



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 14TH September 2022 at 7.00pm
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Clarice Drury
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Harvey Porrett
Cllr Toria Rowe

In attendance:

Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO and Proper Officer)
County Cllr Paul Thorogood
District Cllr James Abbott
Two members of the public

22/153 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman advised that there was still no information concerning the Appeal lodged by The Willows/Il Salice. The Clerk will continue to monitor the situation. Although it is a separate item on the Agenda, the Chairman reminded all present of the Open Day and expected all Councillors to attend at some point during the day.

22/154 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Lapper and Watts. These were accepted. **Proposed: Cllr Rowe, seconded: Cllr Porrett**

22/0155 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.

22/156 CRESSING COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Mr Tilbury updated the Parish Council on the recent survey that had received a positive response. The preference was for a hardcopy magazine delivered to all houses in the Parish rather than on-line, although it is proposed that an o-line version continues. Some residents had offered to assist with delivery and these will be contacted. Unfortunately, there were few offers to assist with production.

The current team will continue to produce the magazine whilst seeking volunteers to take over the roles of Editor, Advertising and Treasurer.

The Chairman proposed that the Clerk take on the role of Treasurer and it was agreed that Mr Tilbury will follow up outside of this meeting.

The Chairman requested that the Clerk make contact with Cressing Sports Social Club to enquire why they no longer submit items or advertise their events

in the magazine.

Action: Clerk

Further discussion by Councillors to be held at the November meeting.

22/157 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk confirmed that no items had been raised for discussion at this meeting. Any matters reported by residents are responded to and actioned within 24 hours.

22/158 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Thorogood reported on Local Highways Panel applications:

- i. Footway improvements to B1018 – the Local Highways Panel considered the cost of delivery estimated at more than £19,000 to replace the tinder path was not value for money. This has been referred back to the design team for alternative options. Cllrs discussed how this had been outstanding for a number of years and suggested that the delays were caused by the various planning applications in that area, including superstore in the Retail Par and the development of 5 houses between Braintree Road and Long Green, all of which included improvements to the roadway and footpaths and all were currently stalled. Cllrs hoped this could be quickly resolved.
- ii. Speed surveys had been undertaken along Ashes Road, all of which showed average speeds were less than 50mph. Cllrs expressed their surprised and asked if it as possible to move the speed signs further along so that vehicles were able to reduce speed a further distance before approaching the Lanham Green Road junction.
- iii. Poor visibility at the junction of Lanham Green Road and Ashes Road – Cllr Thorogood was asked if Essex Highways could contact the resident of The Ashes with an order to cut back the hedge that blocks visibility of oncoming traffic from Ashes Road.

District Cllr Abbott reported:

- i. Closure of Long Green Road – whilst the scheduled date to repair the potholes near to the Waste Station, these had not yet started. Cllr Abbott will follow up and post an update on Cressing Facebook pages.
- ii. Proposed solar farms in Cressing – Cllr Abbott attended the exhibition and public consultation, but refrained from commenting due to his position on BDC Planning Committee.
- iii. BDC are considering raising recycling targets from 60% to 75%. A consultation will be held.
- iv. Warm rooms – Essex County Council and BDC are working together to implement an urgent scheme.
- v. Incinerator – So far, the abnormal load routed through Cressing and Silver End was not as big as had been advised. Future movements will be monitored. Whilst efforts are being made by Indaver to prevent HGVs and large vehicles complying with the approved route, it is expected that some will ignore those recommendations and use other routes. Note: the Clerk advised that Indaver are in discussion with Essex Highways to install additional signage for the approved routes.
- vi. BDC housing supply has dropped to 4.8 years, this means all development applications must be assessed against this. BDC will not be defending some development appeals that have been submitted. This is likely to result in

some larger development applications being submitted.

Cllrs Thorogood and Abbott, together with members of the public, left the meeting.

22/159 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14TH September 2022 were confirmed as a true record with no amendments required. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Haines.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

22/160 PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk advised that regular inspections of the field and play equipment are being undertaken and any issues dealt with immediately. Dog fouling remains an ongoing issue, despite the number of bins available on the field.

- i. Changing rooms – The Clerk continues to chase BDC for a response, but the S.106 Officer is on annual leave. The Clerk will make contact once she is back in the office. In the meantime, CSSC are being kept updated.
- ii. Seating – delivery is anticipated at the end of October, but a response for installer is awaited from BDC.
- iii. Playing field equipment – an issue has arisen in that the space earmarked for the equipment has been marked out for a new junior football pitch and CSSC advise this cannot be moved. The Clerk is looking at a possible solution and will advise Cllrs accordingly in due course. **Action: Clerk**

22/161 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Deferred to next meeting.

22/162 PARISH COUNCIL OPEN DAY

The Clerk confirmed arrangements and a rota was agreed for Cllr attendance. County and District Cllr had confirmed their attendance. Cllrs Porrett, Rowe and Drury confirmed their availability to arrange the room and set up the displays.

22/163 DUST CART AND LITTER PICK

Arrangements were confirmed and notices posted for Saturday 22nd October.

22/164 FINANCE

- i. **Annual Governance and Accountability Statement:** The RFO confirmed the closure letter had been received with a comment that the AGAR was not accurately completed before submission to review - 'Information received from the smaller authority indicates that assets totaling £54,000, had been omitted from the prior year Box 9 figure. The assets have been included in the current year Box 9 figure appropriately.' The RFO explained that this could be attributed to timing of delivery and payment for goods happening across the year end. Cllrs acknowledge and accepted the closure letter.
- ii. **Progress against budget:** The Clerk/RFO referred to the reports issued with the Agenda. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to accept the reports. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Rowe, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation on 30th September 2022: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 30th September be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Rowe, all in favour**
- iv. **A motion to approve September 2022 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments and cheques to be signed against September expenditure was

presented. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** approve the payments. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Rowe, all in favour.** Cllrs Lawton and Haines signed the cheques.

- v. **A motion to approve August 2022 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments and cheques presented against expenditure incurred in August was approved, and **it was resolved** approve the payments retrospectively due to the cancellation of the form Parish Council Meeting in September. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Rowe, all in favour.** Cllrs Lawton and Haines had signed the cheques following agreement by email.
- vi. **Streetlights:** The Clerk/RFO has received a quote for reducing the hours that the streetlights are on to compensate in part for the rises in energy costs. Currently the Parish council pays 50.86p/unit of energy. This will rise to more than 80p/unit in September. The 71 street lights are operated by individual sensors that switch on at dusk and switch off at dawn. There is a retrofit sensor that can be installed on the lights to switch on at dusk and switch off around midnight and then on again at 5.30am until dawn. These cost £60.00 each (plus VAT) [£4,260]. By not using the electricity for 5.5 hours a day (38.5 hours a week) per light fitting would not only reduce the electricity bill but increase the longevity of the lights.

Cllrs discussed whether this was a suitable solution for Cressing and felt that many residents would prefer to pay the higher charges to keep the lights on all night. **It was agreed** that the Clerk should put an item in the Community Magazine to seek residents' views. This will also be one of the consultations at the Open Day.

Action: Clerk

22/165 PLANNING

- A. To **note Appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate:** None advised
- B. To **discuss Appeals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate:** 290978 – Il Salice (The Willows) – no decision yet
- C. To **note Applications Determined by Braintree District Council or withdrawn:** None advised
- D. To **discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council:**
 - i. 22/02180/FUL | The laying out of a battery storage facility, intermediate substation, cabling, fencing, access tracks and associated drainage infrastructure on land adjacent to Braintree 400kV substation | Land Adjacent To Electricity Sub Station Site Braintree Road Cressing Essex - *no comments to make*
 - ii. 22/02206/ECCDAC | Consultation on Essex County Council - Details pursuant to Condition 21 Odour Management and Monitoring Plan for planning application ref: ESS/02/19/BTE (Continued operation of the Waste Transfer Station with varied conditions) | ECC Waste Transfer Station Cordons Farm Long Green Cressing Essex CM77 8DL - *no comments to make*
 - iii. 22/02437/PLD | Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development - Stationing of mobile home ancillary to main dwelling. | 20 Mill Lane Cressing Essex CM77 8HN – *concerns to be raised of the access to the structure having to be made through the house or via narrow alleyway to the rear. In the event of an emergency involving the elderly occupant this could cause vital delays to rescue to treatment being given. The entrance to the alleyway is narrow and parking is of real concern. The property already has*

two additional structures in the rear garden in addition to this application.

- iv. 22/02322/SCR | Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 - Screening Request (Regulation 6) - Solar Farm | Land At Cressing Farm Witham Road Cressing Essex **Removed from BDC site**
- v. 22/02502/DAC | Application for approval of details as reserved by Condition 3d (Post-Excavation Assessment) of approved application 16/02144/OUT. | Land Adjacent To Braintree Road Cressing Essex
- vi. 22/02498/FUL | Erection of 2 pairs of semi-detached two-story 3-bedroom dwellings (4 total) with associated parking, landscaping and garaging together with related operational development. | Crix House Braintree Road Cressing Essex CM77 8JB – *objection to be submitted: access to B1018 and properties not in keeping with streetscene.*
- vii. 22/02555/FUL | Erection of 1No. two-storey 6-bedroom dwelling, with detached garden store. | Birds Barn Polecat Road Cressing Essex CM77 8PH **Removed from BDC site**

22/166 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The Clerk advised of a letter proposing the return of donation to Cressing Community Hall Fund £3,783.36 as the Charity was in the process of being closed. Cllrs were requested to consider how this could be used to benefit the community of Cressing.

22/167 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NOVEMBER AGENDA:

- i. Community Policing
- ii. Highways – discussion with Essex Highways
- iii. S Plenty and Parking Project
- iv. Cressing Community Magazine
- v. Parish Paths Partnership
- vi. Open Day feedback
- vii. Cressing Community Hall Fund – return of donation
- viii. Warm Spaces – prior to meeting Clerk to seek views of CSSC.

22/168 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 9th November 2022, 7.00pm at St Barnabas Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG.

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 November 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Dates of 2022 meetings			
DECEMBER	14	7.00pm	
Dates of 2023 meetings			
JANUARY	11	7.00pm	
FEBRUARY	8	7.00pm	
MARCH	8	7.00pm	

