applications bordering parish noted: None advised.

Enforcement enquiries noted: None advised.

20/030 WEBSITE

Following the decision at the January meeting to proceed with Sue Lees Consultancy, the Clerk was authorised to sign the quotation acceptance document. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Simpson, all in favour.** **Action: Clerk**

20/031 PLAYING FIELD AND ENVIRONMENT

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

- i. Evidence of dog fouling continues.
- ii. Flooding to corner adjacent to the car park needs resolving and the Clerk confirmed that a professional report and quotations are being sought.
- iii. The Chairman advised of a conversation with CSSC and we are awaiting their ideas of work that needs to be undertaken to improve the facilities.

20/032 WARD PC MEETING

- i. The Clerk confirmed this was being held at St Barnabas on Thursday 20th February and items for the agenda have been requested.
- ii. Cllrs Lawton and Watts confirmed they would be able to attend.

20/033 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- i. The Clerk advised of complaints regarding motorcycles being ridden around a field adjacent to Mill Lane. Cllr Lapper confirmed she understood these to be residents of Cressing. It was agreed that an article should be put in the Parish Magazine advising people that using fields without permission was trespass. **Action: Clerk**
- ii. The Clerk advised of a letter received from BDC querying an alternative location for the glass re-cycling bins currently located off Claud Ince Avenue. The Clerk will obtain further detail and advise Cllrs accordingly. **Action: Clerk**
- iii. Countryside proposed footpath on playing field – Cllrs considered further the three options now put forward by Countryside, but remained of the opinion that the Parish Council did not require another path at this location. However, if Countryside wished to install a footpath on their land to the east of the playing field without removing any hedgerow, the Parish Council would not object, subject to seeing the new route proposals. **Action: Clerk**

20/034 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 11th March 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 4th March 2020.

20/035 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.