

RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 2008 AT 7.30 P.M.
AT THE CHURCH HALL, CRAYS HILL.

Present: Cllr. McPherson-Davis, Cllr. Dornan, Cllr. Peake and
Cllr. Reeve
Apologies: Cllr. Lucas
In the Chair: Cllr. McPherson-Davis
Minute Secretary: Georgina Bassett
Also present: 7 members of the public

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllr. Lucas.

26. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To receive any "personal" or "personal or prejudicial" interests relating to items on the agenda. Cllr. Peake declared that he is a Member of the Residents' Association.

27. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There will be 15 minutes question time at the meeting should this be requested by the public. Explanation was requested on the appeal of application 06/01548/FULL and subsequent appeals.

28. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 16th January 2008 were approved and signed.

29. NATURE RESERVE

Councillor Peake to update the Parish Council with the situation to date. It was resolved by the Parish Council that due to a maintenance agreement with the District Council, the Parish Council would be put under financial restraint and it decided not to proceed with a grant for this project or the signing of an agreement with the District Council.

Proposed: Cllr. McPherson-Davis. Seconded: Cllr. Dornan.

30. PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Decision for representation by the Parish Council at Traffic Meetings - currently twice yearly.

No representative available from the Parish Council. Members of the public if interested to contact either the Clerk or the Chairman.

31. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CRAYS HILL

Response and consideration to letter received from E.C.C. in connection with pedestrian crossing at Crays Hill. Reply stated that to date there is no funding for an additional crossing.

32. CEREMONY - FENCING - PLAYGROUND

Update from Cllr. McPherson-Davis as to this event. This event was opened by a District Councillor and attended amongst others by Parish Councillors.

33. APPLICATIONS FOR C.I.F.

Proposals for applications. Proposals for speed signs, gates either end of the village and play equipment. Cllr. Peake will provide information in respect of speed signs and gates and Cllr. McPherson-Davis for play equipment for April Meeting for applications to Community Initiatives Funding.

34. RAMSDEN CRAYS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Further to receiving accounts information, the Parish Council is to discuss request from Ramsden Crays Residents' Association for donation. The Parish Council resolved not to give funding.

Proposed: Cllr. McPherson-Davis. Seconded: Cllr. Dornan.

35. GARDINERS LANE

The situation relating to the pinch point in Gardiners Lane. E.C.C. has had an issue with its contractors and will now be looking to commence this in the next financial year.

36. BULBS AND TREES

Parish Council to decide where to plant in the Parish. Cllr. McPherson-Davis confirmed that grants will be available for tree planting, primarily for fields/large areas of trees. The Parish Council is on the notification list.

20.15 Arrival: Cllr. Reeve

37. OAK ROAD - HARDINGS ELM ROAD - DITCHES

Update on the letter sent regarding the ditches and the condition of these roads. Cllr. Reeve confirmed that ownership of the ditches at Oak Road were still in dispute with E.C.C. The Clerk to write to E.C.C. regarding safety concerns at two corners of Hardings Elms Road and a request for a safety barrier at the ditch side and to thank it for the improvements to this road.

38. SPEED SURVEYS - VAS

Discuss correspondence received and further requirements. The Clerk to write with locations for speed surveys and to request a further survey and consideration for a speed limit change from 40 to 30 in Pipp's Hill Road/Hardings Elms Road.

39. BUS SHELTERS

A cheque for £4,550.00 has been received towards a new bus shelter. The Parish Council to make a decision on further progression for this and the costing in relation to insurance. The Council agreed to order a Newstead bus shelter to replace either of the current bus shelters at Gardiners Lane North, preferably the one opposite the school and to pay the difference of approximately £700.00 from funds and the necessary insurance increase. Will pursue bin when bus shelter in place.

40. PARK BENCH

The Park Bench has been reported stolen. An update regarding the insurance costs and a decision by the Parish Council with regard to the replacement of this bench. Clerk confirmed the insurance company had been notified and awaiting further correspondence. The Clerk to write to E.C.C. requesting lockable gate after dark at this area.

Meeting Closed: 20:45

Meeting Open: 20:50

41. PLANNING

Applications:

Application No: 08/00047/FULL. Demolition of existing stable/garage building and erection of replacement barn/workshop.

Location: Great Barns, Oak Avenue, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Application was withdrawn.

Application No: 08/00171/FULL. Front boundary wall and gates.

Location: Longwood, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex. The Parish Council objected on the grounds that it is out of character and danger to pedestrians and traffic.

Application No: 08/00283/FULL. Demolition and reconstruction of detached garage/coach house.

Location: Westbury, Hardings Elms Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex. No objection on condition that it is not used as a dwelling.

Application No: 08/00286/FULL. Change of use of stables/tack room to farriers workshop with associated extension, external alterations and formation of parking area (revised scheme).

Location: Land adjacent to South Lodge, Southlands Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

The Parish Council had no objection. It is aware that it will be on green belt.

Proposed: Cllr. Reeve.

Seconded: Cllr. Dornan

Additional:

Application No: 07/00690/FULL. Demolition and reconstruction of single storey flat roofed rear extension.

Location: Hillcrest, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Application No: 06/01166/FULL. New roof to existing annex to side with front dormer - granted (subject to conditions) 30/10/06. The development in this case comprised the replacement of the original garage roof with a pitched roof incorporating a small front facing dormer. The development therefore provided an additional small room at first floor level.

Appeal Update:

Application No: 06/01548/FULL. Royal Oake Place, Woodview and Plots 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

Location: Land adjacent to Dale Farm, Oak Lane, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Proposed Development: Retention of 7 Gypsy Caravan pitches and associated development for temporary three year period.

42. BASILDON ASSOCIATION OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Update by Cllr. McPherson-Davis of meeting held on 21st February.

Cllr. McPherson-Davis updated the P.C. of this meeting and informed them of the various committees as a result of this that he attends.

43. COMMUNICATING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Consideration for a page in the newsletter to be purchased effective April 2008.

44. CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

Agreement by the Parish Council for necessary revisions for the update to the Clerk's Contract of Employment. It was agreed to adopt the updated version of the contract and all councillors to receive a signed copy.

45. CORRESPONDENCE

Appeal - Informal Hearing - 26th February 2008

Information received relating to informal hearing on the above date relating to land adjacent to Whites Bridge Cottage, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Audit Commission

Information received for Commission's proposal for Ramsden Crays Parish Council.

Consultation - Putting Essex People First

Correspondence relating to future proposals of Adult Social Care in Essex.

Essex Area Forums

Information relating to delegates attending public meetings.

Links - Stakeholders Conference

Event to be held on Saturday 1st March 2008.

46. FINANCES

Cheques for Payment:

Clerk's salary/expenditure - February	£276.27
Newsletter Printing - Cllr. McPherson-Davis	£30.00
Clerk's salary\expenditure - March	£258.39
Customs and Excise Jan - March - Clerk's salary	£141.30

All cheques were signed and agreed.

Cheque Paid:

Bench £418.26

Cheque Receipt:

Essex County Council towards new bus shelter £4,550.00

47. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 16th April, 2008 at 7.30 p.m. at the Church Hall, Crays Hill.

MEETING CLOSED AT 21.28