

CRESSING PARISH ASSEMBLY

Notes of and Reports to the meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.00pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Attending: Parish Councillors: John Lawton, Colin Haines, and Harvey Porrett; District Councillors James Abbott and Bob Wright; Parish Clerk Christine Marshall.

No members of the community were in attendance.

The Assembly notices announced this meeting to be an Open Forum for free discussion between residents and Councillors. Coming so soon after an uncontested local election with only three candidates, it was to be an opportunity for residents to raise topics that concerned or interested them. A chance to find out more about what the Parish Council can and cannot do and to discuss any projects that residents would like to see in the parish over the next four years.

Chairman of the Meeting: Councillor John Lawton signed the notes of the Assembly held on 11th May 2022 and then presented his report as follows:

An enquiry was received from one resident with a number of queries. This was received by email but arrived after the office had closed and it was not possible to address these queries at the meeting. A response will be provided shortly.

SPEEDING

We have a new co-ordinator, but we do need more volunteers. We are just finalising a date in June for Councillors to go out with the CSW group and our local Community Support Police Officers for a speed-check and to get advice from the experts on how we operate.

PARKING

Due to the housing types in Cressing, many of which were designed and built when residents had just one vehicle (or none at all), the increase in numbers of vehicles per household has grown to a level where the roads are becoming one huge parking lot. This is exacerbated by parents taking their children to or from school where there is no parking available and so the car park at the playing field gets used. This has an effect on the use of the field by others who need to drive there for an event, meeting or group activity.

PLANNING

All applications received by BDC for developments in Cressing Parish, whether for multiple properties or just one, are considered by Councillors at their monthly meetings for the effect on existing properties and residents. The adopted Neighbourhood Plan plays a part in these decisions, along with material and non-material considerations. However, Cressing PC is **not** the planning authority so can only comment on applications, it is BDC that makes the final decision.

This year has seen a number of developments being refused planning permission by BDC, only for the Planning Inspectorate to over-turn that decision at Appeal.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

The Parish Council remains vigilant on developments that do go ahead to be confident that the developers are adhering to conditions. Where there is doubt an enforcement enquiry is submitted to BDC, who then investigate.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

So much has happened in the last year. The late-Queen's Diamond Jubilee saw the residents of Cressing celebrating the event at the playing field where the Parish Council, with the Cressing Sports & Social Club, was very pleased to host a traditional Afternoon Tea. Attended by 150 guests, we were able to enjoy delicious sandwiches and cakes, free-flowing tea and a glass of bubbly for the Royal Toast. A well-stocked raffle was held with the ticket numbers being picked by the PC Chairman. No-one left empty-handed as a small commemorative gift was given to everyone that came along. The cost was covered by a grant from National Lottery as well as a sum allocated by the Parish Council to give our residents a free event.

KING CHARLES III CORONATION

The last thing we expected was to be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III less than a year after the Jubilee. For the Coronation the Parish Council supported (Councillor) Alison Lapper to organise a small event on the playing field.

Unfortunately, the weather did not play ball with us and we had rain throughout the afternoon. That did not dampen spirits and we had a constant stream of residents come along to see the various craft stalls selling their goods in the marquee, a huge Tombola and an excellent raffle. The Parish Council provided unlimited use of the bouncy castles as well as free ice-cream for all the children, and as you might expect, these proved extremely popular. The children were very happy splashing about in the mud and the rain!

Fees for the Tombola and Raffle, together with the small charge for stalls, produced a much needed donation for the Cressing Food Bank of £500. Residents have the heartfelt thanks of the Parish Council for supporting an event that we hope will become a catalyst for a regular event in the parish, only bigger!

PLAYING FIELD

A lot of work has been undertaken to clear much of the overgrown brambles and other scrub, creating a larger area and making it tidy. Where residents of Benton Close and The Westerings have been trimming those shrubs and trees outside their gardens which back on to the field, that effort has been respected and those areas remain untouched, other than to remove unwanted scrub.

There have been indications that some people have been misusing on the picnic tables.

SEATING ON PLAYING FIELD

Work is well advanced on installing the new seating on the field which includes benches, picnic tables (one suitable for wheelchair) and junior picnic tables. The positioning has allowed space around the marked football pitch for linesmen, etc., and to ensure there is plenty of space between the pitch and the seats for people to move about. The tables have been positioned away from the pitch, but close

enough to the playground and pavilion for users of those facilities.

CHANGING ROOMS

After advertising the contract several times, three quotations were received eventually for comparison to re-build the changing rooms. This has enabled the Parish Council to seek the additional external funding required to start work. We will update residents as this progresses.

LOCAL ELECTION

Local elections at the beginning of May were held across Essex. In Cressing, only three of the Councillors in post at that time submitted nominations. Consequently, this became an uncontested election and Councillors Lawton, Haines and Porrett were re-elected to serve. We have until late June for new co-option applications to be submitted without having to follow the usual procedure of notices being issued by BDC. Councillors who were not re-elected have to wait six months before they can be co-opted back onto Cressing Parish Council, but applications from other residents are encouraged. Please contact the Parish Clerk if interested.

Close of meeting

There being no further reports to be heard, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.50pm.