

Ramsden Crays Parish Council



Minutes of the Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 7.00pm at Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall

Attendance:

Cllrs. Jenkins, Kirby, McPherson-Davis and Finn
Cllr. Buckley – Essex County Council
Parish Clerk/RFO: E Beadle
One member of the public

15/2023 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs.Allen, Sargent and Ball

16/2023 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2023

Amendment to Expenditure to Consider; payment for the hall was for January and February 2023, not for November 2022 and January 2023 as stated. Acceptance proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis, seconded by Cllr. Jenkins. All agreed. **RESOLVED** Signed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis.

17/2023 Declaration of Members Interests

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

18/2023 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. This is below the maximum increase permitted of 5% which 75% of Councils will be implementing.

Up to £9 million pounds will be invested on pothole and pavement repair in the County. Repairs are currently behind schedule due to poor weather. Parishes will be able to apply for repairs that are necessary but details of how this will be done have not been finalised.

There will be investment in new services for holiday and school meal vouchers for low income families.

There will be a 20% increase of investment into social care which will include an increase of salaries for care workers as there is a staffing issue within the sector. The current adult social care bill is £506 million per annum and £200 million for child social care.

(b) Street Lighting

It had been proposed to shut off street lights an hour earlier and light them an hour later to save energy. The times will now be staying the same. Reports of lights being out are not treated as a priority by UK Power Network, a meeting has been arranged to address this.

Replacement sodium lamps are no longer available so any lights that need replacing will not be completed until the LED replacement roll out which is still ongoing.

(c) ULEZ Zone

Essex County Council have confirmed that they will not allow any signs for ULEZ to be placed on any Essex Highways controlled land to stop the spread of the ULEZ Zone into Essex.

(d) 30mph Speed Limit Signs

Cllr. McPherson-Davis asked if there was any development on the previous request to replace the batteries for the signs and take over maintenance for them. Cllr. Buckley confirmed the County wants to cooperate but the cost implication is not clear. It may be necessary for a specified contractor to replace the batteries and it may not be economically viable for the Parish Council to maintain the signs. An email will be sent to Cllr. Ball to request further information.

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

Cllr. Kirby asked if there was any further information regarding the new signs at the junction of Wash Road. A reminder email will be sent to Cllr. Ball.

(f) Blocked Drains and Flooding in the Village

Cllr. McPherson-Davis said that there were still concerns over the blocked drains and flood water in the village. It is clear that some drains are blocked with soil and even have grass growing out of them and the flooding is not wholly attributable to the capacity of the drains. A reminder email will be sent to Cllrs. Ball and Buckley.

19/2023 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 of Bromfelde Road raised concerns that if a planning application were approved to a neighbouring property it would cause light loss and considerable shade issues to his house and garden. There would also be loss of privacy as his property would be overlooked by the proposed extension. He has recently had solar panels fitted and the increased shade will cause significant loss

of potential energy that could be generated from the solar panels therefore increasing his carbon footprint. It was advised that he raises these issues in writing to the Planning Officer.

20/2023 Planning

To Consider

Application No. 23/00082/Full

Proposed two storey side and front extensions, two storey entrance hall/porch and alterations to fenestration. Removal of front box dormer and construction of three pitched roof dormers. Extension of rear box dormer and single storey rear extension. Garage conversion and outbuilding converted to an annexe with a new pitched roof and pitched room dormer – **4 Bromfelde Road, Billericay, CM11 2XY**

The Parish Council agreed not to object to this application.

Application No. 23/00002/REM

Application for the approval of reserved matters relating to appearance, layout and scale of consent reference **20/00198/OUT** for a new agricultural workers dwelling – **Crays Hall Farm, Church Lane, Crays Hill, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed not to object to this application but requests that the properties remain as agricultural workers dwelling.

Appeal Reference: APP/V1505/W/22/3309566

Application No. 22/00391/Full

Appeal for application for construction of three bedroom chalet bungalow on land at **Southlands Road, Crays Hill, Billericay**

The Parish Council supports the Planning Officer's decision to refuse.

21/2023 Budget for 2023/24

Cllr. McPherson-Davis has provided a proposed budget to the Councillors to be considered and responses given at the next meeting.

22/2023 Bank Statement as at 30th January 2023

The balance stands at £16,044.15 as of 30th January 2023 Proposed by Cllr. Jenkins, seconded by Cllr. McPherson-Davis **RESOLVED**

23/2023 Bank Reconciliation as at 30th January 2023

Proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis, seconded by Cllr. Kirby **RESOLVED**

24/2023 Appointment of Internal Auditor – Heelis & Lodge

Proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis, seconded by Cllr. Kirby **RESOLVED**

25/2023 Installation of Memorial Bench for Queen Elizabeth II at the War Memorial

Cllr. Kirby had enquired about a laser cut memorial bench. The price is approximately £1193 plus VAT. There will also be a charge for installation, laying a base and providing a path to the bench. There is provision within the budget of £2000 for purchase and installation of the bench. Cllr. Kirby to enquire further with David Ogilvy Engineering as to the possibility of purchasing a bespoke bench incorporating the Queen on a horse.

26/2023 King Charles III Coronation

It was **Agreed** that the Parish Council would not be organising any celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III.

27/2023 Finance

(a) Expenditure to Consider

Parish Clerk – Salary for January 2023	£223.30
M.R. Brown – Cleaning of bus shelters February 2023	£80
VCS Websites Ltd – Website hosting and updates	£285

The fee for Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall was removed as it was paid last month.
M.R. Brown will be requested to clean the notice boards in addition to the bus shelters.

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

28/2023 Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

A personnel meeting followed

Chairman **Date**