



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 8th June 2022 at 7.00pm
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Harvey Porrett
Cllr Alison Lapper
Cllr Victoria Row

In attendance:

Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO and Proper Officer)
District Councillor Bob Wright
One member of the public

22/098 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed all attendees and reported as follows:

- i. Queen's Jubilee – a very successful event with good feedback both on the day and since. People have even asked when the next event will be. Something to consider.
- ii. BDC Planning Committee Members' Forum – all Councillors have received a copy of the proposals and the Clerk will arrange an on-line discussion for 22nd June to prepare the Parish Council's response.
- iii. Co-option – only one applicant has applied, and this will be advertised again to seek more candidates. The Clerk will draft an article for inclusion in the Community Magazine.

22/099 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cllr Watts. Apologies were accepted: **proposed Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Porrett.** County Cllr Paul Thorogood and District Cllr James Abbott had sent their apologies.

22/100 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.

22/101 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The Clerk confirmed no matters had been raised prior to the meeting.

22/102 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

The Chairman proposed that as only one application had been received, a decision should be postponed with a further advertisement being published to seek more candidates. The Clerk will arrange this and draft an article for the next edition of the Community Magazine. Although some Cllrs felt the current candidate should be addressed immediately, after discussion it was agreed to wait for the results of the next advertisement. Cllrs will then discuss all

candidates before bringing them to the Parish Council Meeting for decision.

Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Haines. All in favour. Action: Clerk

22/103 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Paul Thorogood had submitted a short report|:

- i. ECC's pothole initiative has been launched, with Cllr Thorogood being able to nominate six locations for repair in the summer and autumn. Cllrs should identify these and pass to the Clerk who will advise Cllr Thorogood accordingly.
- ii. A120 dual carriageway reroute from Braintree to A12: As things currently stand it is ECC's understanding that National Highways have completed their validation/updating of the previous (survey) work and this is now progressing through their internal governance, before it goes to the Department for Transport who will present to the roads minister. If so minded, the minister is expected to make the Preferred Route Announcement this summer (possibly July). This suggests to ECC that National Highways have internally made a decision and will be making a recommendation to the Department, although all routes remain a possibility.

Cllr Bob Wright reported:

- i. Planning Committee Members' Forum – when Cllrs have discussed this, any comments and questions should be forwarded to Cllr Abbott. He clarified that this Forum will not be a requirement of Developers, who will have to pay the costs of such.
- ii. Grass verges – verges will not be cut for three years other than for visibility.
- iii. National Grid Pylons – there are concerns that insufficient investigation has been carried out to identify listed buildings, areas of scientific beauty and the potential re-routing of the A120. It has been stated that where necessary compulsory purchase will be undertaken.
- iv. The new CEO of Braintree District Council should be announced on 20th June.
- v. Cllr Abbott passed on his appreciation of the Jubilee Afternoon Tea at Cressing.

District Cllr Wright left the meeting.

22/104 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May were confirmed as a true record with no amendments required. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Haines.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May were confirmed as a true record with no amendments required. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Haines.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

22/105 ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD FROM ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- i. **Declarations of continued acceptance of Office** – Cllr Rowe signed the declaration.
- ii. **Register of Members' Interests** – Cllr Rowe confirmed there were no amendments required to her Declarations of Interest form.
- iii. **Consent Forms** – Cllr Rowe signed the consent form to receive Council Summons, Agenda and other documents by e-mail.

Cllr Watts remains outstanding for signature.

22/106 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

See Minute 22/098iii.

22/107 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW 2021/22

Following completion of the internal audit, the Clerk/RFO presented the following documents, previously issued to Cllrs:

- i. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22, page 3 signed by the Internal Auditor and page 5 by the RFO for presentation to the Parish Council
- ii. Internal audit report
- iii. End of Year financial statement
- iv. End of year Bank Reconciliation
- v. Explanation of variances from budget
- vi. VAT Refund statement

There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to approve the documents and to instruct the Chairman and Clerk/RFO to sign the AGAR as required. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Rowe. Action: Chairman and Clerk**

It was resolved to instruct the Clerk/RFO to publish the AGAR on the Parish noticeboards and website and to submit to PKF Littlejohn, the external auditors. **Action: Clerk**

22/108 FINANCE

- i. **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 Haines, seconded: Cllr Porrett, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 31st May 2022: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 31st May be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded: Cllr Porrett, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve May 2022 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments and cheques to be signed against May 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.

22/109 EMERGENCY PLANNING

The role of the Emergency Planning Officer and the Emergency Plan were explained and after discussion **it was agreed** to form a working group to finalise the Plan. Cllr Rowe offered to undertake the role of EPO. It was proposed to put an article in the Community Magazine asking for volunteers to assist. **Action: Clerk**

22/110 CLIMATE CHANGE

Examples were given of how other parish councils are responding to the need for climate change awareness and steps that can be taken to minimise the effect locally. Cllrs identified a resident who might be interested in taking on this challenge with assistance from the Parish Council. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will make contact and report back to Council. **Action: Clerk**

22/111 PLANNING

A. **Appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate:** None advised.

B. **Appeals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate:** None advised.

C. **Applications determined by Braintree District Council:** None advised.

D. **Applications received by Braintree District Council:**

- i. 22/00995/TPOCON | Notice of intent to carry out works to a tree in a Conservation Area - x 1 Cherry (C1) to the front of the property which has suffered storm damage with part of it resting on the property roof to be felled; remaining stump to be grinded below ground level, excess spoil to be cleared to leave level. Note: The homeowner is planning to plant a replacement cherry in the Winter | The Old Barn The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DQ – *APPLICATION GRANTED*
- ii. 22/00668/LBC | - Replacement of 2No. existing oil-fired boilers with new oil-fired boiler system, including new thermostat controls and wiring, and replacement of 2No. flu vents with 1No. flu vent. - Entire replacement of ensuite into the master bedroom, including relocation of existing stud partition. - Replacement of 2No. existing downstairs toilets, including tiling of the floor. | The Old Barn The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DQ – *APPLICATION GRANTED*
- iii. 22/00620/TPOCON | Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Gleditsia - Dismantle to leave monolith/ habitat stem at first union. Dieback evident in crown, multiple fractured/ hazardous limbs, poor unions - tree in close proximity to house, driveway and garden. Tree would not likely tolerate heavy reduction, and removal of all deadwood and hazardous sections would leave unbalanced and poorly structured remaining crown .- Update - The tree is now being completely removed and stump ground out. | The Old Vicarage The Street Crossing Essex CM77 8DQ – *APPLICATION GRANTED*

D. **To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council and consider if comments should be made** (Householder Application, General Permitted Development Order) –

- i. 22/01332/FUL | Change of use of existing of outbuilding to Hair Salon use class C. Derrygowna Braintree Road Crossing Essex CM77 8JB – after discussion, there were no comments to make.

E. **Applications bordering parish for information** – none advised.

22/112 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Clerk referred to the report previously forwarded to Cllrs. It was agreed the event was a great success and that a further Open Day event should be held later in the year. The Clerk was instructed to provide a report of the event for the next Community Magazine. **Action: Clerk**

22/113 PLAYING FIELD

- i. Playground - There were no issues to be reported. The annual RoSPA report has just been received and the Clerk has produced a summary of actions. This will be discussed with the Handyman and a further report provided to Cllrs.
- ii. Changing rooms – Following a meeting with the architect and structural, etc., consultants, it is hoped to have the works specification ready for the tender process by the end of June with a proposed start date at the end of August. BDC have been unresponsive to queries about release of S.106 money and the Clerk was requested to chase them. **Action: Clerk**
- iii. Seating – A response is awaited from BDC as above. **Action: Clerk**

22/114 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- i. There was nothing to be recorded.

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE JUNE AGENDA:

- i. Co-option of Councillors
- ii. Cressing Community Magazine
- iii. 3 Parishes meetings
- iv. Playground safety report

22/115 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 13th July 2022 at **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 5th July 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Dates of 2022 meetings			
JULY	13	7.00pm	
AUGUST	10	7.00pm	
SEPTEMBER	14	7.00pm	
OCTOBER	12	7.00pm	
NOVEMBER	9	7.00pm	
DECEMBER	14	7.00pm	