



## CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting of Cressing Parish Council  
held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.00pm  
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

**Present:** Cllr John Lawton – Chairman  
Cllr Colin Haines  
Cllr Ali Lapper  
Cllr Harvey Porrett  
Cllr Toria Rowe

**In attendance:**

Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO)  
County Councillor Paul Thorogood  
District Councillor Bob Wright  
District Councillor James Abbott  
Seven members of the public

### 21/084 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed all attendees and asked all present to abide by the Covid restrictions as advertised. He then reported as follows:

- i. Introduced County Cllr Paul Thorogood who was elected to his post following the May election.
- ii. Attendance at the "Getting Back into Communities" event held in May was disappointing. As this was an initiative by Essex Police and Braintree District Council to assist residents following the Covid lockdowns, it had to be held during the day which limited those who could attend. District Cllrs Wright and Abbott, along with Parish Cllrs Porrett and Haines were thanked for their attendance and engagement with those residents who did attend.
- iii. An update on the planning situation for The Willows (Il Salice) had been received and reported. The Clerk will maintain contact with BDC Planning in an effort to get this resolved as quickly as possible.

**Ongoing action: Clerk**

### 21/085 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cllr Simpson, but no reason had been provided, and Cllr Watts. Cllrs agreed to accept these apologies.. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Haines.**

### 21/086 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.

### 21/087 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The Clerk confirmed that two requests to speak had been received.

- i. Bulford Mill Lane – a resident provided a statement to the meeting of the traffic issues experienced by residents, particularly at the blind 'L' bend by the Mill. Traffic has increased considerably and on average 140 vehicles per hour use this road. Occurrences of driver arguments/confrontations, vehicles leaving the road

into gardens, loss of natural wildlife, disturbance caused by the beeping of horns and damage to property due to unsuitable vehicles ignoring the weight restrictions. It was also noted that as well as vehicles being stranded when the ford is flooded, the River Brain now floods across the road. Following discussions, **it was agreed** that applications should be submitted to Braintree Local Highways Panel for schemes to alleviate or complete resolve the issues, including permanent traffic lights to provide directional traffic, access only status, or “no through road” restrictions. Both District and County Cllrs agreed they would support these applications. **Action: Clerk**

- ii. Apparently, Essex Police have confirmed they will be starting an anti-speeding campaign quite soon, targeting known speeding areas (e.g. Mill Lane). It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the Chief Constable and MP highlighting the serious concerns in Cressing about speeding and the volume of traffic using unsuitable roads and asking for urgent attention. **Action: Clerk**
- iii. The Parish Council was requested to contact the Williams Group asking them to commence the road layout (roundabout and re-routing) associated with the development 18/00549/OUT on land between Long Green and Braintree Road as this would alleviate some of the problems with the footpath and vegetation along the section of the B1018 at the sharp bend. **It was agreed** to submit a Rangers Request for the vegetation to be cleared. **Action: Clerk**
- iv. Overgrown vegetation elsewhere in the parish – the Parish Council will be attending to this.
- v. A member of the public raised some other points that have been discussed at length at previous meetings and also by email correspondence. The Chairman advised that these repetitive requests would not be permitted to take up time at future meetings. All Cllrs agreed this approach.

## 21/088      **REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

After introducing himself to the meeting County Cllr Thorogood confirmed he is a member of the non-aligned group at ECC that includes Councillors from different areas in Essex as well as some residents, forming the official opposition to the Conservative party at ECC. Cllr Thorogood has been appointed to the Development and Regulation Committee that considers applications in respect of minerals and waste. He will also sit on the Braintree Local Highways Panel. He then reported that:

- i. A resident of The Street reported an incident involving a speeding vehicle.
- ii. A meeting with the Local Highways Panel Officer is to be held w/c 14<sup>th</sup> June, to look at all outstanding applications for Cressing and to discuss potential solutions to the traffic issues in the parish.
- iii. Applications for the LHP will be supported by Cllr Thorogood.

Cllr Abbott reported:

- 1. He and Cllr Wright were pleased to attend the Community Event and will support other initiatives depending on their availability.
- 2. There are potential schemes for development of a further 2,000 dwellings in the Ward of Silver End and Cressing over the next five years.
- 3. Consultation of Part 2 of the Braintree Local Plan is scheduled in July and it is vital for this to be passed to call a partial halt to further development. Braintree District now has sufficient development plan passed to fulfil the housing supply for 5.3 years, as well as sites within the plan to meet the housing need to 2033.

4. Two consultations at BDC are in progress: Climate Change and Cycleways.
5. New planning delegation rules will be implemented soon that will reduce the number of applications referred to the Planning Committee for determination. The categories of applications for officer decision will be wider.
6. Essex Highways continue to be chased to repair potholes in Crossing roads.
7. Essex Highways have reviewed verge cutting and the number of cuts will be reduced with the objective of rewilding these areas to create a more sustainable environment without compromising road/public safety. This will include those verges within village envelopes.
8. An enquiry has been made for the amount of S.106 funds available for extending the Silver End Doctors' Surgery which provides services to many Crossing residents. It is understood that BDC now owns the building.
9. Cllr Abbott agreed that some hedges are in need of trimming, particularly the one at Ashes Corner that obstructs the view for motorists turning out of Lanham Green Road. The Clerk will look into getting this cutback. **Action: Clerk**

#### 21/089 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the general business Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Porrett, all in favour.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

#### 21/090 FINANCE

- i. **Progress against budget:** The Clerk/RFO referred to the reports issued with the Agenda. There were no queries, and the reports were accepted. **Proposed: Cllr Lapper, seconded: Cllr Rowe, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 31<sup>st</sup> March be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Lapper, seconded: Cllr Rowe, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve May 2021 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments made and cheques to be signed against May expenditure was presented. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to approve the payments. **Proposed: Cllr Lapper, seconded Cllr Rowe, all in favour.** Cllrs Lawton and Haines signed the cheques.

#### 21/091 PARKING AND ROAD SAFETY IN CRESSING

The Clerk advised that as Cllrs were unable to take part in a video call to discuss options for Cressing, a telephone conversation was held with North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) who undertake these issues for Braintree, Colchester and Uttlesford councils. They recognized the particular issues in the parish and felt there was no "easy" solution that would satisfy the needs of residents and the school. There are several options available, including: residents only parking (permits cost £50 for first car, £85 for further cars) and restricted parking during certain periods. It was explained that for any scheme to be introduced there needs to be 75% support from residents.

In view of the many issues, it was agreed that a date should be found when Cllrs can discuss the options fully with NEPP. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk reported on a conversation with resident, Mr Michael Gammans, who has been successful, after two years, in establishing a Community Speedwatch Group. He has engaged the requisite number of volunteers but will be seeking more so that Tye Green area can be included. Residents Messrs Fitch and Perkins confirmed they have joined the group and Mr Fitch will be seeking further volunteers.

The Clerk asked Cllrs if they could agree to the purchase of the necessary equipment: Unipar SL700 laser speed meter as recommended by CSW at a cost of £2.225. Full training will be provided to the volunteers by CSW. **This was agreed. Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Lawton, all in favour.** **Action: Clerk**

The suggestion was also put forward that a mobile interactive speed sign could be obtained. After discussion it was agreed that a decision should be delayed but in the meantime the Clerk will obtain information and prices for suitable equipment as this could complement the efforts of the Speedwatch Group. **Action: Clerk**

## 21/092 PLANNING

- A. To note Appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate: None advised
- B. To discuss Appeals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate: None advised.
- C. To note Applications determined by Braintree District Council:
  - i. 21/00900/HH | First floor side extension and front porch. | Thyme Cottage The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DG
  - ii. 21/00909/HH | Proposed single storey rear extension. | Atitlan The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DG
  - iii. 21/01102/TPOCON | carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Fell 1 Blue Spruce tree | The Old Post Office The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DQ
- D. To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council: None advised
- E. To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council and consider if comments should be made (Householder Application, General Permitted Development Order)
  - i. 21/01564/VAR | Variation of Conditions 2 (Approved Drawings) and 3 (Materials) of permission 19/01646/HH granted 02/01/2020 for Proposed extensions and alterations. Variation to allow: - Change of external material. - Single-storey extensions. - Remodelling dormer windows. - Alterations to roof light. | Spring Cottage The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DG
  - ii. 21/01657/HHPA | Application for prior approval of a proposed enlargement of a dwellinghouse by construction of additional storey with a maximum height of 8.7 metres | 23 Mill Lane Crossing Essex CM77 8HN
  - iii. 21/01408/HH | Single-storey rear extension and partial conversion of garage into habitable accommodation | 38 Crozier Drive Crossing Braintree Essex CM77 8GE

There were no comments to be submitted.
- F. To note applications bordering parish for information and to consider if comments should be made – Longfield Solar Farm, north-east of Chelmsford. *Noted, no comments to be submitted.*

## 21/093 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- i. **Playing field** - the Clerk reported that the manhole in the car park at the playing field had partially collapsed and needed repairing. **It was agreed to delegate this to the Chairman and Clerk to obtain best price for repair and instruct the work to be undertaken.** **Action: Clerk**

Items for inclusion on the June Agenda:

1. *Parking and road safety*
2. *Playing field report and improvements*
3. *Rainbow Field*
4. *Open Day for Crossing residents*

**21/094 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at **7.00pm at St Barnabas Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG**. Social distancing will be implemented and face masks must be worn as applicable under Covid regulations.

Any items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

**Dates of 2021 meetings**

|           |    |        |
|-----------|----|--------|
| August    | 9  | 7.30pm |
| September | 8  | 7.30pm |
| October   | 13 | 7.30pm |
| November  | 10 | 7.30pm |
| December  | 8  | 7.30pm |