

Ramsden Crays Parish Council



Minutes of the Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 7.00pm at Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall

Attendance:

Cllrs. Jenkins, Kirby and McPherson-Davis
Cllrs. Ball & Buckley – Essex County Council
Cllr. Allen – Basildon Borough Council
Parish Clerk/RFO: E Beadle

99/2022 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Sargent and Finn

100/2022 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th October 2022

Acceptance proposed by Cllr. Jenkins, seconded by Cllr. Kirby. All agreed. **RESOLVED** Signed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis.

101/2022 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr. Kirby declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 107/2022 - Payment of £475 to Mr D. Kirby for purchase of plants and general garden maintenance of all flower beds and the memorial site.

Agreed

102/2022 Reports from County and Borough Councillors

(a) Budget – Essex County Council

There is more demand on the Council budget due to increased living costs. The cost of care per annum is £650 million, 60% of Council Tax is now used on care of all generations in the community.

Cllr. McPherson Davis asked if there would be an increase in Council Tax. Cllr. Ball confirmed that it would not exceed the 4.9% increase as recommended in the budget and there would be an increase in funding for social care and education.

The parish could bid for a grant to run a “Warm Place”, perhaps in conjunction with Ramsden Bellhouse.

Cllr. Ball will forward links to warm home initiatives to be added to the website.

(b) Buses – Essex County Council

Within Essex the bus service is still under used. Subsidies that were put in place during Covid are now coming to an end but passenger numbers have not increased.

There is a possibility of converting existing diesel engines with e-Traction, a retro fitted drive train which enables existing buses to continue to be used but as green vehicles.

Cllr. Kirby suggested that smaller buses were used rather than running large buses with few passengers. Cllr. Buckley explained that smaller buses were not able to service all bus routes and therefore would leave the larger vehicles as wasted assets if they were not regularly used.

Digigo has been trialled in some rural areas which is where smaller buses are run on a demand service which have to be prebooked one hour before.

(c) Waste Collection - Basildon Borough Council

Rubbish collection has now changed to black sacks, pink sacks and green kitchen caddies weekly, green waste will be collected fortnightly and two bins can now be used. Cllr. Allen stated there had been some negativity to the green kitchen caddy. This is an effort to reduce black sack usage. It costs up to £140 per ton to dispose of black sacks compared to £20 per ton for green waste.

Cllr McPherson Davis has noticed locally that green caddies are not being used and perhaps use of black sacks is abused. He suggested that spot checks and penalties could be introduced.

(d) Local Development Scheme – Basildon Borough Council

The local plan has now been withdrawn. There will now be a call for sites which closes on December 14th, 2022. A new plan could extend to 2027.

(e) Meeting Place for Parish Council

Cllr. Kirby asked if there had been any progress in being able to use Crays Hill School for Parish Council Meetings at a time suitable for councillors and public to attend. It was suggested that maybe a portacabin could be placed in the grounds for use. Cllr. Kirby will look into this and submit a proposal to Cllr. Ball.

103/2022 Members of the Public

Opportunity for members of the public to comment on agent items and other matters.

No members present.

Questions raised by residents to consider:

A resident had enquired about improvement of access and surfacing of the footpath from London Road to the Crays Hill Recreation Ground. Cllr. McPherson-Davis stated that this had been raised before. He has visited the footpath which is extremely overgrown and flooded. The main problem

seems the draining ditch is land locked which is causing the flooding. Cllr. Allen to refer this issue to the correct department. Cllr. Kirby to ask the gardener to cut back the overgrown areas.

104/2022 Planning

To Consider

Application No. 22/01469/Full

Construct one detached dwelling with associated parking and amenity space.

Rose Villa, Crays Hill Road, Billericay, Essex

The Parish Council agreed not to object to this application.

Application No. 22/01624/Full

Two storey front and side extensions, replacement roof, single storey rear extension, front porch canopy and other alterations to existing dwelling, construction of one detached dwelling alongside and associated works – **Elmbank, Crays Hill Road, Billericay, Essex**

The Parish Council agreed to object to this application on the grounds that in the opinion of the Councillors, the additions to the existing dwelling would breach the building line thereby reducing the sight line for all vehicles exiting onto the A129 main road. It is currently very difficult to exit Crays Hill Road and this development would increase the problem.

105/2022 Gardens Maintenance

It was **agreed** Cllr. Kirby to meet with new gardener and discuss the requirements.

106/2022 Replacement Battery for Defibrillator

Cllr. Kirby has inspected the current battery which is still holding power but it is recommended that the battery is changed every five years. It was **agreed** that Cllr. Kirby will liaise with the company to purchase replacement battery.

107/2022 Finance

(a) Expenditure to Consider

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall – Fee for 18 th October Council Meeting	£10
M. R. Brown – Cleaning Bus Shelters November 2022	£80
Shepherd & Dog – Refreshments for Memorial Service	£100
Cllr. McPherson-Davis – Purchase of Wreaths for Memorial Service	£40
Mr D. Kirby – Purchase of plants and general garden maintenance of all flower beds and the memorial site	£475
D.R. Acton – Printing of Newsletter and Memorial Service Programmes	£151

Proposed by Cllr. Kirby, seconded by Cllr. McPherson-Davis to pay all items.

All agreed. **RESOLVED**

108/2022 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13th December 2022, 7.00pm
Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

A personnel meeting followed until 9pm.

Chairman **Date**