



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Karen Kuderovitch, CILCA – Locum Clerk
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Cressing Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 7pm, at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing.

£ = Expenditure decision ✓ = Resolution made

- 25/157. **Recording of the Meeting**
To receive notification from any person present of their intent to record the meeting. None declared.
- 25/158. **Declaration of Interests**
At this point, all Members were reminded that they must disclose any interests they have in items of business on the meeting's agenda either at this point or during the agenda item. If not already done so, they are also obliged to notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the meeting. None declared.
- 25/159. **Apologies for Absence** ✓
To receive and agree any apologies for absence. Cllr. E. Mottershed – no apologies received.
- 25/160. **Chair's Report**
Local Highways Panel – not receiving applications; the Willows had reopened, and complements had been received on the grass cutting standards.
- 25/161. **Public Participation**
Members of the public will be offered the opportunity to speak on items on the agenda. (reference: standing orders item 4). The period will be no more than 15 minutes. A member of the public reported on works at the Cressing Sports Club/community engagement event discussed.
- 25/162. **Confidential Section** ✓
Admission of the Public In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Members to resolve whether to exclude members of the public from all or part of the meeting as the items to be discussed are confidential (agenda items 137-139).
Residents are to note that once the sessions is closed, they may no longer participate in the meeting. Approved unanimously.
- 25/163. **Approval of Minutes** ✓
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr. Haines, seconded Cllr. Lawton, all in favour.
- 25/164. **Report from County & District Councillors**
None present, but reports were received as follows:
Cllr. Paul Thorogood:
1. The Local Highways Committee will no longer be taking on new schemes as ECC winds down towards Local Government Reorganisation. The LHP will focus on "easily deliverable schemes" that are already on the books. This means there will be no speed surveys carried by Essex Highways. Residents in Bulford Mill Lane who offered to donate land for a turning circle to allow the lane to be turned into a cul de

sac have been rebuffed by the LHP chairman Cllr Chris Siddall who said the scheme was too controversial and could not be completed before ECC is dissolved in 2028.

2. In regards to the lack of a footpath from Tye Green to Braintree, I have requested a site meeting with the ECC cabinet member for highways, Cllr Tom Cunningham. I think this is the only way to oversight by both ECC and BDC in regards to the new housing development behind Wyevale. The old Clay Pits corner had an unofficial gravel path that filled with puddles in the winter, but at least there was a path. Now there's no path and no way for students to walk to Alec Hunter or residents to walk to Freeport (Braintree Village).
3. On October 20th I am intending to attend the Local Plan Sub Committee to object to CRES2101 being included in the draft Local Plan. With no new A120 and the reworking of Galleys Corner it is nonsensical to consider up to 2,000 to 4,000 homes on this land east of Braintree.

Cllr. James Abbot:

The BDC Local Plan Committee (LPC) has now reviewed the 40 or so proposed large sites (each over 500 houses, some many thousands) across the district at 3 meetings held recently. The final sites meeting was on October 6th, however, 2 sites were deferred. That included Braintree East/Gateway which could be 2000+ to 4000+ houses. It covers most of the land between the A120 and Bradwell, Cressing village and Tye Green. This site, with 2 options of scale, will now be reconsidered at the LPC meeting on 20th October. Parish councils and residents can register to speak up to 2 working days before the meeting - or can send in written representations.

At the October 6th LPC meeting, BDC officers advised that to meet Government targets, sites for a further 1,400 houses are still needed and that assumes that Braintree East at a scale of 2000+ houses will be allocated.

As a member of the LPC, Cllr James Abbott raised concerns at the 6th October meeting that the great majority of the land for the required 11,000 houses for the whole district Plan was being allocated in one corner of the district – the “triangle” between Witham and Braintree and the A120/A12, even while there was no sign of the major upgrade in transport infrastructure that has been discussed for decades – the A12, A120, Galleys Corner, the Braintree branch line, etc.

Later in the autumn, it is expected that the Draft Revised Local Plan with all the proposed sites will go out to public consultation and this will be an opportunity for residents and parish councils to have another say.

At the BDC Full Council meeting on 15th September, a majority of councillors supported the model of 3 Unitary Authorities for Essex in the Local Government Reorganisation process. This would put Braintree District with Uttlesford, Colchester and Tendring in a “North Essex” authority. Cllrs Bob Wight and James Abbott voted for the 4 and 5 unitary options as we thought this would deliver more locally based models.

The Government will conduct a formal public consultation on the LGR options it thinks are viable, expected this autumn.

The National Grid Norwich to Tilbury pylons planning application (DCO) has now been accepted by the Government. There will be a public Examination which will be run by a number of Planning Inspectors to be held next year, likely to last 6 months. Residents, parish councils and other interested parties can register to take part in the Examination now. The pylon route is proposed to come through near the southern part of Cressing parish, crossing the B1018 near Hungry Hall. A key point is that it is not just the 50-metre-high pylons with concrete foundations proposed to be built, it is the haul roads, compounds and other related developments that will go all the way through the countryside from Norwich to Tilbury with everything cleared in their path.

The Environment Agency now has a dedicated webpage for updates about monitoring of emissions from the Rivenhall Airfield waste incinerator :

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-anglia-c-e/rivenhall-integrated-waste-management-facility>

We still have some funds available from the BDC councillor grant scheme for 2025/26. A project in

Cressing was recently successful in obtaining a grant. The grant form can be downloaded (link below) or we can supply paper copies. Completed application forms need to be sent to district councillors first for appraisal, who will then submit to BDC :

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/homepage/432/councillor-community-grant-scheme-application-form-download>

25/165.

Finance £ ✓

- a) External Audit 2024/25 – Clerk reported that the External Audit for 24/25 was completed and would be added to the web site. The contents were explained and noted by members. The Clerk reported that for the 4 years previous Cressing Parish Council had received a qualified external audit. The Clerk recommended cancelling the Scribe Accounting subscription @ £58.50 a month and the 24/25 accounts be transferred to Excel, being adequate for a council of this size. This was approved unanimously. The Clerk reported she would have a draft Budget for Precept 26/27 ready for the next meeting.
- b) Financial Risk Assessment – members approved unanimously.
- c) Bank reconciliations/statements 1.9.25 – 30.9.25 – approved unanimously.
- d) Update on addition of Locum Clerk to Unity Bank. Clerk had received login details.
- e) Review of bank signatories. Forms to be raised to remove Councillors no longer serving and register Cllr. Sims for on-line banking.
- f) Clerk reported she had received funds from the disbanded Cressing action Group of £140.75 in cash and would invite Cressing School PTA to apply for a grant. Members approved the following payments:

	PAYMENT TO	INFORMATION	CHQ NO	AMOUNT	VAT	TOTAL
8.10.25	Toms Gardening Services	Grounds Maintenance -September	300851	£435.00		£485.00
8.10.25	K. Vince & Son	Verge Maintenance- September	300852	£365.00	£73.00	£438.00
8.10.25	Community Heartbeat	Annual Support Cost Year4 1.5.25-1.5.26	300853	£165.00	£33.00	£198.00
8.10.25	Sue Less Consultancy	Website Maintenance - quarterly Inv 7199	300854	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
8.10.25	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit 25 - 25	300855	£315.00	£63.00	£378.00
8.10.25	Locum Clerk	Invoice No 6	300856			

25/166.

Proposal for a community building- Land at Mill Lane Cressing/S106 Gunds

Councillors discussed a proposal received on 5th September 25 for land to be/a community building for a transfer fee of £1. Consultation with residents to take place at the Open Public Meeting on Friday 27th October 2025 @ Cressing Sports Club and via an online survey, noticeboards etc. Council has 40 workings days to respond = 31st October 2025.

25/167.

Policies & Procedures ✓

- Councillors to confirm status of .gov.uk email addresses. Cllr. J. Lawton remaining to move over.

25/168.

Community Items/Projects

- Community Engagement Evening @ Cressing Sports Club on Friday 24th October 2025 – members discussed the arrangements for the evening.
- Trees – Cllr. Sim reported a meeting would take place with David Morgan.
- Street cleaning – Clerk to arrange for 2 visits per year.
- Bollard installation – in progress.
- Play area inspections – weekly inspections in place. A new bin was required for the

playing field @ Cressing Sports Club.

- Remembrance Sunday 2025 – wreath on order.
- Christmas 2025 – after discussion, it was resolved that the Clerk create a plan for Christmas Lights in Cressing.

25/169. **Communications** ✓

Contact from residents.

- Parking issues on land now owned by the Parish Council.
- Rubbish being dumped at the bottle bank

25/170. **Councillors to share any further information**

- Cllr. Sim requested a copy of the hedge contract. .
- A suggestion was made for planters – Clerk to investigate and report.

Confidential Section (resolution taken at item 25/162)

Public & Press were excluded.

25/171. **Lease – Pavillion/CSSC** ✓

Members reviewed a draft of terms for a lease and an amount was agreed.

25/172. **Cressing Playing field and changing rooms** ✓

Members to agree a lease and terms.

25/173. **Open Space Maintenance Contract**

Members reviewed and approved. Clerk to clarify areas and costs.

25/173. **Locum Clerk**

Contract was queried. Personnel Committee to produce a draft for the next meeting.