



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held on 9th October 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)
District Councillor James Abbott
No members of the public were present

24-5/092 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman declared the meeting open and spoke as follows:

- Bellway presentation received in July – whilst this site is within Silver End Parish, Cllrs will be concerned at the further increase in volume of traffic through Cressing once the development begins.
- Chelmer Housing Partnership presented their proposals for 35 dwellings off Braintree Road (Leyfield) in August. This was a meeting prior to the developer submitting a full planning application. As the meeting was inquorate the Chairman declared it closed, but the presentation proceeded and those in attendance highlighted concerns about vehicle access onto the B1018. Concerns were also raised about the children's play area. This is not overlooked by any of the dwellings and safeguarding of children must be a concern.
- Village Indigo opening has again been postponed due to further issues raised by BDC.
- Dust cart and litter pick – the dust cart at St Barnabas was extremely popular, with residents queuing to dispose of their unwanted rubbish. Some crutches and a walking frame were handed in and these will be refurbished by BDC and put back into use. The turnout for the litter pick was disappointing and will be discussed further by Cllrs at a later meeting.
- Bulford Mill Lane – the LHP application continues and is now at the design stage. A response from Cllr Cunningham about lowering the speed limit is still outstanding and both the Clerk and our MP have chased him for progress.
- Long Green has finally re-opened but not without some reservations on layout.
- Cllrs were reminded of meeting with Dame Priti Patel, MP, scheduled for 8th November. Items for discussion to be sent to the Clerk.
- All Cllrs are required to attend training on 30th October.

24-5/093 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Councillors were present. Cllrs Thorogood and Wright were unable to attend due to other commitments.

24-5/094 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.

24-5/095 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk confirmed that no requests to speak or matters to be raised at the meeting had been received.

24-5/096 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14th August 2024 were confirmed as a correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Sim, seconded: Cllr Ives, all in favour. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.**

24-5/097 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Abbott reported:

- Braintree Local Plan - the Government has announced a new deadline for Local Plans to be updated, consequently BDC will now meet in early 2025 to decide which of the 300+ submitted sites will go forward to further public consultation. There will also be an 'Issues and options' consultation in January. An exact timetable for both is still being worked on. The Government has also announced an uplift in housing targets, resulting in the possibility of c.10,000 needed in the Braintree district.
- Cressing Bends and Long Green - It does not look like either ECC or the developers will shift their positions, so the path around the bends looks set to remain in a very poor state and partly blocked for weeks or months to come. It is acknowledged that eventually a new footway network will be built, but clearly there has been little consideration of safe pedestrian passage between Tye Green and Braintree while development work is ongoing and there appears to be no progress on the "missing link".
- Sites at Lanham Green and Long Green - Following a referral to BDC Planning Enforcement about the creation of an access, felling of trees and the part infilling of a pond on land at Lanham Green, BDC has replied that in their view, *"a temporary access was created to facilitate the clearance of the site. The landowner identified persons residing on the land and undertook necessary actions to clear the site and relocate those individuals. As part of this clearance, some trees were removed, some of these had fallen and their removal does not constitute a breach of planning control and there is no evidence that the pond had been infilled. On the contrary, the pond was clearly present at the time of inspection. The case will be closed"*. Cllr Abbott is aware that live trees were felled and the pond was in part filled in with hardcore. He will pursue further.

The land at Long Green that was cleared and developed for parking is clearly still being used for that purpose. BDC was going to invite a planning application, which does not appear to have come forward. Cllr Abbott will seek an update.

- Bulford Mill Lane – Cllrs Abbott and Wright have seen the correspondence in this matter and reiterated their support as district councillors for an effective scheme to make the lane safer and hopefully to remove HGV use. They will write to the LHP to express that support for the submitted scheme.
- Rivenhall Airfield Waste Site (Incinerator) - the waste site liaison group met in September. Air quality remains a concern. BDC is the lead authority for air quality monitoring. The Environment Agency confirmed that they monitor what goes up the chimney stack only. Local councillors and residents would like to see a local independent 'real-world' air quality monitoring system set up to measure what people are actually breathing in - this would include other sources such as road traffic, so there would need to be a baseline survey carried out before the waste site starts operations. Indaver expect the first waste burning to be in November 2025, with full operations starting in 2026. Councillors expressed concern that there would be nothing to prevent trucks travelling through surrounding villages to reach the site. This could particularly affect Cressing and Silver End.

24-5/098 ESSEX TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Councillors had no comments to add to the consultation.

24-5/099 WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME

To be discussed at November meeting.

24-5/100 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH CAMPAIGN

Due to the lack of volunteers coming forward, **Councillors agreed** to postpone this initiative and will re-advertise in Spring 2025.

Cllrs requested that road safety be added to the Agenda for meeting with the MP.

24-5/101 FINANCE

- i. Financial statements: The Clerk/RFO presented the September report, issued to Cllrs prior to the meeting. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to accept the reports. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Ives, all in favour**
- ii. A motion to approve bank reconciliation to 30th September 2024: **It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Ives, all in favour**
- iii. A motion to approve the schedule of payments for September 2024: The Clerk explained the number of payments included for payment to SSE for electricity supply. This has been caused by system issues with billing at SSE, however all payments were budgeted for the year. There were no queries and **it was resolved** to approve all payments. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Ives, all in favour.** Cllrs signed the cheques.
- iv. The Clerk advised that a new contract for supply of electricity was being sought that would reduce costs over the next two years,

24-5/102 PLANNING

Appeals:

- i. 24/00049/REF - Retrospective change of use of outbuildings to business (Class E) use and ancillary residential use|15 Mill Lane Cressing Essex CM77 8HN
- ii. 24/00045/NONDET|Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for access for the demolition of all buildings and structures, and for the erection of 350 dwellings (including 40% affordable housing), with public open space (including children's play areas), landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS). Vehicle access to be taken off Braintree Road.|Land Off Braintree Road Tye Green Cressing Essex CM77 8JB (see application no. 19/01968/OUT)

Applications determined:

- iii. 24/01460/HH - Proposed single storey garden room|The Coppers The Street Cressing Essex CM77 8DQ –granted
- iv. 24/01330/PLD - Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development - Installation of charging stations and substation with supporting infrastructure (cable, feeder pillar associated operational development)|B raintree Garden Centre Galleys Corner Cressing Road Braintree Essex CM77 8DH

Applications received:

- v. CC/BTE/35/24 - Cressing Primary School, Braintree Road, Cressing, Essex, CM77 8JE - Single storey classroom block and single storey kitchen extension together with PV panels, additional car and cycle parking, new pedestrian entrance on the southern boundary and a change of use of land to educational use to develop a new playing field to the west, with associated ancillary works. – The Parish Council supports this application.

- vi. 24/01721/FUL - Replacement shed, proposed access with hard standing and new boundary treatment.- Land Adjacent To Imola Lanham Green Cressing Essex – the Parish Council has no comment to make
- vii. 24/02034/DAC|Application for approval of details as reserved by conditions 4, 5 and part discharge of 6 of approved application 22/00201/FUL – the Parish Council has no comment to make

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

- viii. 24/01753/HH - Single storey front/side extension & conversion of garage to habitable accommodation| Thyme Cottage The Street Cressing Essex CM77 8DG – the Parish Council has no comment to make

24-5/103 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Agenda items:

Winter salt bag scheme
Budget
Open Spaces Plan
Communications

Forward Agenda items:

Community Speedwatch volunteer campaign – February 2025

24-5/104 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no more business to be discussed, the Chairman declared the open meeting closed at 9.00pm.

24-5/105 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 13th November 2024, 7.00pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing.

Items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than midday on Tuesday 5th November 2024.

Dates of meetings:

2024

13th November 11th December

2025

8 th January	12 th February	12 th March
9 th April	14 th May	11 th June
9 th July	13 th August	10 th September
8 th October	12 th November	10 th December