



## **CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of Cressing Parish Council  
held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm  
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO)  
One member of the public

**Apologies:** County Councillor Robert Mitchell  
District Cllr James Abbott  
District Councillor Bob Wright

### **20/001 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT**

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing those present a Happy New Year and felt that 2020 would offer more challenges to the parish of Cressing. He was pleased to note that voting papers for the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum on 6<sup>th</sup> February had been issued.

### **20/002 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received on behalf of County Cllr Robert Mitchell, District Cllrs Abbott and Wright.

### **20/003 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.

### **20/004 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- Although Cllrs could not attend, the Clerk confirmed a short report had been received from District Cllr Abbott as follows:
  - Lanham Manor Farm planning application BDC have been asked about improvements to the travel plan and at the junction at the water tower
  - The Environment Agency is minded to approve a permit variation for the Rivenhall Airfield waste site which means the site could operate with a 35m high stack despite the same height stack having previously been refused a permit by the EA. There will be a public consultation starting 9th January and a drop-in event at Rivenhall Village Hall on Friday 10th January from 2pm to 7pm – Cllr Simpson confirmed she will be attending.
  - The BDC Local Plan Examination restarts on 14th January and Cllr Abbott is due to speak on transport and infrastructure on the 16th.
  - The BDC Greens & Independent Group are requesting BDC make budget allowances for green waste collections to be extended to the last collection before Christmas. They are also trying again to get a reinstatement of the Local Highways Panel budget. The next Braintree LHP meeting is 23rd January.
  - Cllr Abbott agrees the Parish Council's concerns re the B1018 and that safety measures are needed. County Cllr Mitchell is looking into these.
- A member of the public had hoped to raise a further issue with Cllr Mitchell concerning

the B1018 where it looks as though there may have been another collision where a vehicle has hit the telegraph pole. It was agreed the Clerk will raise this with Cllr Mitchell.

**Action: Clerk**

#### 20/005 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No requests to speak or discussion topics had been received.

#### 20/006 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were confirmed as correct records. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Watts, all in favour.** Minutes duly signed by the Chairman.

#### 20/007 COUNCIL POLICIES

The Clerk/RFO presented a new policy: Lone Working. **It was resolved** to adopt this policy without amendment. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Lawton, all in favour.**

#### 20/008 UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

The Clerk referred to the communication received from EALC seeking views on the NALC paper "Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorized encampments". The Clerk was requested to respond in favour.

**Action: Clerk**

#### 20/009 CRESSING GOOD CITIZEN'S AWARD

The Clerk presented the proposal for a Community Citizenship Award Scheme and it was agreed that this should be adopted and advertised as soon as possible. The type of award was discussed and it was agreed that these should be in the form of a certificate plus gift voucher. The frequency of the awards was also discussed and it was agreed that depending on the feedback and nominations received for the May 2020 award, the decision should be deferred on whether these should be made twice a year.

**Action: Clerk**

#### 20/010 FINANCE

- i. **Progress against budget:** The Clerk/RFO presented the report of progress against budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. There were no queries and the reports were accepted. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded: Cllr Porrett, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 31<sup>st</sup> December be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded: Cllr Porrett, all in favour**
- 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. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Porrett, all in favour.**

|                            |                  |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| BT                         | 33.58            | Telephone/internet provision |
| Braintree District Council | 2262.49          | Grass cutting contract 2020  |
| Adler Business Systems     | 261.72           | Printer supplies             |
| J Adshead-Grant            | 160.00           | Salary                       |
| C A Marshall               | 777.12           | Salary                       |
| HMRC                       | 194.20           | PAYE                         |
|                            | <b>£3,689.11</b> |                              |

#### 20/011 BUDGET 2020-21

The Clerk/RFO presented the final budget calculations and recommended that in view of the level of reserves and budgetary measures being put in, that the precept should remain the same as for 2019-20 at £38,136.00. In view of rise in households in the parish, this will in fact produce a small reduction in the proportion of the overall BDC Council Tax imposed that is paid to the Parish Council. However, the Parish Council is unable to control other charges included within the Council Tax. The Clerk/RFO to submit request to BDC.

**Action: Clerk/RFO****20/011 PARISH DESIGNATION**

Cllr Simpson presented her report "Status of Cressing and Cressing Tye Green within BDC's Settlement Hierarchy" that included an analysis of services within the parish. Having compared the services and facilities provided within currently designated second and third tier villages, the conclusion is that there is no case for re-categorising Cressing Tye Green as a second-tier village as stated in the Planning Officer's report that accompanied the planning application 18/00549/OUT presented to BDC Planning Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019. A meeting will be arranged as soon as possible with BDC Planning Development to discuss the report and to formally request that Cressing and Cressing Tye Green should both retain the current Third Tier category.

**Action: Cllr Simpson**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Simpson for her detailed research on this topic.

**20/013 PLANNING**

**Determined:** ESS/02/19/BTE - Braintree Waste Transfer Station, Cordons Farm, Long Green, Cressing, CM77 8DL

**New applications**

- i. 19/02302/DAC | Application for approval of details reserved by condition 12 of approval 13/01476/FUL | Land Off Millennium Way Cressing Essex (Great Crested Newt Mitigation: provision of a pond) – the Parish Council has no comment to make.
- ii. 19/02288/DAC | Application for the approval of details reserved by condition 5 of approved application 16/02144/OUT | Land Adjacent To Braintree Road Cressing Essex: Construction Method Statement – the Parish Council is of the opinion that insufficient information is contained within the Method Statement. **Action: Clerk**
- iii. 19/02269/DAC | Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 9 and 20 of approved application 15/01515/FUL | Lanham Manor Farm Lanham Farm Road Cressing Essex CM77 8DX – the Parish Council is of the opinion that the travel plan for this application should be reconsidered as unsustainable and inappropriate in view of the remote location and road access. It is inappropriate to include cycling as a means of access as this is along narrow and unlit roads and the track into the site would be damaged by heavy vehicles. **Action: Clerk**
- iv. 19/02197/FUL | Construction of a landscaped earth bund for associated B1 business. | Lanham Manor Farm Lanham Farm Road Cressing Essex CM77 8DX – the Parish Council has no comment to make.

**Applications bordering parish noted:** 19/02226/FUL | Retrospective application for the Change of Use of land from redundant gravel land to Equestrian Facility | Cressing Farm Witham Road Cressing Essex CM77 8PD

**Enforcement enquiries noted:** 19/00363/COU3 | Change of use enquiry | The Willows Inn The Street Cressing Essex CM77 8DQ – it is understood a new planning application is pending validation by BDC

**20/014 WEBSITE**

Cllr Watts and the Clerk reported on a meeting held earlier with a website company that is currently undertaking several local parish websites. An opportunity will be given to another company that provided a verbal quotation to make a presentation. **It was agreed** that as the date for closure of the existing site is 31<sup>st</sup> March, the Parish Council delegates to Cllr Watts and the Clerk the final decision.

**Action: Clerk and Cllr Watts****20/015 PLAYING FIELD AND ENVIRONMENT**

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

- i. Evidence of dog fouling continues.
- ii. Empty alcohol bottles, beer cans and other litter continues to be discarded on the field. Cllr Haines reported that he has drawn this to the attention of some users.
- iii. The roundabout bearings need a little maintenance. **Action: Clerk**

**20/016 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- i. The Clerk advised that BDC had confirmed S.106 money designated for "public open space" could be utilised for projects related to any space where the public has access, including the drainage to the playing field, white gates and planting at the entrances to

- the parish. The Clerk will add these to the POS Plan held by BDC. **Action: Clerk**
- ii. The Clerk asked if Councillors would be prepared to delegate finalisation of job description for the Handyman to Cllr Watts and the Clerk, together with advertising and initial interviews. **Action: Cllr Watts/Clerk**

**20/017 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 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 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**20/018 CLOSE OF MEETING**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.