



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Karen Kuderovitch, CILCA – Locum Clerk
St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, Essex, CM77 8HG
Tel: 01376 329288 Email: clerk@creasing-pc.gov.uk



Minutes of the Meeting of the Cressing Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7pm, at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing for the purpose of transacting the following business.

In attendance:

Cllr. J. Lawton (Chair), Cllr. T. Sims, Cllr. E. Mottershed, Cllr. C. Haines
Locum Clerk: Karen Kuderovitch

£ = Expenditure decision ✓ = Resolution made

- 25/140. **Recording of the Meeting**
To receive notification from any person present of their intent to record the meeting. None declared.
- 25/141. **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.
- 25/142. **Apologies for Absence** ✓
To receive and agree any apologies for absence. Cllr. A. Lapper – accepted unanimously.
- 25/143. **Chair's Report**
 - A footpath sign to be reported @ Polecat Road
 - The Willows anticipated to be reopening in the near future as Indian/Thai Fusion.
 - Regarding footpaths although the Parish Council does it best to report any issues to Essex Highways this can be done by any member of the public directly through Essex Highways website.
- 25/144. **Public Participation**
Members of the public were 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 addressed the Council in relation to outstanding works at Cressing Sports Club. A member of the public also addressed this issue and handed the Clerk bank statements for the club from 1.4.24 – 31.3.25. Concerns over mould were made and the Clerk and Chair to visit to review.
- 25/145. **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). ***It was resolved*** unanimously to close the meeting to public.
Residents are to note that once the sessions is closed, they may no longer participate in the meeting.
- 25/146. **Approval of Minutes** ✓
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th August 2025 were approved

and signed by the Chair.

25/147.

Report from County & District Councillors

The Clerk read a report from Cllr. Paul Thorogood:

In the last month or so I have received several requests from Cressing residents who live either along the B1018 or in the new developments off the main road for the speed limit to be lowered, for additional traffic calming measures and for a pedestrian crossing to aid school children from the Polecat Road area to cross the B1018. Unfortunately, these types of schemes have to be requested through the Local Highways Panel and currently the Braintree LHP has no money to fund any new speed surveys which would have to be carried out first. They cost about £900 and can be paid for by parish councils, businesses or private individuals. However, even if a speed survey was paid for by a third party and did find speeding was a problem, the Braintree LHP is not taking on any new schemes in this financial year. This situation could change if any existing schemes are cancelled and monies suddenly become available.

I will be attending the next Braintree LHP on Thursday 25th September and I hope to get an update on the LHP's financial situation then. If monies do become available for speed surveys, I will request one for the B1018 through Tye Green. I do, however, have to lower expectations for any new schemes; Essex County Council has made it quite clear that any new schemes in the new year financial will have to be "easily deliverable" in terms of cost and legal issues as Essex heads towards Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation with the dissolving of ECC and BDC in 2028 and their replacements with a new unitary authority. I will push for a pedestrian crossing near the school and the more easily achievable lowering of the speed limit from where it is 40mph to 30mph along the B1018, but other traffic calming measures such as chicanes and speed bumps will be very unlikely to achieve as the B1018 is a priority route with buses etc. Much more easily deliverable are Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) which although not a physical barrier to speeding do have some success in reminding drivers of the speed limit and slowing down traffic. I will raise these issues about the B1018 at Tye Green at the LHP later this month and report back to the parish council with any updates.

A discussion took place over the possibility of a pedestrian crossing @ the Countryside Development on the B1018.

The Clerk to make enquiries, but the view was it was doubtful to be agreed by Essex County Council.

Cllr. B. Wright gave a detailed report on the Essex County Council proposed restructuring and the plan for Braintree District Council. A draft is expected soon with various counter proposals. Key dates relayed were 24/9, 1/10 & 6/10/2025. For further information please visit: (www.essex.gov.uk/about-council/plans-and-strategies/our-vision-essex)

25/148.

Finance £ ✓

- a) External Audit 2024/25 – Clerk reported that the audit had not yet been received.
- b) Financial Risk Assessment – members to approve – deferred.
- c) Bank reconciliations/statements 1.7.25 – 31.8.25 – to be approved. Deferred as bank statement for July 25 missing.
- d) Members approved an expenditure of £229.72 & VAT for security shredding.
- e) Members approved the purchase of a shredder @ £27.99.
- f) Update on addition of Locum Clerk to Unity Bank. The Clerk reported that she was awaiting sign in details from Unity bank, but the application had been approved. This will enable her to access all the finance information. The Clerk requested that any Councillors who cannot access on line banking, request their details asap and recommended to cease the issuing of cheques asap.
- g) Members to approve the following payments:

DATE	PAYMENT TO	INFORMATION	CHQ NO	AMOUNT	VAT	TOTAL
29.8.25	The Parish Noticeboard Co	50% part payment for Sports Ground Board	300701	£550.00		£550.00
29.8.25	Toms Gardening Services	Grounds Maintenance	300702	£485.00		£485.00
10.9.25	Staff	Salary	300703	confidential		
10.9.25	Toms Gardening Services	Hedge Cutting - Cressing Sports	300704	£400.00		£400.00
10.9.25	HMRC Tax & Nic	Underpayment May 2025	300846	£245.86	£0.00	£245.86
10.9.25	A&J Lighting Solutions	Annual Maintenance 2025	300847	£91.50	£18.30	£109.80
10.9.25	Sue Less Consultancy	Website Maintenance	300848	£70.00	£0.00	£70.00
10.9.25	W Harris of Chelmsford -	Security Shredding	300849	£229.92	£45.99	£275.90
10.9.25	K. Vince & Son	Verge Maintenance	300850	£438.00	£66.00	£438.00

25/149. **Policies & Procedures** ✓

- Terms of Reference – Personnel Committee – **it was resolved** unanimously to adopt.
- Retention Policy (updated) - **it was resolved** unanimously to adopt.

25/150. **Community Items/Projects**

- Community Engagement Evening @ Cressing Sports Club on Friday 24th October 2025. The evening is to be informal, the Clerk to produce posters and send to the Sports Club and advertise in noticeboards/web/facebook. Refreshments to be provided free of charge.
- Trees – Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Sims & Tree Warden.
- Chain Link Fence – Clerk advised not to proceed as a health & safety risk.
- Bus Shelter Cleaning – Clerk reported will be done monthly going forward. Clerk to investigate adoption of a shelter.
- Play area inspections – Clerk reported weekly inspections in place.
- Bollard installation – Clerk reported will be inspected & installed.
- Street Light Annual Survey – Clerk reported completed with a minimal cost of £91.50.
- Christmas 2025 – discussion took place re an event/tree and ideas to be considered for next meeting.
- Tree Warden – Dr David Morgan had kindly offered to take the role and thanks to be relayed. It was agreed that Cllr. Sim make direct contact to progress.

25/151. **Communications** ✓

Contact from residents. None reported.

25/152. **Councillors to share any further information**

- Speed indicator devices (SIDs) – Clerk to make enquiries about the non-functioning of one located towards the school and report back.
- Planters – Clerk to investigate and report back.
- E-mail to be sent by the Clerk in relation to possible Council owned equipment.

Confidential Section (resolution taken at item 25/127)

Public & Press to be excluded.

25/153. **Lease – Pavillion/CSSC** ✓

Discuss lease terms. Deferred due to accounts not provided.

25/154. **Playing field and changing rooms** ✓

Agree a course of action to progress. Deferred.

25/155.

Communication from Scott Properties ✓

Members discussed agreed a course of action re 106 funds. Chair reported further on S106 funds. Clerk recommended a community consultation.

25/156.

Locum Clerk

Contract to be signed. Deferred.