

# Ramsden Crays Parish Council



Minutes of the Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meeting held on  
**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00pm at Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall**

## **Attendance:**

Cllrs. Jenkins, McPherson-Davis, Kirby & Pusey

Cllr. Buckley

Cllr. Ball

1 member of the public

## **1/2024 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. Sargent

## **2/2024 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

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

## **3/2024 Declaration of Members Interests**

To receive pecuniary or non pecuniary declarations of interest on items on the Agenda.

None

## **4/2024 Reports from County and Borough Councillors**

### County Council

Trees – There is an opportunity for a donation of trees from Essex County Council to encourage local wildlife and reduce the carbon footprint. More than 300 have been planted and the scheme is ongoing. The landowner must agree for the trees to be planted and then maintain them. It is the responsibility of the Council to plant them but this has been done with volunteers in other Parishes from schools, Scout groups etc. Delivery will be in November when the trees are dormant and stakes and protection are provided.

Cllr. Kirby suggested planting some at the entrance to Crays Hill Park by the new barrier and on the layby outside Highlands, London Road.

Clerk to liaise with Cllr. McPherson-Davis and Cllr. Buckley with regard to species required and exact locations.

Drains – Cllr. McPherson-Davis raised a concern that the drains are still blocked on the main London Road although some clearance has taken place. Cllr. Buckley to follow up.

Budget – A Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> to finalise the budget but as it stands at the moment the budget is healthy despite increased demand on services in adult and child social care. The Council Tax increase is likely to be the maximum of 5% split as 3% Council Tax and 2% for adult social care. This will be an increase of £1.69 per week for a Band D property.

Potholes – In excess of 250 potholes have been repaired and a similar amount should be repaired in the coming year. There should be further investment in roads going forward which may require complete resurfacing in some areas.

### **5/2024 Members of the Public**

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

A member of the public attended to comment on the planning application from Facemed Ltd. He has raised concerns with the Planning Department that the Application is for a commercial operation that is extending into a residential area. The height and nature of the proposed building will be overbearing on the boundary of his garden and there will no doubt be noise disturbance as it is to be used a plant room. He is aware that other residents consulted have objected to the plans. He feels that there is an exaggeration of the clinic's medical presence in the area and also a misleading description of the local area, citing it is opposite a "parade of shops" rather than the small village shop which is across the road. These views are to be considered when discussing the planning applications.

### **6/2024 Planning**

#### **To Consider**

#### **Application No. 23/01569/FULL**

Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of a single storey rear extension – **Balestra, London Road, Crays Hill, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed not to object to this Application.

#### **Application No. 23/01282/FULL**

Demolish existing dwelling and garage/stores and construct 3 No. detached dwellings with associated amenity space and parking (amended scheme) – **South Lodge, Approach Road, Billericay, Essex**

The Parish Council agreed to object to this Application on the grounds that it is overdevelopment of greenbelt land.

#### **Application No. 23/01498/FULL**

Proposed single storey infill extension, car park alterations, access works and landscaping – **FaceMed Ltd, Crays Hill, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed to object to this Application on the grounds that it is overdevelopment of a commercial property in a residential area and would necessitate change of use from residential to

commercial for the area that is included in the development. Further, the Application is misleading as to the street scene in which the property is situated which is almost wholly residential. The Parish Council recommends a site visit by councillor members of the Planning Committee to assess the Application's impact on the surrounding properties. Councillor Sargent has agreed to forward this Application to the Planning Committee.

#### **7/2024 Co-Option of New Parish Councillor**

Councillor Finn has submitted her resignation. Thanks are given to her for her time and work during her time as a Parish Councillor. Mark Pusey has been Co-Opted as a new Parish Councillor. The Parish Council welcomes him to the role. Proposed by Cllr. Jenkins, seconded by Cllr. Kirby

**RESOLVED**

#### **8/2023 Website Updates**

Clerk to send queries regarding Governance Documents to Councillors to be reviewed at next meeting and confirm any amendments. **RESOLVED**

#### **9/2023 Finance**

##### **(a) Expenditure to Consider**

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall	Fee for January 2024 Council Meeting	£12.00
Parish Clerk	Salary for December 2023	£260.00
M.R. Brown	Cleaning of bus shelters December 2023	£90.00

Proposed by Cllr. Kirby, seconded by Cllr. Jenkins to pay all items.

All agreed. **RESOLVED**

#### **10/2024 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall

**The meeting closed at 8.00pm**

**Chairman .....** **Date .....**