



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of the virtual meeting of Cressing Parish Council held on 8th April 2020

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

Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO)

Apologies: Cllr Harvey Porrett could not participate due to technical difficulties.

These notes reflect the comments, queries, actions and approvals to Agenda items for the April Parish Council meeting submitted to Councillors prior to 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th April 2020.

It was not possible to hold a formal meeting attended by Councillors and the public due to restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 outbreak.

20/065 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that this was his first experience of a virtual meeting for CPC, which having been on the Council for a number years was a strange experience, however, it was understandable in the current Covid-19 circumstances. Cressing Parish Council will do whatever it can to assist the residents of the Parish during these difficult times. He also said that it was encouraging to note that from social media that several groups are assisting the more vulnerable residents and hopes that this continues beyond the current crisis.

Finally, the Chairman stated that he and his fellow Councillors ask all residents to adhere to the Government Covid-19 advice and stay safe.

20/066 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

As noted above.

20/067 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.

20/068 COUNCIL POLICIES - Temporary policy – Decision making during Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak 2020

The new policy had been previously issued to Councillors for consideration and there were no queries. It was agreed to implement the policy for a period to cover isolation and social distancing guidelines. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Lapper.**

20/069 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

None had been received for inclusion in these notes.

20/070 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No requests had been received.

20/071 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th MARCH 2020

Cllr Simpson stated her recollection of the discussion under item 20/056 was for ad hoc meetings where someone came into the parish office to discuss a matter with the Clerk

would be excluded. Scheduled meetings on council business by the Clerk would not be excluded from advance notice to all Councillors and would need to be reported back. Subject to this clarification, the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Watts, all in favour.** The Minutes will be signed at a later meeting.

20/072 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

No suggestions had been received. Cllr Lawton requested the item to be included on next available meeting.

20/073 FINANCE

- i. **Progress against budget:** The Clerk/RFO presented the report of progress against budget as at 31st March 2020. There were no queries and **it was resolved** the reports be accepted.
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2020: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 31st March be approved.
- iii. **A motion to approve March 2020 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.

BT	33.46	
EALC	438.31	Affiliation fees EALC and NALC
J Adshead-Grant	64.00	Salary
C A Marshall	777.12	Salary
HMRC	632.89	PAYE and NI
Unity Bank	18.00	Bank charges
£2,104.80		

All motions proposed by: Cllr Lapper, seconded Cllr Watts.

20/074 GRANT APPLICATION

An application has been received from the Cressing Action Group for £150.00 to fund costs to be incurred. As all criteria had been met to the satisfaction of Councillors, the grant was confirmed. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded: Cllr Lawton.** The Clerk will advise CAG.

20/075 EQUIPMENT PURCHASING

Cllr Watts proposed that a cordless mower should be purchased to enable Councillors to keep the grass and boundaries of public footpaths clear for walkers. Cllrs Lawton and Haines preferred a petrol mower and Cllr Simpson advised a suitable cordless mower was available from Stihl costing about £500. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded: Cllr Lapper.** *After the meeting Cllr Watts advised of an internet deal of a cordless mower and strimmer for £150, half the usual cost. Cllr Lawson and the Clerk agreed this should be purchased under Financial Regulation 4.1.*

20/076 PLANNING

There was nothing to be reported or discussed.

20/077 PLAYING FIELD AND ENVIRONMENT

Cllr Haines reported that the temporary closure signs and locked gate to the playing equipment remained intact and did not appear to have been tampered with. Other than continued dog fouling, there were no other matters to report. It was noted that BDC had cut the grass.

20/078 GRASS CUTTING TENDER

The Clerk had previously issued a report on the quotations received. There were no questions and it was agreed to award the contract to Mortimer Contracts Ltd subject to satisfactory references. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded, Cllr Lapper. Action: Clerk**

20/079 MEETINGS

Subject to Cllr Simpson's comments under item 20/071, this was agreed. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded: Cllr Lapper**

20/080 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- i. Tree Preservation Orders
- ii. Assets of Community Value
- iii. Equipment to be purchased for Handyman role

20/081 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Date of next meeting is subject to guidance from Local Government

Association/National Association of Local Councils and government legislation

The next meetings of the Parish Council are scheduled to be held on Wednesday 13th May 2020, at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing. However, since this virtual meeting, the National Association of Local Councils has advised the new regulations under the Coronavirus Act 2020 permitted all local authority meetings before 7 May 2021 to be held remotely and removes the requirement for the annual meeting this year. The Annual Parish Meeting (the meeting of electors) does not need to be held in 2020. Guidance is still awaited on dates for submission of Annual Return, Annual Parish Council Meeting and confirmation of the dates of the period for the exercise of public rights in relation to the full year accounts and audit.

Items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 5th May 2019.