



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 10th February 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom.

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Steve Watts

In attendance:

Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO)
County Councillor Robert Mitchell
District Councillor Bob Wright
Two members 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.

21/013 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 Watts, Seconded: Cllr Lawton**

21/014 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman was pleased to welcome all attendees.

There was little to report as it had been a quiet month for correspondence into the office again, but two revised policies are on the Agenda for the meeting. The Chairman reminded Councillors of the importance of these documents and the required behaviours within them.

The Chairman praised the team at Essex Highways for their essential, efficient and regular gritting of the roads in and around Cressing. This was supported by Cllr Watts who commented that the gritters had done an excellent job. The Chairman asked County

Cllr Mitchell to pass on the Parish Council's thanks to the team.

21/015 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that District Cllr Abbott was unable to attend the meeting.

Cllr Porrett had forwarded apologies to the Clerk explaining that workers at the Appletree site had damaged electricity and telephone cabling. Repairs are awaited but there was no estimate of when the telephone service would be restored. **It was resolved** to accept these apologies. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, Seconded: Cllr Watts**

Cllrs Simpson and Lapper were also absent, but no apologies had been received.

21/016 REVISED POLICIES

The Clerk confirmed no queries had been raised in respect of the revised Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations. It was therefore agreed to adopt both policies immediately.

- i. Code of Conduct - **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded: Cllr Lawton**
- ii. Financial Regulations 2021 - **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded: Cllr Haines**

The Chairman reiterated the importance of complying with these policies.

21/017 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.

21/018 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Mitchell reported as follows:

- i. Flooding – investigation is taking place to see what can be done to alleviate this problem. The underpass at Galleys Corner had been blocked and Highways England are attending to this.
- ii. IWMF (Rivenhall Incinerator) – Cllr Mitchell is awaiting a date for liaison meeting with Indaver and Gent Fairhead. There is concern that the operators will be looking to increase capacity. Work will commence at Woodhouse Farm in the next few months to clear the site and make it more accessible.
- iii. ECC and BDC are both planning 0% increases to Council Tax, but there will be 1.5% increase for Adult Social Care.
- iv. A new “Solar Together” scheme is to be introduced for residents to purchase solar panels and batteries at competitive prices.
- v. There is no further news about the A120 decision.

District Cllr Wright provided the following updates:

- i. Cllr Wright advised that BDC would be voting on 22nd February to confirm the 0% increase on Council Tax.
- ii. BDC are allocating £0.5million to address climate change.
- iii. There will be no increase in car parking charges in Braintree.
- iv. Two Inspectors are to be appointed for Local Plan Part 2, but it is unlikely they will be able to start work until July.
- v. Cllrs Wright and Abbott will be checking the bramble and undergrowth clearance at Woodhouse Farm to ensure minimal disturbance to wildlife in that area. Indaver's new website: [Home - Rivenhall \(rivenhall-iwmf.co.uk\)](http://rivenhall-iwmf.co.uk) has more information. They will be looking to start the development tender process in the new few months.

21/019 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The Clerk confirmed that no requests to speak or discussion topics had been received.

21/020 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting of 27th January 2021 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Watts, 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.

21/021 PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Haines advised that he had been unable to carry out playing field checks for the last few months and the Clerk confirmed that Russell Drury (the Handyman) had been checking regularly. The Chairman suggested that Cllr Haines steps down from this role temporarily and that the Handyman takes on the responsibility.

The Chairman requested this item to be removed from future Agenda as it will form part of the reporting under the Handyman's role. **ACTION: Clerk**

21/022 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 Watts, seconded: Cllr Lawson, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 31st January 2021: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 31st January be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded: Cllr Lawton, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve January 2021 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments made and cheques to be signed against January expenditure was presented. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to approve the payments. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Lawton, all in favour.**

21/023 PLANNING

- i. To note Appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate: None advised
- ii. To note Applications Determined by Braintree District Council:
 - 20/01893/HH | Retention of outbuilding | 8 Halls Grove Cressing
 - 20/01720/HH | Garage conversion, link extension & single-storey front extension for attached disability annex | Pear Tree Cottage Tye Green Braintree Road
 - 20/00357/TPO | Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 7/20 - Crown reduce Oak by shortening the branches back to the original knuckles, reduce overall size of the Oak tree to maintain a balanced shape, but not cutting through main stems, the amount of reduction proposed is approx 1.5-2 metres of the branches pruned back | 26 The Westerings Cressing
- iii. To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council: None advised
- iv. To note applications bordering parish for information and to consider if comments should be made:
 - 20/02127/OUT | Outline application, with all matters reserved except access, for the demolition of existing farm outbuildings and the erection of up to 90 dwellings (including 40% affordable housing) with community park and public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and a vehicular access point from Brain Valley Avenue. | Land Off Brain Valley. It was agreed to submit an objection on behalf of

Cressing Parish Council as this development would seriously damage the Brain Valley. Cressing Parish Council supports the objections of the Parish Council and residents in Black Notley. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Haines. Action: Clerk**

21/024 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

3 Parishes Meeting – The Chairman reported on the meeting held 1st February, attended by himself and Cllr Simpson. Two main agenda items:

- i. Planning – it was agreed to submit a joint letter from Cressing, Rivenhall and Silver End Parish Councils to BDC raising concerns about the volume of development taking place without essential infrastructure. It was also agreed to offer more support to the parishes on planning applications. Cllr Mitchell commented that discussions are taking place at Essex Highways to encourage developers to invest in schemes such as flood defence.
- ii. Tree planting – site identification proceeding. Cressing has proposed tree planting along the edges of the playing field and footpath and Polecat Road.

Items for inclusion on the March Agenda:

1. *None identified.*

21/025 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at **6.30pm**. This meeting will be held on-line via Zoom. Details will be published on the Agenda.

Items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 2nd March 2021.

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

April	14	7.30pm
May	12	6.00pm – Annual Parish Assembly 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