



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL **Minutes of a meeting of Cressing Parish Council** **held on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 7.30pm** **at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing**



Present

Cllr. Ian Aston (vice chair)
 Cllr. Charmian Goundry
 Cllr. Steve Watts
 Cllr. Keith Morland
 Cllr. Colin Haines
 Mrs Gemma Ruston (Clerk)

Public 5 members of the public were also present

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

1) **CHAIRMANS' WELCOME AND REPORT**

The vice-chairman welcomed those present and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He reminded everyone about the refuse truck visit on Saturday 20th January. The chairman also reported the resignation of the current clerk, Gemma Ruston. Christine Marshall was present to observe proceedings as the interim clerk.

2) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Lawton and Cllr. Moon gave their apologies. Cllr. Aston proposed that the apologies were accepted, this was seconded by Cllr. Watts and the apologies were accepted unanimously.

3) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

4) **REPORTS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

4.1) **Cllr. Robert Mitchell: Essex County Councillor**

Cllr. Mitchell is still waiting for the report on the Ashes Road accident. He believes there is a request going to the Local Highways Panel for new signage on Ashes Road.

4.2) **Cllr James Abbott and Cllr Kevin Bowers: Braintree District Councillor reports**

Cllr. Abbott talked about the Braintree District's Draft Local Plan Public Examination which starts on Tuesday 16th January. The 'garden communities' are part of this examination. Cllr. Abbott commented that he prefers to refer to them as 'new towns'. He commented that he finds it incredible that the infrastructure will come after the houses are built. The existing A120 issues will be exacerbated even though there is talk of a 'local bypass' for the new town.

Cllr. Abbott confirmed that he will raise the terrible state of Cressing bends at next Highways meeting as they are in horrendous disrepair.

Cllr. Abbott gave feedback from the planning committee meeting on 2nd January 2018 when the Mill Lane development was discussed. There are still a lot of questions about the paraphernalia involved with the footpath to the station. There are also concerns about the lighting. If ECC take control of the new street lights then they would be white daylight LEDs. Cllr. Abbott would be asking for warmer, amber lighting as he doesn't think the white daylight ones are appropriate for rural areas. However, there is a dimming regime which means the lights are not on at full power. Cllr. Abbott has requested to see the technical specification for the white lights however because they are blue tinged which is harmful to sleep and nature. Cllr. Abbott commented that if the Parish Council take ownership of the new lights, then maybe Cressing could be the flagship for introducing warmer/amber LEDs in rural areas. Cllr Mitchell confirmed that he has made representation to County to ask for warmer lights for future stages of lighting replacement. CPC needs to make a request for a less harsh lighting regime for housing estates like Mill Lane.

Cllr. Bowers spoke about the Draft Local Plan Public Examination too. Regarding the Councillor Community Grant Scheme; Cllr. Bowers still has a small part of his yearly allowance left (just over £500). If it used for the war memorial (as discussed by residents at the December meeting) then there will be a need to ensure that there is funding to do all of the work. Regarding switching lights off – Cllr. Bowers reminded the Council that a previous straw poll showed that the majority of residents would want the lights to be left on. He would suggest another straw poll to determine the wishes of residents before making decisions.

4.3) **Members of the Public**

No members of the public wished to address the Council.

5) **MOTION TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13TH December 2017**

Cllr. Aston proposed that the draft minutes of the meeting of Cressing Parish Council held on 13th December 2017 were approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Watts and agreed unanimously. (resolution 1718/87).

6) **ITEMS TO NOTE**

6.1) **To receive the Clerk's Report**

This was noted.

7) **PLANNING**

7.1) **To receive the Applications Determined by Braintree District Council**

Reference No.	Address and Application	Determination
17/01817/FUL	Westdrive, Galleys Corner. Conversion and extension of workshop building to form new showroom.	GRANTED
17/00007/SCR	Land between Long Green and Braintree Road; Screening Request - The development of the 12.8 ha site to create in the region of 250 high quality residential dwellings together with significant areas of public open space, landscaping, appropriate levels of car parking and a green corridor the southern boundary. This corridor would also act as a buffer between the	Screening/ Scoping Opinion Adopted

	built form and the countryside beyond ensuring the development sits comfortably within the receiving landscape context.	
17/01727/LBC	Appletree Farm Cottage Hawbush Green; 1. Replace the zinc roof with a slate roof on the extension, and to re-felt the roof over the shower room; 2. Replace the doors and glazed panels in the east elevation with fully glazed, bi-folding doors, and 3. Reuse the existing kitchen window (and the existing secondary glazing) in the extension, instead of inserting a new window that matches the existing utility room window.	GRANTED

7.2) To consider the new Applications submitted to Braintree District Council

Reference No.	Address and Application	Date for response
17/02251/FUL	Westdrive, Galleys Corner; Erection of single storey side extension and alterations to southern and western elevations of existing Car Dealership Showroom. This was discussed. It was agreed to respond to BDC with comments reflecting the need to ensure there is no additional light pollution emitting from this site as a result of the proposed development.	17/01/2018

8) FINANCE

8.1) To note progress against budget as at 31st December 2017

The progress against budget was noted.

8.2) A motion to approve bank reconciliation as at 31st December 2017

Cllr. Aston proposed that the bank reconciliation statement calculated to 31st December be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Haines and agreed unanimously (**resolution 1718/88**).

8.3) A motion to approve December 2017 Payments/Cheques

Cllr. Aston proposed that the following list was formally approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Haines and agreed unanimously (**resolution 1718/89**)

Date	Payee	Purpose	Payment	VAT	Total	Prior Approval
10/01/2018	J. Adshead-Grant	Parish Maintenance Officer Salary - December	£96.00		£96.00	As per employment contract
10/01/2018	G. Ruston	Clerk's Salary - December plus 9 hours overtime	£597.39		£597.39	As per employment contract
10/01/2018	SSE	Street Light Electricity December 2017	£225.35	£44.58	£269.93	Contractual Agreement
10/01/2018	Richard Edwards Group LLP	Payroll Bureau services	£74.50	£14.90	£89.40	Contractual Agreement
27/12/2017	BT	Telephone Services	£23.99	£4.80	£28.79	Contractual

						Agreement
31/12/2017	Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly Service Charge - Current Account ending 6843	£18.00		£18.00	Contractual Agreement
31/12/2017	Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly Service Charge - Current Account ending 6856	£18.00		£18.00	Contractual Agreement

8.4) **To note December 2017 payments received**

There was one payment received this month:

Payee	Service	Amount	Date
Unity Trust Bank	Credit Interest	£0.08	31/12/2017

8.5) **A motion to approve Clerk's overtime claim form for December 2017**

Cllr. Aston proposed that the Clerk's overtime claim form for 9 hours for December 2017 was approved and paid. This was seconded by Cllr. Morton and agreed unanimously (**resolution 1718/90**).

8.6) **To discuss moving funds from the current account to the savings account**

Clerk and Cllr. Aston to discuss the figures needed to be kept in the current account and make the transfer.

Clerk & Cllr.
Aston

8.7) **A motion to approve the 2018/19 Budget**

Cllr. Aston proposed that the draft Budget for 2018/19 was approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Morton and agreed unanimously. (**resolution 1718/91**)

8.8) **If budget is approved, a motion to confirm the 2018/19 Precept**

Cllr. Aston proposed that the 2018/19 Precept request of £37,380.00 was approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Watts and agreed unanimously. (**resolution 1718/92**) The Precept request form was signed.

9) **POLICY REVIEWS**

9.1) There were no policy reviews this month.

10) **TO DISCUSS HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

10.1) **Update from Greenfields re: parking on Claud Ince Avenue**

Cllr. Morland summarised the response from Greenfields; essentially there is no money in their budget to improve the parking situation. Cllr. Mitchell suggested that the Council could apply to the Parking Partnership for yellow lines; 'junction protection markings'. It was decided to respond to Greenfields with some photographic evidence of the parking issue at night when it is at its worst. Cllr. Haines to sort out taking the photographs. Clerk and Cllr. Morland to respond to Greenfields.

Cllr. Haines,
Clerk & Cllr.
Morland

10.2) **Damage to village signpost at the junction of B1018 and Polecat Road**

The insurance company have confirmed that they will cover the cost of repairs as quoted by Steve Holt; subject to payment by CPC of the £125 excess. They will also continue the process of trying to recover costs from the driver. Cllr. Aston proposed that the £125 was paid so that work can begin on repairing the signpost. This was seconded by Cllr. Haines and agreed

Clerk

unanimously. **(resolution 1718/93)** Clerk to instruct Steve Holt to begin work.

11) **To discuss the S.106 allocation and provision of a 'Facility for Older Children'**

It was noted that the next time anything is damaged or broken at the existing Jeffreys Road park that the S.106 money which has been allocated for this purpose should be used. The provision for older children was discussed. Cllr. Aston proposed that at this stage the Council doesn't consider that there are any suitable schemes that can utilise the funds, but that the Council will reconsider this in the light of any future large-scale developments proposed in the Parish. This was seconded by Cllr. Watts and agreed unanimously. **(resolution 1718/94)**

12) **Dogs**

12.1) **To consider a request for 'dog friendly' stiles on Cressing footpaths**

This was discussed. The Parish Council do not own the rights of way. The Parish Council do not own the stiles. The location of all stiles would need to be established. The stiles are the property of the land owner. Land Registry searches would be required for each piece of land. Permission would need to be granted by the Highways Public Rights of Way Team. Therefore, although the Council would consider making them dog friendly, the Council do not own them and are therefore unable to progress this issue further.

12.2) **The ongoing issue of dog mess in the village and on Essex Way**

Cllr. Aston proposed to provide some more dog bins around the village; on Essex Way, on Polecat Road, on Jeffreys Road, on the Mill Lane/Jeffrey Road junction etc, and also to provide poo bags at these locations. Landowner permission is required and BDC need to be notified that the bins have been installed. Clerk to research cost of bins and bag dispensers. Clerk to add to the February agenda for further discussion.

Clerk

13) **Installation costs for defibrillators**

Cllr. Aston proposed that the cost of installation for the defibrillator at St Barnabas (as quoted by John Clark Services Ltd) was approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Watts and agreed unanimously. **(resolution 1718/94)** Clerk to order defibrillators.

Clerk

14) **Parish Street Lights**

14.1) **Switching off at night**

Conducting straw poll survey of the parishioners (asking whether they wanted the lights left on or switched off, and which area they lived in) was discussed. It was also suggested to distribute a paper copy with the Parish Magazine. Clerk to find last straw poll survey and distribute it to Councillors for a consultation on possible content. Cllr. Goundry reminded the Council that residents were asked street lighting in the Neighbourhood Plan survey. Cllr. Goundry to send results for further discussion at February meeting.

Clerk & Cllr.
Goundry

14.2) **LED Lights**

The councillors discussed this. Cllrs. Abbott and Mitchell said you must not put an LED lamp in an existing fitting. Clerk to go back to A&J Lighting to enquire about the cost of warm/amber LEDs.

Clerk

15) **Councillors' agenda items for next meeting**

Litter

Planting for green triangles around the village

Enhancements to conservation area

Revisit white gates for village

Street lights on Bellway development/Bulford Mill Lane/Mill Lane
Reflective bollards for Polecat junction

16) **FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

The next meeting of Cressing Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 14th February 2017** at 7.30pm at St Barnabas.

The main meeting concluded at 9.24pm.