



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held on 14th February 2024 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)
3 members of the public

23-4/121 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman declared the meeting open and welcomed those present.

The Chairman then reported as follows:

- i. Scott Properties, 78 bungalows – planning application unlikely to go before BDC Planning Committee for decision until end of March.
- ii. Cllr Thorogood has made a request for the flooding at the bends on the B1018 to be attended to urgently. It is noted that sandbags and cones have been placed around the damaged road edge pending repair.
- iii. Il Salice (The Willows) – it is understood a resident has contacted BDC regarding non-compliance with change of use.

23-4/122 ESSEX HIGHWAYS

The Chairman advised this item would be deferred to the next meeting as it required discussion with Cllr Thorogood.

23-4/123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no absences of Parish Councillors to be recorded, but apologies were received from District Cllrs Abbott and Wright.

23-4/124 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Clerk confirmed one application had been received and the candidate was present. The Chairman requested that an informal meeting should be held prior to the next Parish Council meeting. Cllrs agreed and the Clerk will arrange a suitable time. **Action: Clerk**

23-4/125 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.

23-4/126 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk advised that a request had been received for the defibrillators to be registered with an organisation called Defibfinder UK. All defibrillators owned by the Parish Council are registered with The Circuit as well as the Emergency Services. In the event of an emergency contact should always be made to the Emergency Services who will be able to direct the called to the nearest defibrillator. It was agreed that they could also be recorded on this additional database.

23-4/127 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllrs Abbott and Wright, unable to attend the meeting, had submitted a report:

- i. BDC will set its budget for 2024/5 at a meeting on 19th February to be held at the council offices in Braintree, starting at 7.15pm. The public can attend or view on-line. The BDC share of council tax is proposed to be increased again.
- ii. About half of households have subscribed to the green bin collection service. We have raised concerns about the impact on recycling rates and potential diversion of garden waste into the black bins. I&G Group has tabled an amendment to BDC budget to increase the number of residents using greens bins, via a support measure for those with assisted collections.
- iii. BDC has achieved a 5 year Housing Land Supply (5.8 years). However, the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in December 2023 states that if a council has an up-to-date Local Plan (less than 5 years old), then the previously required HLS assessment does not apply. BDC previously had under 5 years' HLS, consequently it was having to grant a lot of unallocated greenfield sites or was losing appeals. BDC has both its new Local Plan and a 5 year HLS, but the new rules only apply to applications submitted after the new NPPF was published. Any applications BDC received prior to 19th December will be assessed against HLS applicable at that time.
- iv. We have continued to add our voices to the calls for Essex County Council to take action on the repeat flooding of roads and footways at several locations in the district ward.
- v. A number of contacts from residents about the latest wave of road closures in Cressing Parish, notably the closure of Long Green which had been advertised as lasting several months. The road is currently open until clarification of some legal points are finalise.
- vi. Essex County Council hosted a seminar on the revised Minerals Plan, which is now out to consultation. Once again, the southern part of Braintree District has more proposed sites than any other council area in Essex. These are numerous proposed quarry extensions and new sites put forward by landowners that would use the A120 as access.
- vii. In respect of agenda item 23-4/129 re Community Speed Watch, Rivenhall Parish Council has discussed this in the context of potential joint working across local parishes to share resources and hope that progress can be made that delivers more Speed Watch activity.

County Cllr Paul Thorogood will be asked to provide an update.

Action: Clerk

23-4/127 ESSEX HIGHWAYS

This item required discussion with Cllr Thorogood who will be requested to provide a report.

Action: Clerk

23-4/128 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th January 2024 were confirmed as a correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded: Cllr Porrett**

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

23-4/129 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The CSW Co-ordinator stepped down in January and returned the equipment to the \pc office. There has been very little support for CSW and the Clerk has been in contact with neighbouring Parishes with a view to sharing resources. Only Rivenhall is suitable in this respect. The Clerk was requested to continue discussion with them.

Action: Clerk

23-4/130 PLAYING FIELD

- i. The Clerk reported that work to changing rooms was proceeding to schedule with internal fitting out having commenced. The new fire door from the Hall has been installed, but cannot be used until an external pipe for the air conditioning is moved.

Footpath has been extended to provide sound footing both for exit via fire door and entry/exit to the changing rooms.

- ii. The Clerk requested suggestions from Cllrs for handover of the changing rooms once completed. Whilst it was not possible to decide on the event, it was agreed the following list of attendees should be considered:

- County Cllr Thorogood
- District Cllr Abbott
- District Cllr Wright
- Representatives of Indaver
- Project Manager
- Construction Manager
- BDC S.106 officers
- CSSC Committee members
- Community Police Support Officers
- Open invite to all Crossing residents
- Local MPs

- iii. At this point Cllrs were not possible to take a decision on which Solicitor to appoint. This decision will be deferred.

23-4/131 S.106

BDC are finalising details for when all developer contributions are received and how they have been allocated as that from Countryside is due to be received.

23-4/132 GRASS CUTTING

The proposal put forward for grass cutting to be undertaken in-house was agreed.

Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Porrett.

Action: Clerk

23-4/133 PLANTING

Cllrs agreed that planters should be positioned around the parish once S.106 funding was available. The Clerk requested Cllrs to put forward suggestions for locations.

23-4/134 FINANCE

- i. **Financial statements:** The Clerk/RFO referred to the January reports issued to Cllrs. 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 7th February 2024: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded: Cllr Porrett, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve payments for January 2024: Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Porrett, all in favour.** Cllrs signed the cheques.

23-4/135 PLANNING

Appeals – no appeals had been notified.

Applications determined:

- i. 23/02802/FUL | Change of use of existing family room and WC/shower room into a dog grooming parlour. Work to include replacing existing front window with French doors and sidelights to provide customer entrance. | Bannisters Tye Green Braintree Road Crossing Essex CM77 8HU - **APPROVED**

Applications received:

- i. 24/00176/DAC | Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 9 of approved application 22/00201/FUL | Lanham Manor Farm Lanham Farm Road Crossing Essex CM77 8DX (braintree.gov.uk) – **no comments to make**
- ii. 24/00197/VAR | Variation of Condition 8 (Hours of opening) of approved application 23/02802/FUL granted 24.01.2024 for: Change of use of existing family room and WC/shower room into a dog grooming parlour. Work to include replacing existing front window with French doors and sidelights to provide customer entrance. Variation would allow the condition changed from:- The dog grooming parlour hereby permitted

shall not be open for business outside the following hours: Monday to Friday 0900 hours - 1700 hours, excluding Bank and Public Holidays. New hours to be:- Tuesday to Friday inclusive 0900 hours - 1700 hours, excluding Bank and Public Holidays. Saturday 0900 hours -1700 hours. | Bannisters Tye Green Braintree Road Crossing Essex CM77 8HU – **Cllrs raised the query of why as soon as approval had been given the applicant was immediately requesting a change to operating hours.**

Concerns raised about traffic access/holdups.

Action: Clerk

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

- i. 24/00216/HH | Proposed single storey front addition and garage conversion | 52 Heycroft Drive Crossing Essex CM77 8JL – **no comments to make.**

Enforcement Enquiries: None advised

23-4/136 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Agenda items:

Co-option of Councillor
Essex Highways
Community Speedwatch
S.106
Changing rooms handover
Playing field/Pavilion Lease
Annual meetings

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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