



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Cressing Parish Council meeting
held on 9th April 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 Bob Wright
Mr Stefan Tabacu (item 25/064 - Free Community Fitness Classes – A Proposal for Cressing Parish)

25/061 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all attendees and opened the meeting.

25/062 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

25/063 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.

25/064 PRESENTATION BY MR STEFAN TABACU

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tabacu to the meeting and invited him to address the meeting:

- a freelance mobile personal trainer based in Chelmsford, covering most of Essex
- extensive experience working with individuals of all ages and fitness levels
- reaching out to introduce a community fitness initiative
- a weekly outdoor fitness class
- the goal is to establish free, weekly fitness classes for the local community, funded through grants from charity foundations or other sources
- classes designed to encourage a healthier and more active lifestyle while fostering community engagement
- sessions could take place on the playing field (weather permitting) and can utilise the existing adult exercise equipment
- all other necessary equipment provided
- classes during inclement weather moved inside (funding applications can include costs for hiring a hall or indoor space for use in colder or wet weather)
- program continues year-round

Cllrs noted that through this initiative, CPC could offer a valuable, free health and fitness opportunity to residents.

Mr Tabacu provides this service for Hatfield Peverel Parish Council. It started with an initial 12-week trial and due to its success, funding was secured for 2025, with strong potential for continued support in 2026.

CPC's role would involve gathering community feedback and applying for grants (which have already been researched by Mr Tabacu).

Cllrs felt this could be a service that would be of interest to residents, especially as it would be available to all ages and abilities. The Clerk was requested to speak with the Clerk at Hatfield Peverel PC and report back prior to seeking interest from Cressing residents.
Action: Clerk

The Chairman thanked Mr Tabacu for contacting the Parish Council and his interesting talk.

25/065 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk confirmed that no queries had been submitted by residents.

25/066 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

25/067 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Thorogood had provided his report for the meeting which covered the following:

- Essex devolution – Mayoral elections being planned for May 2026, but Government are continuing with consultation on mayor's devolution role
- County Council elections due in May 2025 have been "postponed"
- Envisaged "shadow elections" will be held in May 2027 for councillors for the unitary authorities to be elected and then trained for 11 months to be in place on April 1 2028 (Vesting Day) with the dissolving of the county and district councils on 31/3/28
- Rivenhall Waste Incinerator – plans for greenhouse complex due to be submitted to ECC end of March 2025
- Process to capture CO² may require an additional smoke stack, in which case another planning application will be required
- Currently only permitted to emit an invisible plume from the existing stack, but Indaver now seeking to amend this planning condition as it may not be possible to emit invisible plume in all weather conditions
Action: Clerk to obtain update for Councillors to visit the site
- No update yet on the future of Local Highways Panels
- Announcement on continued widening of A12 due May/June – the A120 dualling was removed from the Road Infrastructure Strategy 3 for road building schemes 2025-30 and possibility same fate may happen to the A12 widening.

District Cllr Wright reported:

- Result of BDC consultation (7,847 responses).on changes to waste and recycling collections are still awaited - the full report to be presented to the BDC Cabinet meeting in May.
- Cllr Abbott met with Persimmon to walk through the development site and raise issues from local residents and councillors. Persimmon offered no further assistance on the main issues, i.e. the "missing link" of footway on the B1018 to connect to Tye Green and that the new footways on Long Green near the new roundabout which taper out and do not connect to Galleys Corner. No further closures of Long Green anticipated.
Cllr Lawton requested that the issues of trucks from the site going through the village and the further destruction of hedgerow be raised by Cllr Abbott. CPC are already in touch with BDC about this.
- Issues related to Sandiacres were discussed with Persimmon and at a subsequent meeting with the ECC Travellers officer and some residents.
- Persimmon said they have a community grant scheme and welcome applications.
The contact details have been sent to the Clerk.
Action: Clerk to follow up

- BDC due to start discussing which sites go forward in the Review of the Local Plan in May. Cllrs are pressing for information as to which areas will be discussed at which meeting of the Local Plan Committee so that residents and parish councils have as much notice as possible. The first meeting is due on 15th May, then every week until the end of June. Sites continue to be submitted to BDC (a large one recently in Rivenhall and a further two in Cressing). All the submitted sites can be viewed on the Call for Sites map on the BDC website.
- Another solar farm application is being considered by BDC on land south of Cressing Temple. It will likely go to BDC Planning Committee in the next 1 to 2 months.
- From existing development sites, the number of tipper lorries and the routes they are taking through local villages is being raised as a concern by residents. Specific haulage companies have been contacted as have several local development sites and, where appropriate, the police.
- ECC Highways have done minimal work on the large number of defects reported in Lanham Farm Road last autumn. This has been raised with Highways again and Cllr Thorogood has also listed the road for priority repairs as part of the ECC Members' scheme.
- Councillors' Community grant scheme continues to be available for local groups and projects.

Cllr Wright left the meeting.

25/068 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

Councillors considered the responses to the Invitation to Tender. **It was resolved** to award the contract to Tom's Garden Services of Silver End. The Clerk was requested to issue the contract.

Action: Clerk

Councillors also considered those areas outside of the ITT and the Clerk will discuss with Tom's Garden Services.

Action: Clerk

25/069 FINANCE

The Clerk/RFO presented the financial reports for March 2025 previously provided to Cllrs. Cllr Sim queried the Bank reconciliation where it appeared an error in calculating the total of payments to be authorised had been incorrectly totaled by 80p. The Clerk/RFO will check the formula used for calculating. There were no other queries. **Resolution: It was resolved** that subject to confirmation as above, receipt and approval of financial statements, together with schedule of payments to 31st March 2025 were accepted. **Proposed Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Mottershead, all in favour.**

25/070 GRANT APPLICATION

The Clerk advised of an application received from Cressing Community Magazine. After consideration, **it was resolved** to award a grant in the full amount requested of £2,000. The Clerk to advise the CCM Committee. **Proposed: Cllr Mottershead, seconded: Cllr Ives**

Action: Clerk

25/071 VE DAY COMMEMORATION

The Clerk updated that the School had confirmed pupils would submit drawings/paintings on the theme of WWII. It was also confirmed that Dame Priti Patel, MP, had agreed to judge the final short-list after consideration by Councillors. A response from the School is awaited on suitable books to be given as prizes.

Action: Clerk

25/072 TREE PLANTING

The Clerk confirmed that licence application documentation had been received from Essex Highways and these would be submitted in due course when appropriate location plans were available. There was still no response from Eastlight regarding planting on their land. The Clerk will chase.

Action: Clerk

25/073 CRESSING DOG DAY

The Clerk confirmed the playing field had been reserved for Saturday 13th September 2025. It was agreed to arrange a meeting to formulate plans.

Action: Clerk

25/074

PLANNING**Appeals**

Appeal ref: APP/Z1510/W/25/3362922 (24/01426/FUL) - Land Adjacent Hawbush House Hawbush Green Cressing Essex - Retention of existing mobile home for a temporary period of two years. It was noted that further caravan had been located on this site. The Clerk to advise Enforcement Officer at BDC. **Action: Clerk**

Applications granted:

- i. 25/00128/DAC Appletree Farm Polecat Road Cressing Essex - Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 5 (Contamination) part discharge of approved application
- ii. 25/00083/LBC The Old Barn The Street Cressing Essex CM77 8DQ - Installation of a new purlin joist in the workshop..

New applications:**25/00271/OUT Land Off Braintree Road Tye Green Cressing Essex CM77 8JB -**

Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for access for the demolition of all buildings and structures, and erection of up to **350** dwellings (including affordable housing), with public open space (including childrens play areas), landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and land for an early years/nursery facility and associated infrastructure. (This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement). Following discussion, **it was agreed** the Parish Council will object to this application. It was noted that c.80 objections had been submitted when this application was previously submitted in 2019. CPC's objection at that time remained relevant. The following points were raised by Councillors:

- Loss of valuable agricultural land
- Loss of wildlife
- Loss of "natural" recreational footpaths at this site and access to others
- Loss of a valued recreational facility of the Deanswood Equestrian Centre
- Loss of yet more green space and the destruction of yet more mature hedging and trees
- Nearby Grade II listed buildings

Action: Clerk

25/075

INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

The Clerk drew attention to the following:

- Road closures by Anglian Water – Anglian Water apologised for omitting to notify CPC of the proposed road closures to be caused by laying new water mains.
- Dust cart due on 17th May 2025 – the Chairman confirmed that it would be possible to include a stop at Village Indigo in The Street. **Action: Clerk**
- Responses to emails and meeting preparation.

25/076

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 was resolved that the 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.

25/077

CLOSE OF PUBLIC MEETING

There being no further business to be discussed, the Chairman will declared the public meeting closed at 8.40pm.

25/078

The Chairman opened the meeting to discuss lease arrangements of the playing field..

25/079

LEASE – PAVILION/CSSC

Councillors discussed the recent meeting with CSSC Management Committee and lack of progress on reaching agreement.

25/080

PLAYING FIELD AND CHANGING ROOMS

Councillors discussed the suggestion by CSSC for them to relinquish the new changing rooms and management to be given to Cressing Parish Council who would liaise directly with Cressing Football Club. Until details are received from the Football Club itemising frequency of use, costs of pitch management, etc. are received, no further progress can be made. A meeting is due to be held with the building contractor shortly prior to releasing the retention held.

25/077 MEETING CLOSED

There being no further business that can be discussed at this time, the Chairman of the meeting declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

25/081 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing.

This meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 6.00pm and the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.00pm

Items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than midday on Tuesday 6th May 2025

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