



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held on 8th November 2023 at 7.00pm 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)
County Cllr Paul Thorogood
District Cllr James Abbott
District Cllr Bob Wright
4 members of the public from Bulford Mill Lane

23-4/090 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman declared the meeting open and reported as follows:

- i. Il Salice (The Willows) is now under new management and BDC have outlined the issues and steps required to comply with the enforcement notice, and they are keen to resolve this matter.
- ii. Work to replace the changing rooms at the Playing field has begun and is due for completion end March 2024. This is being funded through S.106 monies as well as grants and Parish Council Reserves. The Chairman stressed that this is a community facility for every sport or group in the area and is not solely for the use of football teams. A strategy to attract other sporting clubs to use the facilities will begin early in 2024.
- iii. Two planning applications for solar farms have just been submitted by EDF Renewables. Public consultations were held in August 2022, but the Clerk has been asked to organize a public meeting as soon as possible for EDF to share their plans with the community.
- iv. Road works and particularly road closures are still causing considerable disruption to residents and despite the continued efforts of the Parish Clerk, satisfactory responses have not been received from the companies involved. There is an obvious lack of co-ordination and communication between the companies and Essex Highways who maintain that they are unable to refuse requests from utility companies, regardless of what is already planned for those locations. Matters are made worse when recently completed roadworks are opened once again (often within a few days) for yet more work to be undertaken. Two sets of traffic lights controlling traffic on the B1018 within a few hundred meters are unacceptable.
- v. The Clerk has been asked to invite Essex County Cllr Tom Cunningham who has replaced Cllr Lee Scott as Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport to the next Parish Council Meeting. **Action: Clerk**

23-4/091 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no absences to be recorded.

23-4/092 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.

23-4/093 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk confirmed that one item had been received for discussion at this meeting: planning application: 23/02534/FUL | Development of 78 bungalows consisting of bungalows for market sale with an age restriction (over-55's) and affordable housing bungalows with no age restriction; with the provision of public open space, including allotments, community building, associated works and the change of use of land from agricultural to domestic garden (resubmission of 21/00749/FUL) | Land West Of Mill Lane Cressing Essex. The Chairman opened the discussion reminding Cllrs that in the presence of District Cllrs Abbott and Wright (ref BDC Planning Committee), this topic could be discussed generally to receive the concerns of members of the public present.

The following points were raised:

Existing flooding will be exacerbated by new development

Flooding of stream and ford

Blocked drains

Rubbish blocking pipes and not maintained

Continual flooding undermining road and washing away verges

Houses being flooded, damaging historic properties

Residents frequently assisting motorists (including HGV vehicles) who get caught in the flooded road, as well as helping those who mis-judge the flooded road edge and inadvertently drive into the river

Approx 50% of new development to be hard landscaped.

Insufficient provision for run-off water to be properly managed

Inevitable loss of wildlife

Reduction in number of age-restricted properties will inevitably result in more vehicles at this location

Bulford Mill Lane is classified a 'protected lane' by Essex Highways and needs physical protection measures in place to prevent erosion/damage

The Chairman thanked residents for attending and sharing their views, and for those present respecting the position of the District and County Cllrs by not asking for their comments or views. He added that the Parish Cllrs would discuss this further later in the meeting after the District and County Cllrs left.

Residents now left the meeting.

23-4/094 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Abbott:

- i. BDC Budget to be presented at a public meeting shortly when pressure will be put forward to retain Street Cleaning contracts.
- ii. Local Plan 2033 – review to begin in 202.
- iii. Garden waste collections – to date less than 20% of residents have signed up for the scheme. The concern is that more fly-tipping will be experienced.
- iv. Oak tree – Cllr Abbott still awaits details of process for the decision-making process when approval was given for the removal of a mature tree in Mill Lane prior to the published decision date.
- v. Both District Cllrs committed to Remembrance Day services in Rivenhall and Silver End. Apologies given that they will be unable to attend Cressing.

County Cllr Paul Thorogood:

- i. Gulleys are not being cleared regularly, resulting in more flooding, and requested recent photos of flooding in Cressing to be sent to him. **Action: Clerk**
- ii. Cabinet Member for Highways now Cllr Tom Cunningham. Previous member now Cabinet Member for Planning a Growing Economy.
- iii. ECC will host public meetings on the new Minerals Waste Plan.
- iv. Further consultation to be held on recycling plan.

County and District Cllrs left the meeting.

23-4/095 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 11th October 2023 were confirmed as a correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Haines**

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

23-4/096 PLAYING FIELD

- i. Work to changing rooms proceeding on schedule.
- ii. It is understood there have been some complaints about the reduction in parking availability whilst the rebuild of the changing rooms takes place. This had been publicised several times prior to work starting.
- iii. Repairs are needed to the fence and gates, chains for the swings and the roundabout. The Clerk advised that a quotation from a local business amounted to £2,230. As the roundabout had been repaired a few years ago, **Cllrs agreed** the repairs to the fence, gates and swings should proceed at a cost of £1,110 and quotations sought for a new roundabout. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Lawton. Action: Clerk**
- iv. The Clerk advised that Polecat Road and footway were left in a poor state after the compound was moved and UKPN has been asked to get this cleaned to prevent accidents. **Action: Clerk**
- v. A meeting will be held to discuss the offer of volunteer assistance from Kier (on behalf of UKPN) and The Clerk will report back after that meeting. **Action: Clerk**

23-4/097 FOOTPATHS

It was agreed to purchase an additional dog bin to be located at PROW 10 at its Polecat Road access. The Clerk advised Cllrs that BDC were reviewing their policy on dog and waste litter bins, but it is unlikely that results of this will be available until early 2024. BDC are therefore not purchasing/installing new equipment until those results are known but in the meantime the Clerk will progress an order by CPC. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Lawton. Action: Clerk**

23-4/098 SEATING

It was agreed to place benches in the following order at:

- school layby
- bottom of Polecat Road
- Rainbow Field
- outside the mobility shop in Jeffrey's Road

Cllrs recorded their thanks to District Cllrs Abbott and Wright who were granting funds to purchase the first of these benches.

Proposed by: Cllr Porrett, seconded by: Cllr Lawton

Action: Clerk

23-4/099 FINANCE

- i. **Financial statements:** The Clerk/RFO referred to the October reports issued to Cllrs. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to accept the reports. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Lawton, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 7th November 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 October 2023: Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Haines, all in favour.** Cllrs signed the cheques. **Action: Clerk**

23-4/100 PLANNING

Appeals – no appeals had been notified.

Applications determined: None advised

Applications received:

23/02534/FUL | Development of 78 bungalows consisting of bungalows for market sale with an age restriction (over-55's) and affordable housing bungalows with no age restriction; with the provision of public open space, including allotments, community building, associated works and the change of use of land from agricultural to domestic

garden (resubmission of 21/00749/FUL) | Land West Of Mill Lane Cressing Essex – following representations made by residents earlier in the meeting, Cllrs discussed the application and agreed to object, expanding on comments from the previous application.

Action: Clerk

Applications received by Braintree District Council and considered if comments should be made (Householder Application, General Permitted Development Order):

The following applications were noted:

- i. 23/02600/S106A | Application made under Section 106a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations) Regulations 1992 (as amended) - Application to amend the spend purposes specified in Schedule 1 (Outdoor Sport); Schedule 2 (Indoor Sport) and amendments to definitions within Schedule 5 (Affordable Housing) of S106 Legal Agreement relating to 18/00549/OUT (allowed under appeal 20/00056/REF). | Land Opposite Sandiacres Long Green Cressing Essex
- ii. 23/02546/HH | Erection of garage, alterations to driveway, retaining wall and vehicle gates. | Wayside Church Road Cressing Essex CM77 8PG
- iii. 23/02597/DAC | Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 4 of approved application 21/03508/FUL | Cressing Sports And Social Club Jeffreys Road Cressing Essex CM77 8JH

There were no applications to note in neighbouring parishes.

Enforcement Enquiries – see Chairman's opening remarks.

23-4/101 LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

After discussion Cllrs agreed the following:

2021 applications

Bulford Mill Lane flooding and speed reduction measures - remain

Lighting over footpath PROW 15 (B1018 through to Benton Close) – remove application

2022 applications

Parking improvements to Benton Close – already refused by LHP

2023 applications

Speed restriction B1018 lowering limit through village to 30mph from Mill Lane to Polecat Road, past the school - remain

Speed limit reduction from Witham when entering Cressing from 50 to 40mph - remain

New (repeat) applications to be submitted

The Street – weight restriction and speed reduction measures

Improvements to visibility at and approaching junction Lanham Green Road/Ashes Road/The Street

Action: Clerk

23-4/102 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The Clerk was requested to notify BDC that the Council now wishes to co-opt on to the Parish Council. Depending on the results of the BDC advertisement, the Clerk will prepare a suitable notice for the noticeboards, website and magazine. **Action: Clerk**

23-4/103 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

No items raised.

23-4/104 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 13th December 2023 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 December 2023.

The Chairman declared the public meeting closed at 8.50pm.

23-4/105 CLOSED MEETING

The Chairman proposed under Standing Order 3.w “A meeting shall not exceed a period of 2 hours.” a motion to extend the meeting to complete a closed session. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Porrett.**

23-4/106 EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Clerk shared with the Council notices received from the National Association of Local Councils regarding the national pay award with effect from 1st April 2023 and as agreed by the Local Government Association, NALC, SLCC and unions. The figures, together with calculations for backpay due to employees, were discussed and agreed. The Clerk was asked to implement these effective from the November salary.

Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllrs Lawton and Haines.

Action: Clerk

The closed meeting ended at 9.10pm

2024 meetings					
JANUARY	10			JULY	10
FEBRUARY	14			AUGUST	14
MARCH	13			SEPTEMBER	11
APRIL	10			OCTOBER	9
MAY	8	ANNUAL MEETINGS		NOVEMBER	13
JUNE	12			DECEMBER	11