



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Cressing Parish Council
held on 17th May 2023 at 7.30pm
at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Harvey Porrett

In attendance:

Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO and Proper Officer)
District Cllr James Abbott
District Cllr Bob Wright
No members of the public attended.

23-4/032 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman declared the meeting open.

23-4/033 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Thorogood and a copy of his report will be added to these Minutes.

23-4/034 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 to be recorded in relation to items on the agenda.

23-4/035 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk confirmed that no items had been raised for discussion at this meeting.

23-4/036 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Abbott reported:

- i. Cllrs Wright and Abbott had been returned at the local election with the largest majority.
- ii. Structures of BDC Committees will be finalised shortly.

Cllr Thorogood had provided the following report from the recent Local Highways Panel:

- i. Damaged road signs: Essex Highways, have been requested to investigate if a proactive approach towards the replacement and maintenance of road signs in the Braintree District might be implemented; how a sum of approximately £100,000 allocated by Braintree District Council for such work in Braintree town might be utilised; and to ascertain the outcome of a joint discussion between Essex County Council and Braintree District Council on this matter. **Update:** - It was proposed that a list of damaged and outdated signs should be prepared. Cllr Thorogood to be advised of any damaged signs in the village that need replacing. **Action: Clerk**
- ii. It was reported that the following scheme had been cancelled. (Walking) Dropped kerbs, Jeffrey's Road, j/w Mill Lane, Cressing.
- iii. It was proposed and approved that the schemes listed on the 'Schemes Awaiting Funding' report which had been categorised as 'green', should be recommended by the Panel for approval and included in the Panel's programme of work for 2023/24: The Street and Church Road, Cressing - Traffic Management Improvements - A request to investigate the installation of a weight limit and width on The Street and speeding issues along Church Road Cressing. Traffic Management Design

LBRA212044 £6,000 Design has been completed, just awaiting final design to be sent COMPLETED

Benton Close, Cressing, Braintree - Pathway Re-Surfacing - A request to investigate replacing the greensward and kerbing with a harder surface

LBRA212054 TBC In validation

- iv. It was recommended and accepted that the following schemes, the status of which has been assessed as 'red' as they do not meet the criteria, are removed from the list of potential schemes subject to the specific comments denoted:-
 LBRA202002 – Traffic management improvements, Ashes Road, Cressing
 Estimated Cost:- Not known;
 LBRA212042 – Parking, Jeffrey's Road, j/w Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing Estimated Cost:- Not known;
 LBRA212043 – Installation of barriers to prevent parking, Braintree Road and Hawbush Green, Cressing Estimated Cost:- Not known

23-4/037 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th April 2023 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Porrett.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

23-4/038 KING'S CORONATION 6TH MAY 2023

Thanks were recorded for the work undertaken by ex-cllr Lapper in organising this event.

23-4/039 PLAYING FIELD

- i. Refer to Clerk's Report appended to these Minutes.
- ii. The Clerk was requested to enquire about replacing the bench at the bottom of Polecat Road, next to the noticeboard. **Action: Clerk**

23-4/040 FINANCE

- i. **Financial statements:** The Clerk/RFO referred to the April reports issued with the Agenda. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to accept the reports. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Haines, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 30th April 2023: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Haines, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve payments for April 2023:** The list of payments and cheques to be signed were 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.

23-4/041 PLANNING

For the first time in a number of years, there were no planning applications to be discussed.

23-4/042 INFORMATION EXCHANGE & ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE JUNE AGENDA:

Information:

June Agenda:

- i. Emergency Planning

23-4/043 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 14th June 2023, 7.00pm at St Barnabas Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG. Items for the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 6th June.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

2023 meetings						
JULY	12	7.00pm	OCTOBER	11	7.00pm	
AUGUST	9	7.00pm	NOVEMBER	8	7.00pm	
SEPTEMBER	13	7.00pm	DECEMBER	13	7.00pm	

CLERK'S REPORT FOR MEETING 17th MAY 2023

Keep warm coffee mornings

These continue to be attended by some regular residents but we are also seeing more people come along. The events are very well received and residents find it useful to meet Councillors in an informal setting and to have their questions answered. Opinion has been sought of attendees, who all think they serve a very useful purpose in the village and would like them to continue.

Playing Field/S.106

The seating is being installed by the Handyman due to lack of progress with BDC and release of S.106 money. It will cost less having the work carried out "in house" and means that the S.106 funds earmarked for this can be allocated elsewhere.

There has been a comment that the rabbits on the playing field are increasing and digging holes across the field and should be "dealt with". Whilst there is evidence that there are more rabbits (more easily seen since removal of the brambles, etc.), the perceived increase is probably a result of housing development on land previously occupied by the rabbits. It is likely that over the summer months the numbers will reduce naturally again. HM Government under their Wildlife and Habitat Conservation guidelines gives advice on controlling rabbits where they are causing damage to crops, and if Councillors feel it is a problem, the appropriate guidance will be sought from a reputable pest control organisation.

Changing rooms/S.106

The surveyors have given their recommendations based on the quotations received following the second attempt of getting interest from contractors. The one recommended is the lower of the prices and includes a contingency amount. The Surveyor has experience of working with this company and has no concerns about their standard of work. Again, I am endeavouring to get responses from BDC, but in the meantime am looking to various organisations for grant funding. I estimate that a funded total in the region of £70 to £100,000 will be required.

Local Elections

With only three Councillors submitting nominations paper, the election was uncontested. Notice for co-option applications has been published, but to date none submitted. The "grace" period following an election for new applications expires on 27th June. If no applications received by this date it will be necessary to go through the full process of requesting formal notice to be published by BDC.

Family Fun Day – although not a Parish Council event, this was organised by then Cllr Ali Lapper (who was not available on the day) and funded entirely by Cressing Parish Council. Despite appalling weather, the day can be considered a success with a lot of very positive feedback on Facebook and verbal comments received after the event. A full report will be published in the June edition of the Community Magazine.

It has been suggested by many that a Village fete should be considered for 2024.

Dust cart - This was hosted at the end of April. It proved very popular once again with residents, many of whom expressed their gratitude that the Parish Council arranges such a facility. As usual the Handyman, as well as the Clerk (and husband) were on hand to assist residents in bringing

items for disposal.

Salt bins - This was raised in my February report, and Councillors are asked to consider the provision of salt bins around the parish. Some suggested locations might include Forfields Way, Coronation Way/Evelyn Wood Road, Polecat Road, The Street and The Westerings. These would be a very welcome addition to facilities available to residents.

Resident enquiries – Enquiries have been received both in person, email and also through the website contact form, covering topics such as faulty light fittings (owned by Essex Highways, not the PC), potholes, puddles, ditches, residential developments, etc.

One communication was submitted anonymously about an unlicensed dog breeder. A reply to this was attempted using the email supplied to give guidance as to how this should be reported to both BDC and the RSPCA. Unfortunately, the email did not work so some hints and tips about contacting the Parish Council will be included in the June Community Magazine. I respond to every communication received, so to have one that cannot be dealt with is very frustrating.

Office rent – as expected, the invoice for 2023-24 rent has been received at an increased rate of almost 11%. The Parish Council has been requested to assist with the cost of repairs and redecoration of St Barnabas in the sum of £75.00
