



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 14th April 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom.

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Harvey Porrett
Cllr Susan Simpson
Cllr Steve Watts
Cllr Toria Rowe (from item 21/048)

In attendance:
Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO)
District Councillor Bob Wright
District Councillor James Abbott
One member of the public

For the purpose of this virtual meeting held using Zoom video conferencing, the following policies and clauses will be suspended by resolution at the beginning of the meeting.

- Standing Order 3.e to 3.g public participation:
 - e. Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.*
 - f. The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) above shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the Chairman of the meeting.*
 - g. Subject to standing order 3(f) above, a member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes unless previously notified and agreed by the Chairman of the meeting.*
- Standing Order 3.v “A meeting shall not exceed a period of 2 hours.” and replace it with: A meeting shall not exceed a period of 40 minutes.
- Public Participation in Council Meetings – policy suspended for virtual meetings.

The meeting will be held in accordance with CPC Virtual Meeting Policy, previously accepted by Parish Councillors and to be ratified at this meeting.

21/043 RESOLUTION TO RESTRICT THE DURATION OF THE MEETING

Resolution: It was resolved to restrict the length of the meeting to 60 minutes. It was also resolved to suspend Standing Orders 3.e to 3.g. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, Seconded: Cllr Watts, all in favour.**

21/044 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed all attendees.

Before addressing the business on the Agenda, the Chairman paid respects on behalf of the Parish Council following the death of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. The Duke was a man who devoted his life to public service and had been a steady and constant support to Her Majesty, the Queen - a support that has helped to keep the United Kingdom a safe and dominant force throughout the world. He will be missed by all and the Chairman asked those present to join him in a minute's silence.

Following the one minute's silence the Chairman reported:

- i. The Willows update – BDC's Enforcement Officer has this under review and he will be seeking advice from Head of Planning shortly.
- ii. Bollard between Bellway site and The Westerings have, at long last, been installed
- iii. Glass recycling bins removed from Appletree are to be re-sited in Church Road within the next few days
- iv. Following the lifting of some Covid restrictions, the office is once again open on Wednesdays and Thursdays
- v. Dust cart on 24th April at Clark & Carter and St Barnabas. As no Councillor available to oversee the Clark & Carter site, the handyman has agreed to oversee
- vi. Braintree Association of Local Councils is now operational again. First meeting tomorrow evening – Cllr Simpson will try to attend on behalf of Cressing PC.
- vii. Valuation of the Pavilion will take place next week

21/045 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that no apologies had been received.

21/046 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.

21/047 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

It was agreed to co-opt Victoria Rowe to the Parish Council. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Haines, all in favour.**

Cllr Rowe accepted and was invited to join the meeting. The Clerk confirm the necessary documents, including Register of Interests, will be completed outside of the meeting, following continued social distancing rules. **Action: Clerk**

21/048 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Abbott provided the following updates:

- i. Local Highways Panel budget should be fully restored in June, which will enable some of the parish projects to go ahead.
- ii. BDC Constitution to be reviewed at BDC AGM, when election of Chairman will also take place.
- iii. The identification of cycleways between parishes may require using some sections of public roads.
- iv. Another large development application in Silver End has been submitted close to the boundary with Cressing.
- v. There is concern that more development sites will come forward before the Local Plan part 2 is complete.
- vi. Missing street sign has been reported at the junction of Lanham Green Road and The Street. Cllr Abbott was advised of another, Bulford Mill Lane, which has been missing for a long time.

21/049 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The Clerk confirmed that one request had been received to discuss the proposed development of 80 age-restricted bungalows off Mill Lane. It as agreed for this discussion to take place under item 21/057 C.i.

21/050 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting of 10th March 2021 were confirmed as

a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Haines, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange for Minutes to be signed by the Chairman outside of this meeting whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines.

21/051 WWII REMEMBRANCE

Following previous discussions via email, **it was agreed** to purchase four pairs of “Tommy” figures as supplied by the Royal British Legion at a cost of £405 (including VAT) each for position at each village sign. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Rowe, all in favour.** **Action: Clerk**

21/052 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 Porrett, seconded: Cllr Rowe, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 31st March 2021: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 31st March be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Rowe, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve March 2021 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments made and cheques to be signed against February expenditure was presented. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to approve the payments. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, seconded Cllr Lawton, all in favour.**
- iv. **A motion to approve** the appointment of Internal Auditor: **it was resolved** that Lisa West of Rayne should be appointed Internal Auditor for the accounts to 31st March 2021. **Action: Clerk**

21/053 GRANT APPLICATIONS

- i. **It was agreed** to grant the sum of £1,350 to the Cressing Food Bank. The application was for £1,000 but it was discussed and agreed to use the remaining budget allowance from 2021. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, seconded: Cllr Porrett, all in favour.** **Action: Clerk**
- ii. **It was agreed** to contribute a donation of £200 to the St Helena Hospice in memory of the Rev Burden, Vicar at St Barnabas and All Saints Churches, and his wife. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Simpson, all in favour.** **Action: Clerk**

21/054 THE PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

The Clerk referred to the report attached to the Agenda and confirmed that she and the Handyman had discussed this at length and were confident it is appropriate for the parish. The concerns of both the Chairman and Cllr Simpson regarding the amount of extra administrative work and the ease of obtaining grants for major work were noted. **It was agreed** to enter into the agreement with Essex Highways and monitor the impact on the Parish Council and residents. A full article concerning this will be published in the Community Magazine in due course. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded: Cllr Porrett, all in favour.** **Action: Clerk**

21/055 ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Clerk updated the meeting on arrangements under the temporary legislation for meetings being conducted under Covid regulations and the cessation of virtual meetings at midnight on Thursday 6th May 2021.

- i. **It was agreed** to postpone until later in the year the Annual Parish Assembly. The Clerk will update the End of Year Report to be published in the Community Magazine. **Action: Clerk**

- ii. The Clerk will invite community groups in the parish to submit reports.
- iii. **It was agreed** to cancel the Parish Council Annual General Meeting due to take place on 12th May and to re-schedule this to Wednesday 5th May to take place virtually. **Action: Clerk**
- iv. **It was agreed** to cancel the Parish Council Meeting due to take place on 12th May and to reschedule to Wednesday 5th May to take place virtually. **Action: Clerk**
All proposed by: Cllr Lawson, seconded: Cllr Porrett, all in favour

21/056 LEGAL ADVICE RE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman confirmed the Barrister had been instructed, but had not yet provided his legal opinion. This has been promised for delivery during the next two weeks.

21/057 PLANNING

- A. To note Appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate: None advised
- B. To note Applications determined by Braintree District Council: None advised
- C. To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council:
 - i. 21/00749/FUL | Development of 80 no. age-restricted (to over-55s) bungalows; with provision of c. 4 ha of public informal open space incorporating, allotments, dog exercising area and potential land for community facility. | Land West Of Mill Lane Crossing Essex (22/4) – the Chairman invited comments from the public and the following were noted:
 - Lack of planning notices at site
 - Planning letters have not been delivered to neighbouring properties
 - Surface water run-off from the development will make worse the flooding issues in Bulford Lane and Bulford Mill Lane
 - Brook and pond at Bulford Mill Farm will not accommodate more water fed from underground drainage, streams/springs or run off without causing flooding to four listed properties
 - Bulford Mill Lane will become impassable during rainy weather and storms
 - Affected residents have spoken with developer's technical directors and flood consultants and have received assurances mitigating actions will be considered, such as restricting flow via ponds or sluice gates.
 - More houses = more traffic on single lane road unsuitable for anything larger than small family cars. Two delivery vans are unable to pass without encroaching on verges and damaging edges of brook.
 - Cumulative effect of Avondale and Countryside sites water run off with new development do not appear to have been addressed or even considered.
 - Measures along Bulford Lane/Bulford Mill Lane must be introduced to control traffic using road. (See 21/058)

Cllr Watts had to leave the meeting.

BDC to be reminded re planning notices

Action: Clerk

The Chairman asked Councillors whether the Parish Council should submit an objection to the application. This was agreed unanimously. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Rowe** **Action: Cllr Simpson**

- ii. 21/01102/TPOCON | Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a

Conservation Area - Fell 1 Blue Spruce tree | The Old Post Office The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DQ – *the Parish Council had no comments*

- D. To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council and consider if comments should be made (Householder Application, General Permitted Development Order)
 - i. 21/00900/HH | First floor side extension and front porch. | Thyme Cottage The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DG (21/4) – *the Parish Council had no comments*
 - ii. 21/00900/HH | First floor side extension and front porch. | Thyme Cottage The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DG – *the Parish Council had no comments*
- E. To note applications bordering parish for information and to consider if comments should be made:
 - i. 21/00702/DAC | Application for approval of details as reserved by condition/s A10 and A12 of approved application 15/00799/OUT. Details submitted: - General Arrangement Plan for Highway Improvements to Crossing Rd / Braintree Rd / Rickstones Rd / Cypress Rd Junction - General Arrangement Plan for Pre-Signals at Chipping Hill / Braintree Rd Junction - ITS Report for Pre-Signals at Chipping Hill / Braintree Rd Junction | Land At North East Witham Forest Road Witham Essex – *the Parish Council had no comments*
 - ii. 21/00850/OUT | Outline planning permission with all matters reserved apart from access, for up to 94 dwellings and new landscaping, open space, access, land for allotments and associated infrastructure. | Land West Of Boars Tye Road Silver End Essex – Councillors discussed the effect this development would have on the traffic issues already prevalent within the parishes of Silver End and Crossing and the possible further “creep” of developments that could reach the border between the two parishes and completely cover greenspace and surrounding farmland – *the Parish Council object to this application and will submit comments to BDC*

Action: Clerk

21/058 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- i. Previously discussed at 21/055.
- ii. The Clerk referred to emails putting forward names for the new roads in the development at Appletree Farm and asked Councillors to provide their three preferred options from the list supplied prior to the meeting. *(After the meeting and following exchanges of emails on 15th and 16th April, Cllr Watts strongly opposed the proposal to use an “apple” related theme for the development, preferring to use more names on the War Memorial. As it was necessary to finalise this matter and as all other Cllrs had agreed the apple theme, this objection has been recorded.)*

Items for inclusion on the April Agenda:

1. *Legal Opinion*
2. *Links Solar Farm*
3. *Parking and road safety in Crossing*
4. *Playing field and pavilion*

21/059 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 5th May 2021:

Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council at **6.30pm**

Parish Council Meeting immediately after, or **7.00pm**, whichever is the earlier.

These meetings will be held on-line via Zoom.

Any items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 27th April 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Dates of 2021 meetings – times may be subject to change during Covid restrictions.

May	5	7.00pm – Annual Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm – Parish Council Meeting
June	9	7.30pm
July	14	7.30pm
August	9	7.30pm
September	8	7.30pm
October	13	7.30pm
November	10	7.30pm
December	8	7.30pm