



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 17th August 2022 at 7.00pm
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Harvey Porrett
Cllr Toria Rowe (part only)
Cllr Steve Watts

In attendance:

Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO and Proper Officer)
District Councillor James Abbott (part only)
One member of the public (part only)

22/132 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed all attendees and reported as follows:

- i. The Willows – still no date for a decision by the Planning Inspector
- ii. Rainbow Field – further clearance work continuing
- iii. There is an increase in the number of dogs being walked off the lead, in particular around PROW's.

22/133 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors accepted apologies received from Cllrs Lapper. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, Seconded: Cllr Porrett**

22/134 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.

22/135 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The Clerk confirmed two items had been raised prior to the meeting.

- i. Parking on verges at Hawbush Green and Mill Lane – Hawbush Green is already subject of an application to the Local Highways Panel for approval to erect a barrier. It was agreed to include Mill Lane as well. **Action: Clerk**

22/136 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Thorogood is current on annual leave, so no report available, although prior to his holiday he had confirmed to the Clerk that the potholes had been put forward for repair and he had requested the LHP Officer to prioritise the protection of green verges' application.

Cllr James Abbott reported:

- i. Braintree Local Plan has been adopted by Full Council Meeting four weeks ago and there are two weeks of the legal challenge period remaining. This puts BDC in a better position to resist speculative development outside of the

Local Plan and Cressing Neighbourhood Plan sites. Any remaining in the system from before the Local Plan was adopted, will be judged according to the current criteria not those in place at the time of the application.

- ii. Government are reviewing housing requirements, but BDC remains in a good position that it will not require higher allocations.
- iii. Planning Forums will be beginning shortly.
- iv. Rivenhall Incinerator – non-material application to bring heavy duty construction vehicles through the villages likely to go forward, however there is time to comment until the application is considered. The application is specific about the number of vehicles that will be transporting equipment to the site and will be subject to wide/long load requirements for escort.
- v. BDC are conducting a scrutiny review into the cost of living crisis to see what can be put in place around the district to help those in need. Cllr Abbott recommended that Parish Councils should look at what they can offer by way of assistance.

22/137 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 113th July were confirmed as a true record with no amendments required. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Porrett.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

22/138 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The Clerk confirmed that three applications had been received and **it was agreed** that these candidates be invited to meet Councillors prior to the next Parish Council Meeting (14th September) to enable the co-option process to be completed at that time. **Action: Clerk**

22/139 20's PLENTY

The Clerk referred to the paper previously issued to Councillors and explained how the organisation could work alongside the Parish Council in submitting applications for a review of speed limits on the residential streets in Cressing. **It was agreed** to investigate, and Cllr Rowe volunteered to take the lead on this, working with concerned residents. The Clerk was requested to put an article in the next Community Magazine seeking volunteers. **Action: Clerk**

22/140 PARKING

The Clerk referred to the paper previously issued to Councillors, and that she had been informed a petition was being prepared by a resident of Jeffrey's Road. Cllrs were unaware of this, however, would support efforts to find a remedy to the serious problems around the village. **It was agreed** that potential solutions should be investigated alongside the 20's Plenty initiative. Again, Cllr Rowe agreed to lead this group and the Clerk will include this in an article for the Community Magazine. **Action: Clerk**

22/141 PLAYING FIELD

- i. Illegal encampment - The Clerk updated Cllrs on the events and the meetings and conversations with the Rural Engagement Team (Essex Police) and Essex County Traveller Unit that took place immediately the Parish Council was aware of the encampment on the playing field on 27th July. The Handyman had checked daily that the encampment did not become larger and that the field, equipment and Pavilion were undamaged. The Clerk and the Secretary of CSSC kept each other informed on actions being taken.

Essex Police served a S.61 Notice to Leave and the field vacated on 1st August. The Clerk stated that the assistance and actions taken by RET and ECTU had been exemplary, and a letter of thanks had been issued to them.

- ii. Changing Rooms - The Clerk advised that the Specification for Works had been submitted to BDC who were being chased almost daily for agreement to proceed to tender stage. **Action: Clerk**
- iii. Seating for the playing field – As above, a response from BDC is being chased. **Action: Clerk**
- iv. RoSPA report – The Clerk confirmed repairs to the roundabout were in hand and it should be fully functional again shortly.
- v. Playground equipment – Some example layouts of new equipment had been provided to Cllrs prior to the meeting. All Cllrs agreed these were very acceptable and **it was agreed** to have draft plans available for the Open Day in October to conduct a public consultation. **Action: Clerk**

22/142 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

- i. Flagpole – **it was agreed** to erect a flagpole and the Clerk will seek quotations for supply and installation. **Action: Clerk**
- ii. **It was agreed** that the most appropriate place would be the green at Hawbush Green and the Clerk will seek the necessary licenses from Essex Highways and guidance. **Action: Clerk**

22/143 PARISH COUNCIL OPEN DAY – 13th October 2022

Thursday 13th October was agreed and the Open Day will take place between 12 noon and 8.00pm at St Barnabas. Cllrs agreed to be present and will make themselves available for a couple of hours each throughout the afternoon. Full briefing packs for the consultations will be made available prior to the event for Cllrs to speak with residents. **Action: Clerk**

22/144 FINANCE

- i. **Progress against budget:** The Clerk/RFO referred to the reports issued with the Agenda. Cllr Watts queried the transfer of funds from the Reserve Account and the Clerk explained this was to cover professional fees incurred in respect of the Changing Rooms' project. There were no other queries, and **it was resolved** to accept the reports. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Porrett, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 31st July 2022: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 31st July be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Porrett, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve July 2022 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments and cheques to be signed against July expenditure was presented. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to approve the payments. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Porrett, all in favour.** Cllrs Lawton and Haines signed the cheques.

22/145 PLANNING

- A. **Appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate:** None advised.
- B. **Appeals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate:** None advised. The Willows appeal continues.
- C. **Applications determined by Braintree District Council:**

22/01475/LBC | Remove external render to investigate condition of timber frame beneath; repair frame; and re-render. | Fowlers Farm Braintree Road Cressing Essex CM77 8DJ - *APPLICATION PERMITTED*

D. Applications received by Braintree District Council:

- i. 22/02021/FUL | Erection of additional storey plus roof accommodation above existing shop parade, creating 5No. two-bedroom self-contained flats. Associated bin storage and parking. | 55-63 Jeffreys Road Cressing Essex CM77 8JQ – It was evident from comments on Cressing Facebook pages that this development was not popular with residents. Cllrs discussed and agreed that an object should be submitted, concentrating on the traffic and parking issues, particularly safety. **Action: Clerk**
- ii. 22/01789/FUL | Change of use of agricultural land to doggy day care site. | Land South Of Sheepcote Wood Station Road Cressing Essex – Cllrs had agreed objection should be submitted prior to meeting due to the short consultation period. The Chairman confirmed the Clerk had duly submitted an objection and the Parish Council had received an email from a nearby resident complementing the objection.

E. To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council and consider if comments should be made (Householder Application, General Permitted Development Order) – None advised.

F. Applications bordering parish for information – none advised.

G. Future planning applications – a request had been received from EDF for a preliminary meeting to show their proposals for potential solar farms in Cressing (see previous planning applications for Screening Requests 22/01062/SCR Land west of Lanhams Farm and 22/01061/SCR land west of Braintree Road at the railway line). A public consultation is due to be held at the end of September.

22/146 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- i. No items were raised.

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE SEPTEMBER AGENDA:

- i. Co-option of Councillors
- ii. Cressing Community Magazine
- iii. Parish Paths Partnership
- iv. Open Day

22/147 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 14th September 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 6th September 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Dates of 2022 meetings			
SEPTEMBER	14	7.00pm	
OCTOBER	12	7.00pm	

NOVEMBER	9	7.00pm	
DECEMBER	14	7.00pm	
Dates of 2023 meetings			
JANUARY	11	7.00pm	
FEBRUARY	8	7.00pm	
MARCH	8	7.00pm	