



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on Wednesday 14th February 2018 at 7.30pm
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing



Present

Cllr John Lawton - Chairman
Cllr. Ian Aston (vice chair)
Cllr. Charmian Goundry
Cllr. Steve Watts
Cllr. Colin Haines

In attendance

Mrs Christine Marshall (interim Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)
District Councillor Robert Mitchell
Three members of the public

18/017 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed those present and reported as follows:

- a. Public exhibition held 7th February for residents to view development proposals for the land to the south-east of Braintree. About 70 residents attended, together with District Cllr James Abbott, the Chairman and the Parish Clerk. Queries were raised and comments made to representatives of both the Williams Group and their project team. It was concerning that the project team did not have much knowledge of the area and had not taken the time to appraise themselves of other developments, including the A120. They seemed unaware of the school in Cressing and educational facilities in the district generally nor the anticipated increase in traffic volumes over the next few years.
- b. The Countryside proposed development will be heard by BDC Planning Committee on 27th February. District Cllr James Abbott will be asked to speak on behalf of Cressing and other Councillors are encouraged to attend as well.
- c. Belway have already started to cut some of the hedgerow, but have stated they will not be working on site until March.
- d. The village sign has been repaired and replaced. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Morland for undertaking this work.
- e. The Chairman was sorry to report that Cllr Trevor Moon had resigned from the Parish Council for personal reasons. His resignation has been acknowledged and accepted and the Chairman thanked Cllr Moon for his service to the Parish Council. There are now three Councillor, as well as the Parish Clerk/RFO, vacancies to be filled.

ACTION: Clerk to amend bank mandates

- f. The budget for 2018-19 will be published shortly when this has been reviewed by the interim RFO.

18/018 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from District Councillors James Abbott and Kevin Bowers. Apologies had also been received from Cllr Morland. **It was resolved** to accept the apologies of Cllr Morland.

Proposed: Cllr Goundry, **seconded** Cllr Aston, the apologies were accepted.

18/019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18/020 REPORTS BY DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. **Cllr. Robert Mitchell, Essex County Councillor, reported:**

Cllr Mitchell advised that he had refused an invitation to lunch from the Williams Group. It appears that some of the land they have put forward in their proposals could be crossed by one of the new A120 routes (when chosen). He will be prepared to meet with them to discuss generally and make them aware of issues in the area.

ECC budget has been passed with an increase in Council Tax of 2.99% plus 2% Adult Social Care levy.

Cllr Mitchell continues to push for repairs to the bends approaching the entrance to Cressing from Braintree. He described the condition as “an embarrassment to Essex Highways”, but previously reported at meetings, ownership of the land to the inside of the bend prevents Essex Highways repairing the pavement. In the meantime, he is raising the issue of ongoing vital repairs to the road surface. The Local Highways Panel is unable to allocate funds to this as it is classified as a maintenance issue.

The faulty lights on the roundabout have been escalated to Highways England as urgent. There is a potential project to identify and label ownership of all street lights for responsibility.

Cllr Mitchell suggested joining with other Parish Councils to achieve savings on the cost of LED light fittings and will send details to the Clerk to follow up.

ii. **Cllr James Abbott and Cllr Kevin Bowers: Braintree District Councillor reports**

In his absence, Cllr Abbott had forwarded his report, which was read into the meeting by the Chairman:

Appletree Farm: Cllr Abbott attended a meeting with the promoters of the proposed development when he raised numerous issues with them: density, roads, school, orchard.

Roads: Cressing bends had been raised again and Cllr Abbott understands that Essex Highways are discussing emergency work. Cllr Abbott reported that the Local Highways Panel budget for 2018/19 will not be increased. A backlog of large schemes indicates that all schemes, new and existing, will be prioritised.

Land to south-east of Braintree: Cllr Abbott attended the public exhibition on 7th February when he voiced his opinion that the development was unacceptable. The design provides for re-alignment of the B1018 which incorporates additional roundabouts – adding to congestion.

IWMF – revised and additional plans have been submitted by Gent Fairhead, which Cllr Abbott will be studying prior to responding. (Note: no advice letter has been received by CPC)

Lighting – technical information has been received from Bellway.

iii. **Inland Homes** had been unable to attend the meeting to report their proposals for Appletree Farm development. They hope to be able to attend the March meeting.

18/021 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

No items raised.

18/022 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2018**

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th January 2018 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Haines, **seconded** Cllr Aston, all in favour

18/023 **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report was received, there were no comments. The Clerk stated that many items on the report were historic and a full review will take place before the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

18/024 **COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

See item 18/017 above.

18/025 **PLANNING**

To receive Applications determined by Braintree District Council

- A 17/01671/REM Permitted with s106
Land East of Mill Lane. Reserved matters planning application.
- B 17/02134/NMA Application withdrawn
Silverdene, Lanham Green Road. Application for a non-material amendment.

To consider the new Applications submitted to Braintree District Council

- D 18/00014/FUL **Objection:** overdevelopment, not in keeping with style of existing properties, continuous small developments on site, total disregard for lawful development.
Lightfoots, Tye Green. Retrospective application for an outbuilding (used as an ancillary habitable annex) **No comment**
- E 17/02300/FUL
Doris House, Tye Green. Proposed new front ground floor window, single storey rear/side extension and first floor rear/side extension.
- F 17/02201/FUL **Objection:** additional garaging not part of previous application, position in front of properties not in keeping with street scene, building line brought forward causing loss of amenity for neighbouring properties, not in keeping with style of neighbouring properties.
Queenswood, Tye Green. Erection of 2 chalet bungalows, garages and altered vehicular access, alterations to scheme approved under 15/00527/OUT **Objection:** proposed extension considerably larger than existing structure, would partly surround listed building detracting from appearance, negative visual impact on the site which has already expanded. **Support subject to:** clarification of access to the accommodation.
- G 17/02283/FUL & 17/02284/LBC
Hungry Hall, Cressing Road. Erection of extension to the Old Granary comprising bedroom, farm office, kitchen and toilet. **No comment**
- H 18/00115/FUL & 18/00116/FUL
Jeffreys Farm Mill Lane Cressing Essex CM77 8NU
Proposed redesign of previously approved cartlodge, including the change of use of the existing storage apace within the roof to form self-contained annexe.
- I 18/00147/FUL
61 Cressing Road Braintree Essex CM7 3PP - Dropped Kerb **No comment**

18/026 **FINANCE**i. **Progress against budget as at 31st January 2018**

The budget report was presented. There were no comments.

ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation as at 31st December 2017**It was resolved to approve the bank reconciliation statement calculated to 31st January be approved.**Proposed:** Cllr Aston, **seconded** Cllr Hainesiii. **A motion to approve January 2018 Payments/Cheques**

The list of payments was presented. There were no queries and it was resolved to approve the payments as follows.

Proposed: Cllr Lawton, **seconded** Cllr Goundry

J. Adshead-Grant	Parish Maintenance Officer Salary - December	£96.00		£96.00
G. Ruston	Clerk's Salary - December plus 9 hours overtime	£597.39		£597.39
SSE	Street Light Electricity December 2017	£225.35	£44.58	£269.93
Richard Edwards Group LLP	Payroll Bureau services	£74.50	£14.90	£89.40
BT	Telephone Services	£23.99	£4.80	£28.79
Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly Service Charge - Current Account ending 6843	£18.00		£18.00
Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly Service Charge - Current Account ending 6856	£18.00		£18.00

iii. **To note payments received**

The list of credits was presented as below. There were no queries.

Unity Trust Bank	Credit Interest	£0.08	31/12/2017
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iv. **Clerk's overtime claim form for January 2018**

The Clerk's overtime claim form for 14.5 hours was approved and included in payments above.

Proposed: Cllr Lawton, **seconded** Cllr Goundry

18/027 **HIGHWAYS**

- i. No update was available. Cllr Morton to provide at next meeting.

Action: Cllr Morton

- ii. It was agreed to submit an application to the Local Highways Panel for the installation of reflective bollards at the Polecat Road/B1018 junction. It was also agreed that the Parish Council will contribute towards the cost once advised.

Action Clerk

18/028 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Goundry presented a report and confirmed the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 20th February when David Coleman, the Planning Consultant, will be in attendance to go through the Regulation 14 draft.

18/029 **STREET LIGHTS**

- i. Switching off at night

Cllr Goundry explained that the survey undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan showed many residents were in favour of lights being switched off overnight, however Councillors felt there was merit in lights remaining on to make drivers aware of entering a village and reducing speed. County Cllr Mitchell explained that in due course all ECC street lights will be replaced with LED fittings that can be angled and fitted with shields to prevent reflection or light disturbance to residents. Current ECC policy is to switch lights off between the hours of 1 and 5 am.

It was agreed to undertake a survey of light fittings to identify those which are the property of the Parish Council, ECC and Essex Highways for further discussion at the March meeting.

Action: Clerk

- ii. **LED lights**

It was agreed that as PC lights need repair or maintenance, these should be replaced with LED units in accordance with the quotation of 8th January from A&J Lighting at £349 each (warm white).

Proposed: Cllr Aston, **seconded:** Cllr Lawton. **Action:** Clerk

iii. **Bulford and Mill Lane footpath lighting**

Following discussion, it was agreed that CPC will not take responsibility for lighting as proposed by Bellway Homes. Clerk to advise Bellway.

Proposed: Cllr Aston, **seconded:** Cllr Watts. **Action:** Clerk

iv. **SSE Energy Rates**

It was agreed to enter a new contract with SSE Business Energy as detailed on the agenda (per SSE letter dated 23rd January).

Proposed: Cllr Aston, **seconded:** Cllr Lawton. **Action:** Clerk

18/030 **KEEPING CRESSING TIDY**

- i. Litter: It has been noticed that the amount of litter in the village has not decreased despite employing a Maintenance Officer. This will be reviewed.

Action: Clerk

- ii. Dog bins: it was agreed to an additional four dog bins to be placed at the beginning and end of the Essex Way and at the junction of Jeffries Road and the field. It was also agreed to erect some signs reminding dog walkers of their responsibilities.

Proposed: Cllr Watts, **seconded:** Cllr Aston

The Clerk was asked to enquire about signs available from the NFU.

18/031 **PLANTING AROUND THE VILLAGE**

Cllr Watts to produce proposals for discussion at next meeting regarding planting on the green triangles at Polecat Road and Ashes Corner. This could be suitable for an application to the Councillors' Community Fund.

Action: Cllr Watts

18/032 **CONSERVATION AREAS**

Councillors are aware that with the amount of development proposals being made, there is a danger that parts of the conservation area and protected lanes could be under threat. The surface of the area opposite the Church is being damaged.

Action: Cllr Lawton to speak with Cllr Morland

18/033 **WHITE GATES FOR VILLAGE ENTRANCES**

At a cost of about £500 each these were considered a worthwhile purchase if permission can be gained to install them. Clerk will enquire as to highways requirements for placement and installing.

Action: Clerk

18/034 **COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP AWARDS SCHEME**

It was agreed to defer this item to the March meeting.

18/035 **BDC DRAFT PLANNING ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY**

Councillors to consider and send comments to Clerk for response to BDC.

Action: All

18/036 **INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

Defibrillators have been delivered. Arrangements to be made for installation

Action: Clerk

18/037 **NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th March 2018 at 7.30pm at St Barnabas.

Items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Clerk by 12 noon on Wednesday 7th March.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm