

CRESSING PARISH ASSEMBLY

Notes of and Reports to the meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 6.30pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Attending: Parish Councillor John Lawton (Chairman)
Colin Haines, Harvey Porrett, Tony Sim; District Councillor Bob Wright; Parish Clerk Christine Marshall and three members of the community.

Chairman of the Meeting: Councillor John Lawton presented his report covering the following items:

Community

- Amenity vehicle twice/year – this has proved popular and welcome by residents of the Parish. It is proposed to continue providing this service at just two locations: car park of Il Salice (The Willows) and car park of St. Barnabas.
- Warm Space coffee mornings weekly – a regular attendance with some new people attending in recent weeks. It is hoped that these will continue and that more residents will come along.

Changing rooms

- The re-build of the changing rooms completed at the end of March following a long delay due to circumstances outside the control of the Parish Council. This facility has now been handed over to Cressing Sports & Social Club for management and for them to encourage more sports at the playing field to make full use of the changing rooms' facility.
- An event is planned to mark the opening of this new facility for the community, but as yet no date has been agreed.

Playground equipment

- Swings renovated – a new seat and chains were fitted as some wear had been noted during the regular inspections.
- Gates repaired and re-hung safely – the gates had been damaged due to "rough" use. These have now been professionally repaired so they close properly and are safe.
- New inclusive roundabout is due for installation end May/early June and has been specifically chosen so that it can be used by all children, whether able bodied or disabled.

Planning, Appeals & enforcement

- The application for five custom built houses in Ashes Road, refused permission by BDC, has been taken to appeal. The Parish Council remains of the opinion that the location is not suitable for this development and will continue to oppose it.
- The proposed development by Scott Properties for 78 bungalows off Mill Lane/Bulford Lane remains a prospect. This has been going on for a couple of years but the developer keeps amending the proposal to incorporate any objections made. Again, this is consider an inappropriate location for development due to traffic increase and loss of amenity for residents. The Parish Council will continue to oppose the application.
- The application for a Doggy Day Care Centre, Station Road was refused by BDC and the applicants have now taken this to appeal.

- An application to create a dog walking field on the exact same site as the doggy day care centre has recently been submitted to BDC. The Parish Council's objections to this proposal remain the same for both applications.

Current housing developments

- Appletree Farm remains unfinished due to the financial failure of the developer. The Parish Council hopes that a solution will be found and the development rescued.
- The Paddocks; Countryside Properties was taken over by Vistry Group in September 2022. A resident of the development attending this meeting advised that building on the site continues, but some properties remain without mains power and are reliant on a generator for electricity.
- The Persimmon development between Braintree Road and Long Green continues with a focus on the provision of the new roundabout and access from the B1018. There remains confusion over the proposed roundabout at the entrance to the development from Long Green.
- Rainier Developments land east of Braintree Road has not been started and there is concern that this may be "sold on" to form part of a larger development that incorporates land to the rear of the site.

Future/current projects

- It is proposed that planters will be installed at the entrances to the Parish in an attempt to make motorists realise they are entering a village environment where speeding will not be tolerated.
- Depending on budget and availability of grant funding, additional equipment is proposed for the playground to provide a more varied experience for younger children.
- Some of the old seats around the Parish will be replaced and new ones installed, subject to budgets and available funding.

Parish Church Report

The Rev. Tayrina Ferguson submitted the following report that was read into the meeting by the Chairman:

Please find below report from the Parish Church of All Saints & St Barnabas;

This past year has been transformational for the parish Church of All Saints and St Barnabas. In late September I joined the parish as the Curate (a trainee vicar to you and me) and we began the process of reinvigorating the life and community of the church. Part of this plan involves the ambitious plans to modify and re-order All Saints Church by installing toilets, a kitchen improving access and heating. The outside will not be altered, but these things will be achieved by re-ordering what is inside the building, and making best use of the space. When the plans are a little more solid, we look forward to sharing them with the wider community.

In the meantime, we have changed location to St Barnabas Church for our weekly worship. We are a lively little community, drawing people from across the parish and its outskirts and growing at a steady rate. Being able to access the kitchen facilities means we can linger, chat and develop the relationships necessary for a thriving community. Our Christmas and Easter services and activities were hugely well supported, and we are so grateful to the community for their generous help running these services and events. We're looking forward to bigger and better things next year!

The people of Cressing have been very warm, welcoming, and friendly. I consider myself very privileged to be serving here and look forward to continuing to do so for many years to come.

God Bless,
Rev Tayrina.

Police Report

It was not possible for an Officer to attend the meeting, but they submitted a report which will be posted on the Parish Council website.

Close of meeting

There being no further reports to be heard, or items for discussion, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.55pm.