



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 9th October 2019 at 7.30pm
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing**

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

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

Apologies: Cllr Simpson, District Cllr James Abbott

19/131 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and reported as follows:

- The Chairman was pleased to announce that the scarecrow organised by the Evangelical Church was successful and well supported by residents. The Chairman also confirmed on behalf of the Parish Council that if the competition is held in 2020, the Parish Council will be pleased to offer its support again.
- The four residents who took part in the litter pick were thanked. Their help was much appreciated.
- The Parish Council continues to make representations to BDC Planning Committee, Senior Officers, MPs, District and County Councillors concerning their decision to grant permission for the Appletree development and highlighting the serious traffic issues that will result from this, the Countryside development and others in the pipeline. The Clerk will chase for responses.
- The Parish Council has submitted its comments on the BDC Local Plan consultation and has drawn notice to the involvement of the Leader of BDC being a Director of the company making the proposals for the garden communities. It is the Parish Council's view this constitutes a serious conflict of interests.

19/132 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk confirmed apologies had been received from Cllr Simpson – it was agreed to accept these apologies.
Apologies had also been received on behalf of District Cllr James.

19/133 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.

19/134 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Robert Mitchell reported:

- At a recent County Council meeting, the Leader put forward a number of schemes related to climate change. It was reported that approx.. £40m is wasted in Essex because residents are not recycling properly.

- Efforts continue to improve the efficiency of responses to highways issues.
- Cllr Mitchell has raised the Parish Council's concerns about the access to the Appletree site being so close to the bend in Polecat Road and explained that the survey would not have identified speeding traffic. However, in view of the continued concerns and eye-witness reports by Cllr Porrett, as well as the doubt about how, who and when the survey was carried out, Cllr Mitchell will look into the matter.
- Cllr Mitchell also advised that he had meetings arranged to understand the process for Essex Highways' responses to planning consultations in the area, especially whether the cumulative effect of the developments is taken into account, with a view to infrastructure being established prior to development.
- Responding to questions from a member of the public, Cllr Mitchell advised he was not yet in possession of all the facts regarding the "Wyevale" roundabout and the drains along that section of the B1018. He will review the situation. He will also enquire why speed bumps have been allowed on the Bellway site but are being refused elsewhere in Cressing.

District Councillor Bob Wright reported:

- Over 1,000 responses had been submitted to the Local Plan consultation, plus an additional 600+ hand delivered by CAUSE. He added that the majority of planning applications being considered by BDC are outside development boundaries and not included within the Draft Local Plan. The number of houses had now reached in excess of 14,300 which exceeds the number identified as being required in the Local Plan period.
- Cressing's Neighbourhood Plan will not be considered by executive decision, thus will go to Cabinet on 3rd December.
- Cllr Abbott is working to have more hedges preserved and not removed by developers. Cllr Mitchell advised that Essex Highways are considering imposing fines on developers who removed hedges without permission on highways land.
- Cllr Abbott has discussed with Cllr Kevin Bentley the provision of dropped kerbs. Unfortunately, Cllr Bentley does not support these.
- A further planning application for 2/300 dwellings if due to be submitted for land on Boars Tye Road, bordering Cressing Parish. Cllr Wright will keep the Clerk advised to enable CPC to respond as well.
- Cllr Wright reminded the Parish Council that he and Cllr Abbott still have funds available under the Councillor Community Grant scheme until March 2020.

19/135 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Countryside development – a member of the public raised a number of points where no, or insufficient, consideration was given by BDC Planning Committee at their meeting on 26th September. These included:

- The influence of the planning officer who expressed his own views, thus affecting the decision of the committee
- The position of the flats on the land adjoining existing houses
- Earmarked additional land and its potential use in the future
- Unfenced play area
- The need for a safe footpath to/from the school and the link from the Bellway site
- The possible removal of the mound at the playing field
- The width of the link between the Bellway site and The Westerings

It was made clear that in his comments to "councillors", he was referring to District Councillors on the Planning Committee and not to Parish Councillors.

The Parish Council will write to BDC regarding the Planning Officer making personal opinions at the Planning Committee, which is outwith his remit and could be seen a serious overstep in his role influencing the Committee. The Parish Council will demand a response.

19/136 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH SEPTEMBER 2019

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th September 2019 were confirmed as

a correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Lapper, all in favour.** Minutes duly signed by the Chairman.

19/137 COUNCIL POLICIES

The Clerk presented reviewed policy: Communications and Media rev 2.0. There were no queries and **it was resolved** to adopt this policy. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Watts, all in favour.**

19/138 FINANCE

i. The RFO presented the report of progress against budget as at 30th September 2019. There were no queries.

ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation as at 30th September 2019**
It was resolved that the bank reconciliation statement at 30th September be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Porrett, all in favour.**

iii. **A motion to approve September 2019 Payments/Cheques**
The list of payments made and cheques to be signed against September expenditure was presented. There were no queries and **it was resolved** to approve the payments. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Porrett, all in favour.**

05/09/2019	BT	113.88	DD
23/09/2019	BT	33.28	DD
05/10/2019	SSE	1302.01	DD
30/09/2019	Mrs W Tilbury	17.45	300175
30/09/2019	PKF Littlejohn	360.00	300176
30/09/2019	J Adshead-Grant	96.00	300177
30/09/2019	C A Marshall	412.90	300178
30/09/2019	C A Marshall (Viking)	79.79	300178
30/09/2019	HMRC	103.20	300179
09/10/2019	Braintree District Council	60.29	300180
09/10/2019	Braintree District Council	324.00	300180
		£2902.80	

iv. The RFO advised that a grant application had been received on behalf of the Cressing Action Group. If Councillors wished to discuss this item it would be necessary to put forward a motion to adjust the Agenda. **It was proposed** that a motion be passed to consider this application. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Porrett, all in favour.**

It was agreed to approve the application for £200.00 under S.137 rules as being of benefit to the whole community. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Haines, all in favour.**

19/139 BUDGET 2020-21

The RFO presented the first pass budget and it was agreed:

- Charity donations will be included for 2020-21 and the opinions of residents will be sought for those to be supported **Action: Clerk**
- Website – the Clerk explained the decision of ECC to cease the Essexinfo.net web hosting service. **It was agreed** that quotations should be obtained for the council to have a new website prepared that can place the existing site into an archived status. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk advised that although the EALC had provided a list of service providers, there was no offer from ECC to assist parish councils in meeting the costs of introducing a new facility (Essexinfo.net did not charge individual parish council for

hosting their sites). County Cllr Mitchell requested information about the cessation of this service to look into the situation further. **Action: Clerk**

- iii. The Clerk will consider training courses for councillors and put forward a programme for 2020-21 at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

19/140 PLANNING

It was agreed to nominate Cllr Susan Simpson to lead the Planning & Development Committee and Cllr Harvey Porrett was nominated to be a member of that Committee. **A motion was proposed that the Committee should be active following this meeting** and that the Terms of Reference will be adhered to, **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded: Cllr Lawton, all in favour.** Clerk to advise Cllr Simpson. **Action: Clerk**

19/141 PLANNING

Applications determined by Braintree District Council and listed on the Agenda were noted.

19/142 PLANNING

To receive update on approval of Appletree Farm planning approval and to discuss any further action to be taken

The Chairman updated the meeting on his correspondence with the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr Scattergood. Whilst a response had been received, the content was not satisfactory and a further letter has been sent. Priti Patel, MP, has been active in writing to BDC concerning the additional traffic as a result of large developments being passed in both Cressing and Silver End, and now a further one in Witham, all of which will have multiple vehicles joining the B1018. If no response from BDC by the end of the week, the Clerk will contact the Braintree & Witham Times again. Councillors agreed that pressure must be maintained with BDC to emphasise the difficulties being caused to this parish.

19/143 PLANNING

New applications

- i. 18/00549/OUT | Outline application with some matters reserved, for residential development of up to 250 dwellings with access considered | Land Between Long Green And Braintree Road Long Green Cressing Essex
- ii. 19/01721/DAC | Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 8, 15, 16 and 29 of approved application 13/01476/FUL | Land Off Millennium Way Cressing Essex – DIY superstore
- iii. 19/01646/HH | Proposed extensions and link from house to existing garage. Ground floor extension and new bay window. First floor extension. Raising of roof to facilitate loft conversion with dormers and rooflights. | Spring Cottage The Street Cressing Essex CM77 8DG – for info
- iv. 19/01605/FUL | Planning application for re-arrangement of 7 dwellings approved under reference (16/00397/OUT & 17/01671/REM) to allow for the grounding of overhead power lines at the site known as land east of Mill Lane, Cressing, Braintree, Essex | Land East Of Mill Lane Cressing Essex – Bellway Mill Lane site.

These applications were noted by Councillors but agreed there were no comments to be made.

19/144 PLANNING

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

19/01742/NMA | Application for a non-material amendment following approval of 16/00351/VAR - Provision of a container to be kept on site | Land South Of Sheepcote Wood Witham Road Cressing Essex – the application noted, but no comments to be made.

19/145 PLANNING

To note applications withdrawn:

None advised.

19/146 PLANNING

Appeals received by Braintree District Council:

None advised.

19/147 HIGHWAYS

The Clerk advised that she would be meeting the Local Highways Panel Officer at the end of October and was pleased that Cllr Watts had agreed to attend as well to stress the need for applications to be considered quicker.

19/148 TOWN & PARISH SUMMIT

This had been covered by District Cllr Bob Wright earlier in the meeting.

19/149 3 PARISHES MEETING

The Chairman reported on the exploratory meeting held in September. At that meeting it was agreed the parishes of Silver End, Rivenhall and Cressing will work together to achieve results and to share costs on expenditure that they all incur. The Minutes from that meeting have not yet been received and the Clerk was asked to chase for these. **Action: Clerk**

The two main items discussed were:

Planning – each Parish will ensure the others are aware of large planning applications submitted requesting them to make comment if appropriate. **Action: Clerk**

Handyman – the possibility of employing a handyman to undertake tasks across the parishes was put forward and the Cressing Clerk agreed to discuss this further with the other Clerks. Cllr Watts agreed to meet with the Clerk to prepare a job description and to discuss moving this forward initially in Cressing. **Action: Cllr Watts/Clerk**

19/150 PLAYING FIELD AND ENVIRONMENT

- i. Cllr Haines presented his report. There were no issues, but it was noted that there was still some dog fouling in the area. The Chairman advised that he had walked around the playground the previous week and was pleased to see that there was no litter around the field nor the children's play area
- ii. The Clerk continues to chase for a meeting with the developer to discuss the detail of their proposals for removal of the mound and location of footpath. **Action: Clerk**
- iii. **It was agreed** to display Christmas tree lights on the triangle at the junction of Polecat Road and Church Lane. Cllr Watts will manage. A damaged branch remains on the tree and needs to be removed. **Action: Clerk**

19/151 CRESSING GREENSWARDS

It was agreed that this should be discussed by Cllr Watts and the Clerk at their meeting with the LHP Officer.

19/152 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- i. Next year's budget
- ii. Report from meeting with LHP

19/153 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 13th November 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 5th November 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.