



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 5th May 2021 at 6.50pm 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 are 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.

21/070 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 Simpson, Seconded: Cllr Haines, all in favour.**

21/071 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed all attendees and added one point omitted from his report at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman complemented the Handyman, Russell Drury, on the work he has been undertaking and for assisting when the dust cart visits Cressing. He finished by thanking Cllr Watts and the Clerk on their management of his work (and for appointing him).

21/072 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from District Cllrs Abbott and Wright.

No other apologies had been received.

21/073 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.

21/074 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Mitchell provided the following updates:

- i. Virtual meetings are no longer to be held after 6th May, but is hopeful that the decision will be reversed. Virtual meetings have saved the County Council a sizeable sum of money as no Councillor travel expenses have been incurred. Virtual meetings are much more sustainable.
- ii. There will be changes to member Portfolio Holders after the election.
- iii. Large development applications are being submitted for Kelvedon and whilst they do not affect Crossing directly, they will have a cumulative impact on the roads.
- iv. Budgets for Climate Change Action Plans are being discussed.
- v. Essex Highways website and reporting tool have been updated to make them more user friendly with more functionality.

Cllr Porrett asked Cllr Mitchell if any progress had been made on reviewing the speed signs and limits on Polecat Road. This has not happened so the Clerk was requested to prepare an application for consideration by Braintree Local Highways Panel to review

Action: Clerk

21/075 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The Clerk confirmed that no requests to speak nor questions to be raised had been submitted.

21/076 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting of 14th April 2021 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, 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.

21/077 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 Lawton, seconded: Cllr Simpson, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 30th April 2021: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 31st March be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Simpson, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve April 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 Lawton, seconded Cllr Simpson, all in favour.**

21/078 LEGAL ADVICE RE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Clerk presented the fee statement received from the Barrister in the sum of £1,750

(plus VAT) and it was agreed to settle this account and request the Barrister to present his report as soon as possible and not to incur any additional fees.

21/079 PLANNING

- A. To note Appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate: None advised
- B. To discuss Appeals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate:
21/00003/ADVERT | Retrospective advertisement consent to display a single illuminated free-standing trailer mounted advertisement. | Westdrive Galleys Corner Braintree Road Crossing Essex CM77 8GA – the Parish Council continues to object to this application on the grounds of road safety, lighting and traffic.
- C. To note Applications determined by Braintree District Council: None advised
- D. To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council:
 - i. 21/01263/DAC | Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 3 of approved application 28/00920/FUL | Appletree Farm Polecat Road Crossing Essex – *no comments were made.*
 - ii. 21/01188/FUL | Demolition of garden centre sales buildings, conservatories & store/office, and the construction of a single-storey garden centre sales building of 600sqm. | Braintree Garden Centre Galleys Corner Crossing Road Braintree Essex CM77 8DH – *Councillors raised no objections to this application.*

Cllr Mitchell left the meeting.

- E. To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council and consider if comments should be made (Householder Application, General Permitted Development Order)
 - i. A new application was noted and agreed for inclusion on the agenda. 21/01079/HH | Erection of new porch and front facade; removal of two chimney stacks; new patio doors; replacement/repair of existing windows and doors; erection of new front wall and gates; and erection of a detached outbuilding to provide garage/workshop/store with first floor ancillary playroom. | The Old Vicarage The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DQ – *Whilst Councillors had no objections to this application, they were concerned to see that not all waste was being loaded into skips. A large amount of wood, some painted, had been piled at the boundary with Buttons Lane. The clerk to raise this with BDC to ensure a large bonfire is not planned due to road safety vision impairment.* **Action: Clerk**
- F. To note applications bordering parish for information and to consider if comments should be made – none advised.

21/080 LINKS SOLAR FARM

It was noted that a consultation pack had been delivered to dwellings within 2km of the site for residents to submit their feedback.

21/081 PARKING AND ROAD SAFETY

As this is a subject that requires considerable discussion, it was agreed to postpone this until the June meeting and as this will be held in the hall at St Barnabas (subject to ongoing Covid recommended restrictions) it is hoped members of the public will attend.

21/082 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- i. **Virtual meetings** – The Clerk referred to the report circulated with the agenda and confirmed that the temporary legislation that permitted meetings to be held

virtually, ceases a midnight on 6th May. However, there is huge concern within local government of this decision and further representations are being made to permit local councils to make their own decisions. In the meantime, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will be undertaking a call for evidence from local councils to help them make an informed decision on whether legislation should be reviewed. Parish Council meetings will return to face to face from June.

- ii. **Hawbush Green** - Cllr Porrett raised the damage to Hawbush Green. The clerk will make enquiries to determine who owns the land and then submit an application or report to Essex Highways for repair. **Action: Clerk**

Items for inclusion on the June Agenda:

1. *Legal Opinion*
2. *Parking and road safety*
- 3.

21/083 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 9th June 2021 at **7.30pm at St Barnabas Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG**. Social distancing will be implemented and face masks must be worn.

Any items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 1st June 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Dates of 2021 meetings

July	14	7.30pm
August	9	7.30pm
September	8	7.30pm
October	13	7.30pm
November	10	7.30pm
December	8	7.30pm