



CRESS CROSSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a re-scheduled meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 27th January 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom.

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Susan Simpson
Cllr Steve Watts

In attendance:

Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO)
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.

21/001 RESOLUTION TO RESTRICT THE DURATION OF THE MEETING

Resolution: It was resolved to restrict the length of the meeting to 60 minutes as two attendees needed to leave the meeting early, which would cause the meeting to inquorate.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson, Seconded: Cllr Watts

21/002 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. The Parish Council’s response to the approval of the planning appeal for 250 dwellings is on the Agenda at item 21/010i.

21/003 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Porrett had forwarded apologies to the Clerk and were agreed. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, Seconded: Cllr Watts**

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

21/004 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.

21/005 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Reports had been received earlier in the month and circulated to all Councillors. District Cllr Abbott provided the following updates:

- i. Cllr Abbott expressed concern that the number of enforcement issues being submitted to BDC were causing concern. These included some related to the Bellway site in Cressing.
- ii. The retrospective advertisement application to display a single illuminated free-standing trailer mounted advertisement at Westdrive, Galleys Corner, had been refused by BDC. The applicants have now lodged an appeal.
- iii. The next 3 Parishes meeting has been agreed for 1st February when Cllr Abbott believes the main issue of discussion will be regarding planning.
- iv. Local Plan Part 2: Government has changed how the 5-year supply of housing should be calculated and an explanation of how this affects Braintree District will be discussed at the Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting due to be held on 4th February.

21/006 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

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

21/007 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting of 9th December were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Simpson, 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.

21/008 PLAYING FIELD

The report provided for the last meeting was accepted. There were no queries. The Clerk confirmed that two quotations had just been received to rectify the surface under the playground equipment, and a full report will be provided for the next meeting. The possibility of adding some additional equipment on the field was discussed, together with the possibility of extending the playground area to be funded through S.106 contributions. The Clerk will prepare a report with some suggestions for Cllrs to discuss at the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

21/009 FINANCE

- i. **Progress against budget:** The Clerk/RFO referred to the reports issued for the last meeting. 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 31st December: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 31st December be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Simpson, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve December 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. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Simpson, all in favour.**
- iv. The Clerk/~RFO confirmed the precept request had been submitted to Braintree District Council in line with the budget agreed at the December meeting.

21/010 PLANNING

i. To note Appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate: (18/00549/OUT) (APP/Z1510/W/20/3253661) application to build 250 dwellings on land between Long Green and Braintree Road – appeal allowed. It was with surprise and considerable disappointment that the Parish Council had been informed of the outcome of this appeal as the Inspector had disregarded the Neighbourhood Plan policies, that the site is wholly within the Parish of Cressing, and the District Council continues to object. Cllr Simpson confirmed her discussions with the RCCE and CPRE. The RCCE have written to the Secretary of State concerning the Neighbourhood Plan and Cllr Simpson advised that so far only an acknowledgement from the office of Priti Patel MP had been received advising that she “will keep an eye on it”.

Cllr Simpson had prepared a further letter for the Parish Council to submit to the Secretary of State as our independent legal advice indicates that there are grounds for the Parish Council to appeal the decision. The Chairman suggested that the letter be re-drafted to make it shorter with the legal points attached as an appendix.

ACTION: Cllr Simpson

ii. To **note** Applications Determined by Braintree District Council:
There were no decisions to be noted.

iii. To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council:
20/01925/DAC | Application for approval of details reserved by condition 32 (samples of external finishes) of approval 16/02144/OUT . Materials Schedule . Facade Materials Plan (Reference: MP001) . Roof Materials Plan (Reference: MP002) | Land Adjacent To Braintree Road Cressing Essex – there were no comments to be noted.

21/00030/DAC | Application for approval of details reserved by condition 15 (investigation and risk assessment, site contamination), 20 (maintenance plan) and 33 (bird and bat roost sites) of approval 16/02144/OUT | Land Adjacent To Braintree Road Cressing Essex 20/02091/VAR | Variation of conditions 35 & 36 of permission – there were no comments to be noted.

13/01476/FUL granted 29/09/2017 for Erection of DIY retail warehouse with associated access, car parking and landscaping and improvement works to the A120/B1018. – there were no comments to be noted. However, concern was expressed that the queueing traffic at the Millennium Way roundabout will become intolerable. The Clerk will contact Essex Highways to record these concerns.

ACTION: Clerk

21/011 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Developers of the Appletree Farm site are scheduled to begin removing trees shortly. There have been reports that birds are nesting in these trees already. Cllr Porrett will be asked to provide photographs of this activity so it can be followed up. **ACTION: Clerk**

Items for inclusion on the February Agenda:

1. *Revised Code of Conduct*
2. *Cressing Action Group –the Clerk will request copy of accounts on how grant has been used*
3. *Playing Field - playground*

21/012 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 10th February 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 February 2021.