

Ramsden Crays Parish Council



Minutes of the Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 16th January 2023 at 7.00pm at Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall

Attendance:

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

1/2023 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Allen, Sargent and Finn

2/2023 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd November 2022

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

3/2023 Declaration of Members Interests

To receive pecuniary or non pecuniary declarations of interest on items on the Agenda.
None

4/2023 Reports from County and Borough Councillors

(a) Budget – Essex County Council

There will be a Council Tax increase of 3.5% overall. This is from 2% social care precept and 1.5% Council Tax and is still below the rate of inflation. Investments will be announced at the next Council meeting.

(b) Pedestrianisation of Wickford High Street

The closure of Wickford High Street on Saturdays to vehicles was on a temporary order which has now lapsed. A permanent order is being sought from the County Council to shut the High Street to vehicles on Saturdays which is likely to be in place in the next month.

(c) Trees – Essex Forest Initiative

The Essex Forest Initiative intends to promote planting of a large amount of trees in Essex. It is looking for areas to plant British natural trees, in a minimum of groups of ten in a publicly accessible area. The focus is on next year to find suitable areas to plant young, semi-mature or hedgerows. Basildon Council would be happy to plant on Council land as long as the trees are not close to a structure or over hanging the highway. They should be naturally maintained and not require maintenance by the Council. Cllr. McPherson-Davis asked who would be publicly liable for the trees. Cllr. Buckley will enquire who is liable for the trees.

(d) Volume of water and flooding in the Village

Cllr. McPherson-Davis raised a concern over the volume of water on the roads in Crays Hill, in some areas forming rivers down the hill which could be due to blocked drains. Cllr. Buckley felt that this was due to the capacity of the drains rather than blockages. Cllr. Ball to check who is responsible for checking the effectiveness of the drains.

(e) Speed Limit Signs

Cllr. Kirby wished to follow up a previous enquiry on replacing the batteries on the speed limit signs in the Village. They currently work in daylight hours from a solar panel but not at night due the batteries needing to be replaced. The Parish Council would be willing to take over responsibility of maintaining the signs. Cllr. Ball to check who does maintain them.

(f) Road Sign at Junction of Wash Road/Harding's Elms Road/Pipps Hill Road North

Cllr. McPherson-Davis raised a concern over poor road signage at the junction of Wash Road and Harding's Elms Road and Pipps Hill Road North. Currently there is no sign to show that the road to the left of the junction is Harding's Elms Road. Cllr. McPherson-Davis asked if the Parish could install a sign at the junction. Cllr. Ball to make enquiries.

5/2023 Members of the Public

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

Questions raised by residents to consider:

A resident had raised concerns about development of the land surrounding Hughenden, London Road, Crays Hill. Currently no planning has been received and no plans submitted so no comment could be made.

6/2023 Planning

To Consider

Application No. 22/01687/Full

Proposed construction of 2 no. 5 bed dwellings on land between **1 Adelaide Villas and Lendsell – 1 Adelaide Villas, Gardiners Lane North, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed to object to this application on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site and not in keeping with the surrounding area.

Application No. 22/01766/Full

First floor rear extension and detached garage/store block to side **Woodfield Farm, Oak Road, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed not to object to this application.

Application No. 22/01718/Full

Removal of mobile home and the erection of a detached bungalow **England, Crays Hill Road, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed not to object to this application.

Application No. 22/01808/Full

Single storey front and rear extension to existing garage **2 Pipp's Hill Cottage, Pipp's Hill Road North, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed not to object to this application.

7/2023 Precept for 2023/2024 Proposal

The Precept for year commencing 1st April 2023 will remain the same as last year. In total this equates to £14,165.01 with Band D being £27.00 per annum per household. Proposed by Cllr. Jenkins, seconded by Cllr. Kirby, signed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis **Agreed**

8/2023 20's Plenty for Essex Campaign

Cllr. Buckley said these areas are usually around schools. There have been trials in Wickford which have involved speed humps and width restrictions to slow the speed of traffic in "rat runs". It was **agreed** Crays Hill school is not a suitable for this campaign as it is on a main road. Cllr. Kirby suggested an average speed check through the village. Cllr. Ball said these are installed by the Safer Roads Partnership but have to be in known accident black spots.

9/2023 Garden Maintenance

Cllr. Kirby **agreed** we will contact the new gardener in the Spring.

10/2023 Replacement Battery for Defibrillator

Cllr. Kirby is to replace the battery in the defibrillator located at the Shepherd & Dog pub, priced at £267.60 inc. VAT. Proposed by Cllr. McPherson Davis, seconded by Cllr. Jenkins. It was **agreed** to purchase the new battery and install it.

11/2023 Installation of Memorial Bench for Queen Elizabeth II at the War Memorial

Cllr. Kirby has enquired about purchase of a laser cut bench in memory of the Queen to be installed at the War Memorial. The cost of the bench is between £500 and £1000. It may be necessary to apply for a licence from the County Council and permission may also be needed from the Palace. Cllr. Kirby **agreed** to make enquiries about any available grants and permissions for the bench.

12/2023 Confirmation of Dates for Parish Council Meetings in 2023

It was **agreed** that the next meetings will be on Tuesday 21st February and Tuesday 21st March 2023.
The clerk will book the Committee Room for the meetings.

13/2022 Finance

(a) Expenditure to Consider

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| Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall – Fee for 22nd November 2022 and 16 th January 2023 Council Meetings | £20 |
| Parish Clerk – Salary for October/November 2022 | £295.65 (Paid December) |
| Salary for December 2022 | £152.25 |
| M.R. Brown – Cleaning of bus shelters December 2022 and January 2023 | £160 |
| VCS Websites Ltd – Website maintenance and clerk training | £148 |
| WEL Medical – Replacement battery for defibrillator | £267.60 |

Proposed by Cllr. Kirby, seconded by Cllr. Jenkins to pay all items.
All agreed. **RESOLVED**

15/2023 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21st February 2023, 7.00pm
Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

A personnel meeting followed

Chairman **Date**