



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Cressing Parish Council meeting
held on 12th March 2025 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 Cllr James Abbott
One member of the public (on behalf of the Cressing Action Group)

25-6/040 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all attendees and reported as follows:

- i. Planning Appeals – the Appeal submitted to the Planning Inspectorate relating to the proposed 350 development off the B1018 has been removed as a new planning application has been submitted.
- ii. Earth moving trucks from the Persimmon development were continuing to go through the village and are not using the approved route. The Chairman asked District Cllr Abbott if this could be raised during the forthcoming site meeting if the Chairman was unable to attend.
- iii. Items discussed during a recent meeting with Dame Priti Patel, MP, included pedestrian crossings on the B1018, the continued lack of infrastructure within the Parish, faulty traffic signs and the Rivenhall Incinerator. Dame Priti will arrange a visit for Councillors to the incinerator within the next couple of months.

25-6/041 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Members in attendance. Apologies had been received from County Cllr Thorogood and District Cllr Wright.

25-6/042 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.

25-6/043 FRIENDS OF CRESSING TEMPLE

Suzanne Lowe, Chair and a Trustee of Friends of Cressing Temple (FCT) attended to inform Councillors about many volunteering opportunities at the site. FCT's role is to conserve, enhance and develop the historic site and gardens including the Walled Garden, the Cullen Garden and the Jubilee Orchard, and to keep a unique historical, social and horticultural record.

Membership of FCT is £10 per year and currently has between 60/70 members, with volunteers working on the community garden. The on-site Community Shed is becoming a hub for craft and garden activities providing a facility to provide mental health and well-being services. Currently one day a week, shortly to rise to two days. A working farm project has started with old farm machinery being collected and will be maintained to provide a historic collection.

Volunteering is mainly within the gardens, but there are also opportunities to gather

archive information and to record it in association with the Essex Records Office.

Future projects include a market garden, on-site bee-keeping classes (Braintree Bee-Keepers have hives at the site), information boards, additional crafts such as dried flower activities. Apple Days will be held annually in October - a family event with Morris dancing exhibitions, weather-proofing buildings, provision of benches, craft and art classes.

The Chairman thanked Ms Lowe for attending and giving a very interesting talk and hopes that Cressing Parish Council will be able to work with FCT in the future.

Information about Friends of Cressing Temple and how to become a Member can be found at: <https://thefriendsofcressingtemple.org>

25-6/044 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman invited Mr Richard Pilbrow to make a statement on behalf of the Cressing Action Group (CAG) regarding planning appeal, Reference: APP/Z1510/W/24/3357015, by Scott Properties, Land West of Mill Lane, 78 age-restricted dwellings. CAG has submitted a Committee Opinion to the Planning Inspectorate (the Clerk confirmed the submission of the Parish Council in support of CAG's comments had also been lodged). The deadline for submissions was extended, so no documents are available yet.

CAG will be discussing what further steps can be taken to oppose this development and in the first instance will submit an article for inclusion in the Community Magazine.

CAG will be attending the Appeal Hearing on 23rd April in Braintree.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pilbrow and CAG for their continued opposition to more developments in Cressing and their support of the Parish Council's position on these.

Mr Pilbrow left the meeting.

There were no other queries submitted.

25-6/045 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLUTION: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th February 2025 were confirmed as a correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Sim, seconded: Cllr Ives. All in favour.** Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

25-6/046 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

There was no report from the County Cllr.

District Cllr Abbott reported on the following:

- i. Bulford Mill Lane – further conversations will be held with County officers
- ii. Meeting with Persimmon to discuss the new section of the B1018 and the various closures of Lion Green
- iii. Footpaths being affected by and during the development
- iv. Conversations with District and County officers continue regarding Sandiacres
- v. The recent Liaison Meeting re Incinerator highlighted that Indaver continue to put forward requests for alterations to the planning consents. Recycling and anaerobic digestion facilities are not planned, despite being part of the permission and will be re-considered by County once the incinerator is operational. Road signage will not be included on the B1018, only on the A12 and A120. Indaver are looking to have the condition removed about visible plume from the chimney. This condition can be achieved, but at considerable cost.
- vi. The BDC budget will not see any cuts in services. 3% increase in Council Tax. £1.5m to be made available for village halls, £50k for dog and litter bins, Councillor Community Grants will continue, street cleaning contracts to continue.
- vii. A query has been submitted to BDC questioning the wisdom of introducing the new multi-bin waste collections in view of imminent devolution.
- viii. Consultation on Local Plan has closed without many responses from residents. Waiting for details of which Parishes will be discussed at the Call for Sites meeting in

May and June.

- ix. There is no agreement yet between the councils affected by devolution plans as to the number of Unitary Councils to be formed. There will be no further public details until later in 2025.

25-6/047 LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

- I. The Clerk confirmed that requests had been made to County Cllr Thorogood to submit applications to the Local Highways Panel for two crossing points on the B1018 to provide safe crossings for pupils attending the School. Dame Priti Pael, MP, and District Cllrs have confirmed their support of this application.
- II. The Clerk also confirmed a request to County Cllr Thorogood for parking/safety measures to be introduced along Mill Lane.

25-6/048 FINANCE

The Clerk/RFO presented the financial reports for February 2025 previously provided to Cllrs. There were no queries. **Resolution:** To confirm receipt and approval of financial statements, together with the schedule of payments to 28th February 2025. **Proposed Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Mottershead, all in favour.**

Cllrs Lawton and Haines signed the cheques.

25-6/049 VE DAY COMMEMORATION

The Clerk advised the School had now responded and discussion are being held to determine the parameters for the art competition based on a WWII theme. Cllrs discussed the judging and prize-giving, and **it was agreed** that books should be given as prizes. The Clerk will follow up with the School. **Action: Clerk**

25-6/050 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Clerk confirmed that the prize-giving for the art competition would take place at the APA and that children would be singing songs associated with that period. Dame Priti Patel, MP, had been asked to present the prizes, but this may not be possible due to Parliamentary commitments. She will, however, make a decision on the winners after Cllrs have short-listed them.

25-6/051 TREE PLANTING

No further suggestions had been received, other than for additional trees on the Avondale estate. Cllr Abbott was able to provide some guidance on size of trees (10' to 12' high, cost £150 - £200 each from Kings) that should be purchased, and his further advice will be sought once the necessary permissions are received to plant. **Action: Clerk**

25-6/052 PLANNING

Appeals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate were noted. The Appeal submitted on the 78 dwellings off Mill Lane was noted. The Appeal for the 350 off Braintree Road (Appeal against non-determination) had been cancelled by the Planning Inspectorate and a new application submitted to BDC. Details remain the same. This application will be discussed at the April PC meeting.

New applications discussed:

- i. 25/00290/DAC | Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 9 of approved application 21/03053/OUT - Land **East Of Braintree Road Crossing Essex - No comments to make.**
- ii. 25/00275/ECC | Consultation on Essex County Council application no: ESS/39/23/BTE/01 :Details pursuant to partial discharge of condition 41 (Noise monitoring locations) of planning permission ESS/39/23/BTE. ESS/39/23/BTE is a variation of the planning permission for the Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management Facility. | Rivenhall Airfield Sheepecotes Lane Silver End Essex CM8 3PJ - **No comments to make.**
- iii. 25/00336/ECCDAC | Details pursuant to partial discharge of condition 69 (Noise

Assessment for Process Equipment and Plant of the CHP Facility) of planning permission ESS/39/23/BTE. ESS/39/23/BTE is a variation of the planning permission for the Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management Facility. | Rivenhall Airfield Sheepcotes Lane Silver End Essex CM8 3PJ - **No comments to make.**

25-6/053 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Items for next Agenda to include:

- i. Cressing Dog Day event

25-6/054 MOTION TO EXCLUDE PUBLIC & PRESS

In accordance with Standing Order 4.d:

To resolve to agree the exclusion of the press and public.

RESOLUTION: It is hereby resolved that the closed Meeting shall not be open to the press or public as their presence may be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Haines**

25-6/055 PUBLIC MEETING CLOSED

There being no further business to be discussed at this time, the Chairman of the meeting declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

25-6/056 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman advised there had been no response yet from the Cressing Sports & Social Club regarding the new lease proposals but is aware they have a Members' meeting on 14th March to discuss this.

25-6/057 DECISION MAKING

Cllr Sim requested clarity on how decisions can be made by e-mail. The Chairman advised that in the case of urgent decisions where full information has been provided previously, Cllrs could advise by email, with the decision ratified at the next available meeting. Cllr Sim did not agree with this approach suggesting that Extraordinary Meetings (subject to notice period and practicability – see Standing Order no. 7) should be convened to enable full discussion. Other **Cllrs were content with the current arrangements.** No further action is required.

25-6/058 LEASE CHANGING ROOMS, PAYING FIELD & PAVILION

In view of a response awaited from CSSC after their meeting on 14th March, the Chairman requested this topic be deferred. If necessary, an Extraordinary Meeting of Cllrs will be arranged prior to a further meeting with CSSC Committee members.

25-6/059 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 9th April 2025 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 1st April 2025

25-6/060 CLOSE OF MEETING

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

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