

RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE CHURCH HALL, RAMSDEN CRAYS ON WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH, 2010 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors: A. Peake (Chairman), T. Borer (Vice-Chairman), J. Lucas, D. McPherson-Davis and R. Reeve

ALSO PRESENT:

Georgina Bassett – Clerk to the Council

Cllr. T. Sargent – Basildon District and Essex County Councillor and Cllr. D. Morris – Essex County Councillor

1 member of the public

57/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. I. Pummell and Cllr. S. Allen.

58/01 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 24th February, 2010 were considered, it was agreed to add “and pre-meeting” at the end of 38/01. The minutes were then approved and **agreed** as an accurate record by the Chairman.

59/01 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

No declarations were received of any “personal” or “personal or prejudicial” interests relating to items on the agenda.

Open Session 19:35

60/01 PUBLIC SESSION

(a) No members with prejudicial interests.

(b) No members of the public raised any issues.

(c) **Essex County Council by District/Basildon District Council Ward Councillors Reports.**

Cllr. Morris suggested that Viola might be considered by the Parish Council to contact for additional funding for the improvements to the recreation ground.

Cllr. Sargent confirmed there is nothing further to report to the Parish Council on the traveller situation since the meeting at B.D.C. the end of last year. She offered to liaise with E.C.C. Highways with regard to the seriousness of the flooding from the drains, particularly along Southend Road.

Cllr. Sargent attended the South East Essex Forum today and at that meeting the Chairman commented at the lack of attendance and how could Parish, Town and Village Councils be encouraged to support this. It was suggested that agenda items included issues that involve the majority of the District and not only specific areas.

John Buchanan raised under Highways item as representative of BATPC how disappointed they were that B.D.C. would not be supporting the Local

Highways Panel and he would write to Cllr. Ball. As a County Member Cllr. Sargent said she would write to Cllr. Ball. The Parish Council confirmed it had supported this with a letter requesting a seat on the Panel prior to the current decision. It will also write to Cllr. A. Ball to reaffirm its support.

Cllr. Sargent commented that she had received a copy of the Ramsden Crays Residents' Association letter in relation to the nature reserve and it mentions that Noak Bridge has the support of B.D.C. and a B.D.C. councillor resides in the Parish. In an effort to review the nature reserve at Ramsden Crays, Cllr. Sargent has requested this item is included on the agenda of the B.D.C. Liaison Meeting on 1st April and a Cabinet Member and Officer will also be available to provide more information.

A question was raised with regard to the notification for eviction of the unauthorised traveller site in Oak Road. It was understood from Cllr. Sargent that 28 days notice is given, then another 10 days.

61/01 PROGRESS CHECK FROM LAST MEETING

Updates were provided to all councillors on actions following the meeting of 24th February.

62/01 EXTERNAL MEETINGS – REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

One report of a meeting attended on 8th March at the EALC from Cllr. McPherson-Davis with regard to NALC. Draft three will be submitted to the EALC Executive on 25th March. This includes the issue that there are no financial costings in the papers submitted and EALC does not agree with NALC's financial and staffing control over associations via regional or national level.

63/01 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

No additional agenda items requested for the next Parish Council Meeting. BATPC representative to request B.D.C. is written to in connection with Highways Localism.

Items to be raised at the BDC Pre-Liaison Meeting on 1st April, 2010 to include:
Pop concern proposed at Barleylands.
Nature Reserve in Ramsden Crays.
The situation of the travellers after the 28 days notice.

64/01 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING VENUES – 2011

The Clerk will contact Ramsden Crays Primary School for a response to the letter forwarded to it from E.C.C. for the use of the School for Parish Council Meetings in 2011.

65/01 CHARTER BETWEEN BASILDON DISTRICT COUNCIL AND RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council considered the recommendation of the Working Party's review of the Charter. The Clerk to write to B.D.C. with the suggested amendments. Proposed by Cllr. Lucas and seconded by Cllr. Peake – **agreed**.

66/01 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND

Cllr. McPherson-Davis confirmed he had been unsuccessful in his request with B.D.C. for confirmation of costing for the slide in Crays Hill Recreation ground. A new contact has been provided and he will pursue this. Cllr. McPherson-Davis will contact Viola for an application for a grant towards additional equipment in this area. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr. Blake again for written permission to install the new slide.

67/01 MAINTENANCE – REPAIR

It was **agreed** for Cllr. McPherson-Davis to review the cost for repair/maintenance of the village sign and report to the Parish Council at the April meeting.

68/01 PROCEDURES – STANDING ORDERS

As not all members had the opportunity to fully consider the recommendations from the Working Party it was **agreed** to defer all items until the April meeting. The only exception was for the Clerk to write to NALC to request it to highlight the changes to the Standing Orders (vi) to assist the Parish Council and for a Working Party to review these in more detail prior to a decision on amendments:

- (i) the current insurance company and insurance review to date;
- (ii) Financial Regulations – internal financial procedures;
- (iii) Risk Assessments – Clerk’s, documents etc;
- (iv) inspection of Assets, condition and replacement value;
- (v) the control of internal procedures (effectiveness);
- (vi) Standing Orders; and
- (vii) Freedom of Information/Data Protection/Complaints against the P.C.

69/01 THREE YEAR PLAN

The recommendations from the Working Party were:

- (i) resident ideas – to have 4 newsletters a year, pushing forward ideas for the future in these and requesting a response;
- (ii) a large vision on the park area, making this more interesting with trees, plants etc;
- (iii) Quality Parish Council – defer to another Working Party, further research required;
- (iv) installation of additional benches within the Parish;
- (v) kissing gates installed by the Parish Council at the footpaths;
- (vi) web page, future development as a means of communication.

It was **agreed** to have a Working Party to review the newsletter prior to the April meeting to include all the items except for (iii).

Open 20:20

Closed 20:24

70/01 DOG AND LITTER BINS

The Clerk confirmed she is pursuing this with B.D.C. for the plan of location of bins and site visit for consideration of additional litter/dog bins.

Open 20:28

Closed 20:31

Cllr. Sargent offered to make additional enquiries on this matter in relation to the situation of costing.

71/01 FLOWER TROUGHS

The response from E.C.C. for the approval of the installation of the troughs was that permission was not given.

Open 08:33

Closed 08:38

Cllr. Sargent offered to follow this up for the Council.

72/01 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Update on issues outstanding:

- (a) Gardiners Lane North – the holes have been repaired.
- (b) Hardings Elms Road – ditches are currently being assessed. No further information on the speeding situation.
- (c) Oak Road – the Clerk to write to E.C.C. Highways to clarify as of the letter of

14th December 2009 when the remainder of the road will be resurfaced/ repaired. To additionally request the replacement of traffic signs and improvements to the ditches and to inform E.C.C. that the new VAS sign on the entrance approach from Harding Elms, West end of London Road needs to be re-calibrated. Further request for the rubbish to be removed in Oak Road.

- (d) London Road – no action to date on the drains, the Clerk to write to E.C.C.
- (e) Oak Avenue – to defer to the April meeting.
- (f) Gardiners Lane North – approach from Southend Road. The situation regarding parked cars has now been resolved. The Clerk to contact E.C.C. to request the outstanding exploratory investigation into the ditch pipe in Gardiners Lane North.

73/01 DISPENSATION APPLICATION

The response to the enquiry from HM Revenue & Customs was considered and it was **agreed** for the Chairman to sign the letter on behalf of the Parish Council.

74/01 PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Clerk informed all councillors that she was still pursuing the matter for a response with B.D.C. regarding the log cabins on Woodlands, North Road.

75/01 PLANNING

Application No: 09/00940/FULL – Orchard View, Hardings Elms Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex. Planning Appeal. Noted.

76/01 EALC – COURSES SURVEY

The Parish Council requested the Clerk to complete the form and respond with weekday evenings and half days Saturday as the most suitable for training courses.

77/01 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The response to E.C.C. conducting a public consultation on the transfer of Glenwood Community Special School to the site of The Deanes School, Benfleet was considered and it was **agreed** that the Parish Council had no comment.

78/01 FINANCES:

Cheques agreed for payment:

Mrs. G. Bassett – March Salary/expenses	£290.14
HM Revenue & Customs 01/01/10 – 31/03/10 Tax/N.I.	£159.18

It was proposed that finances be reviewed in more detail for year end and it was **agreed** for there to be a Working Party to consider and give recommendation to the Parish Council.

79/01 CORRESPONDENCE:

For information only:

Basildon District Council

Appeals and General Purposes Committee Minutes 02.10.10

Cabinet Minutes 11.02.10

Community Safety and Housing Scrutiny Committee Minutes 12.01.10

Development Control and Traffic Management Committee Minutes 10.02.10, 23.02.10

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Minutes 11.11.09

Leisure and Health Scrutiny Committee Minutes 19.01.10

Members Bulletin 25th February 2010/Issue No. 2010/08

Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee 24.11.09

Overview and Scrutiny Commission Minutes 09.02.10

Standards Committee Minutes 08.12.09

Notice of Dog Control Order – enforced 12.03.10

EALC

Briefing Report 17.02.10 – Audit and Risk Assessment Day

County Update No. 74 – February 2010

Minutes of Executive Meeting 21.01.10

Essex County Council

Bus Passenger News – February/March 2010

Making the Links March 2010

Essex Works

South Essex Area Forum 17.03.10

General

RCCE Essex Village of the Year/Best Kept Village of the Year Competition

Appointment of External Auditor – 09.03.10 – Audit Commission

80/01 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

**An opportunity for members of the public to speak and raise issues
on items not on the agenda (10 mins. maximum)**

- (i) An item was raised again for the situation of the drains/flooding to be resolved.
- (ii) Request for rubbish within Ramsden Crays to be removed.
- (ii) An enquiry was raised as to why the most recent information received about the precept increase for Ramsden Crays did not show the 2% rise. The Clerk will contact B.D.C. for an update.

81/01 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 8.00 p.m. at the Church Hall, Crays Hill (this will be after the Annual Parish Meeting).

MEETING CLOSED AT 21:10

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN): DATE: