



**CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**  
**held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.00pm at**  
**St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing.**

**Present:** Cllr John Lawton – Chairman  
Cllr Colin Haines  
Cllr Christine Ives  
Cllr Eileen Mottershead  
Cllr Tony Sim

**In attendance:**

Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO and Proper Officer)  
No members of the public

**24-5/106 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All Parish Councillors were present, but due to County and District Council commitments, Cllrs Thorogood, Abbott and Wright were unable to attend.

**24-5/107 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and advised that **apologies** had been received from County and District Cllrs Thorogood, Abbott and Wright. The Chairman reported the following:

- It was pleasing to note that The Willows (Village Indigo) was finally open and wished them success
- The meeting with Dame Priti Patel MP had taken place. Following this introductory meeting with Councillors, a public meeting will be arranged for early 2025 (probably February). This will be an opportunity for residents to speak with her and raise any concerns.
- A communication received from a resident was considered and it was felt that it required an acknowledgement that the points had been noted.

**24-5/108 MEMBERS 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.

**24-5/109 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Other than the item mentioned in 24-5/106, no items had been raised.

**24-5/110 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were confirmed as a correct record. It was resolved to adopt these. Proposed: Cllr Lawton seconded: Cllr Ives, all in favour. **Resolution:** to confirm the Minutes as a correct record. **Proposed Cllr Sim, seconded Cllr Mottershead. All in favour.**

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**24-5/111 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

The Clerk confirmed reports had been received and circulated to all Councillors. The Main topics of note were:

- Cllr Thorogood has submitted 21 questions to the ECC Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Waste, Cllr Peter Schwier, around waste contracts, Rivenhall incinerator and disposal of black bag waste, pollution due to waste treatment, delivery of waste to the incinerator site and the impact on the A120, treatment of

waste pending completion of the incinerator.

- Ongoing roadworks and delays in completing
- Local Plan Committee now unlikely to meet until May 2025 to discuss the Call for Sites
- Litter picking
- Abandoned caravans, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour
- Issues related to Persimmon development and footpath along B1018 Tye Green to Braintree.

#### 24-5/112 MEETING WITH DAME PRITI PATEL, MP

The Chairman reported on the meeting with Priti Patel. The following items were discussed:

- Road safety; speed of vehicles, lack of safe crossing points on B1016 and footpaths. She has indicated her support to the Parish Council for applications to address these issues.
- Rivenhall Incinerator; concerns of HGVs using roads through Cressing and other villages in the event of the A12 or A120 being closed for any reason. These concerns will be raised by her with Indaver at their next meeting.
- Sandiacres; concerns about safety of children using the road carelessly at Long Green, untidy site, caravans being abandoned.
- Planning creep; Dame Priti empathises with the amount of development within the Cressing boundary and villages within the district, fears there may be more as a result of Government requirements for additional housing stock targets.
- Lack of amenities; local shops, medical provision, unreliability of the Post Office remaining open. Dame Priti agreed to look into why this keeps happening and to request contingency plans in the event of this happening again.
- The Willows – Dame Priti will arrange to meet the new leaseholder to understand the issues around enforcement notices and to seek comment from BDC.
- A meeting for residents to meet Dame Priti Patel, MP, in 2025 has been agreed and details will be published when the date is confirmed.

#### 24-5/113 NATIONAL PAY AWARD

**Resolution:** to implement the National Pay Award advised by the National Association of Local Councils in accordance with contractual obligations. **Proposed Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Ives. All in favour.**

#### 24-5/114 FINANCE

The Clerk/RFO presented the financial reports previously provided to Cllrs. There were no queries. **Resolution:** To confirm receipt and approval of financial statements to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024. **Proposed Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Haines, all in favour.**

#### 24-5/115 BUDGET PREPARATION 2025-26

The Clerk/RFO referred to the draft Budget previously sent to Councillors. This was discussed and amendments suggested. These will be reflected in the next draft to be sent to Councillors for further discussion and adoption at the December meeting when precept will be decided.

**ACTION: CLERK/RFO**

Cllrs Ives and Mottershead reported on a discussion with ECC and BDC in support of their Cost-of-Living initiative to establish a "Community Pantry". Several concerns were raised concerning the effectiveness of this in serving only those who are eligible (elderly, vulnerable, disabled, single parent families and those struggling to feed their family). After discussion it was agreed that further information should be sought from BDC for approximate numbers eligible in Cressing and a status report/business plan should be presented to full council in December for decision on whether to include this in the budget for 2025-26. **ACTION: CLLRS IVES AND MOTTERHEAD, ASSISTED BY THE CLERK**

#### 24-5/116 WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME

Following discussion of ongoing costs to replenish salt/grit supplies, no decision was

reached. The Clerk will seek further costs for this to be discussed further at the December meeting.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**24-5/117 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

Due to time constraints, **it was agreed** to postpone this discussion until the December meeting.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**24-5/118 OPEN SPACES PLAN**

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the relevance of the Braintree Open Spaces Plan (now re-named Potential Open Space Improvements) in relation to S.106 contributions and budget setting of projects Councillors may wish to undertake. **It was agreed** to consider this at the December meeting and to seek suggestions from residents as to what they may wish to see in the Parish.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**24-5/119 PLANNING**

There were no new applications to be discussed, but the following were noted:

Appeal determined by the Planning Inspectorate: 23/00220/FUL | Erection of 5 No. custom-built dwellings and landscaping. | Ashes Field The Street Cressing Essex CM77 8DQ – **Appeal dismissed**

Application received by Braintree District: 24/01104/VAR||Land Adjacent To Braintree Road Cressing Essex | Variation of Conditions 1, 2 and 6.

**24-5/120 PARKING AT MILL LANE/B1018 JUNCTION**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Council has no powers to address this issue other than to refer it to Essex Highways for action. Following discussion, it was agreed for the Clerk to undertake this action. **Resolution:** To seek action from Essex Highways to address parking issues in Cressing.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**24-25/121 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Salt Bins (winter salt bags scheme)
- Communications Strategy
- Budget 2025-26
- Agreement of Precept required

**24-5/123 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 7.00pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing.

Any additional items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than midday on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024.

**24-5/124 MEETING CLOSED**

There being no further business to be discussed at this time, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

**Dates of meetings for 2025**

|                         |                           |                            |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> January | 12 <sup>th</sup> February | 12 <sup>th</sup> March     |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> April   | 14 <sup>th</sup> May      | 11 <sup>th</sup> June      |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> July    | 13 <sup>th</sup> August   | 10 <sup>th</sup> September |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> October | 12 <sup>th</sup> November | 10 <sup>th</sup> December  |