

Ramsden Crays Parish Council



Minutes of the Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 11th March 2024

Cllrs. McPherson-Davis, Jenkins & Bailey

Cllrs. Ball & Buckley

2 members of the public

25/2024 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Pusey & Kirby

26/2024 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th February 2024

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

27/2024 Declaration of Members Interests

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

28/2024 Reports from County and Borough Councillors

Essex County Council

Budget

The budget has taken place. There has been an increase in Council Tax of 5%, this is split 3% general funding and 2% for adult social care. This is due to increased pressure on services and inflation. Overall Essex is a well managed authority and financially stable.

There will be no cuts to frontline services.

A new SEND school will be opening in Rochford. The demand for SEND school places has increased by 38%. The school will offer over 100 places for children aged 3 to 18. No Government money has been used for this and has been wholly funded by developers. The school hopes to open for the 2025/26 academic year.

Highways

There will be an investment of £12 million into Highways and pothole repair.

There will also be enforcement on private properties to maintain and clear ditches and cut back overgrown vegetation.

Restrictions on weed killers have made it harder to maintain pavements by the Highways team.

There have been issues with the supply chain for maintenance of streetlights. The microchips required for the lights come from China and there is currently a shortage. Any delay in repairs is due to issues sourcing parts rather than financial. Sodium lights can no longer be replaced as they are no longer available and have to be changed to LED.

29/2024 Members of the Public

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

Complaint from resident regarding access to Footpath 39.

The entry points of the foot path from Crays Hill and Church Lane have been blocked by barbed wire and a road barrier to stop the horses within the field escaping as the original stiles have broken down. Clerk to forward photographs to County Councillors so they may investigate who is responsible for the maintenance of the access points of the footpath. **RESOLVED**

30/2024 Planning

To consider:

Application No. 24/00060/FULL

Proposed two storey side and front extensions, removal of front box dormer and insert 3 No. pitched roof dormers, extend rear box dormer, single storey rear extension, convert garage/outbuilding to annex with new pitched roof over incorporating a pitched roof dormer and alterations to fenestration – **4 Bromfeld Road, Billericay, Essex, CM11 2XT** Extension for decision requested.

The Parish Council agreed to **Object** to this Application on the grounds that it is over development of the site due to the roof height on the garage extension in proximity to the neighbouring property.

Application No. 24/00181/OUT

Outline application for one new 3 bedroom dwellinghouse with all matters reserved except for access – **The Oaks Farm, London Road, Crays Hill, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed to **Object** to this Application for the following reasons:

- The curtilage on the plans submitted is incorrect. It indicates that the whole area is owned by Mr Straderick which is not the case. Plots within the boundary are owned by different

individuals. A plot at the rear of Highlands is registered to someone in Ireland. Details of the different owners of the land can be confirmed.

- An Article 4 Directive still applies to the land. Planning infringements have already taken place. A basement was constructed underneath the barn for which retrospective planning permission had to be applied for and was granted. There are currently portacabins and containers on the land which are in breach of the Article 4.
- The Planning Department have previously stated to other applicants that the land is a designated break line in the green belt to stop overdevelopment of the village.
- The parish council feels that according to national greenbelt policy, that there would need to be very special circumstances to allow this application to obtain approval, no such circumstances exist with this application.
- Mr Straderick has already obtained planning permission for commercial unit on the land, which although is an “animal” based business is purely commercial and in no way agricultural.
- If permission were granted to build the dwelling it would set a precedent of building on green belt land in the centre of the village.

The Parish Council would recommend that local residents respond with detailed objections to the outline planning application.

It also requests that the Application is referred to the Planning Committee for review and that the Planning Department undertakes a site visit to investigate what building has already taken place and what it is being used for.

31/2024 Appointment of ABLC Representative

Cllr. McPherson-Davis to remain as ABLC representative. **RESOLVED**

32/2024 Governance Document Updates

Clerk to readopt and update documents. **RESOLVED**

33/2024 Appointment of Heelis & Lodge as Internal Auditors

Proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis, seconded by Cllr. Bailey. Clerk to appoint Heelis & Lodge. **RESOLVED**

34/2024 80th Anniversary of D-Day Landings – Billericay Town Council

Clerk to confirm attendance of a representative and guest. Clerk to investigate purchase of commemorative flag for the village. **RESOLVED**

35/2024 Response to Enquiry Regarding Blocked Footpath 68

Response from Essex County Council:

Thank you for your enquiry regarding footpaths in Crays Hill. I am sorry to hear of the accident in this location.

I have checked Oak Avenue on our systems and this is a private road which is not maintained by ECC. This is likely for the owners of the houses to maintain, however, this would need to be confirmed using <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/land-registry>

Looking at the map, there is also no public footpath through this road either and Ramsden Crays 40 to Ramsden Crays 68 would be the correct public path to take.

Clerk to post response on website. **RESOLVED**

36/Parish Council Elections

Clerk has requested Nomination Forms and Electoral Register from Elections Officer. Parish Council to meet next week to complete forms for submission. Clerk to post notice of Election on website.

RESOLVED

37/2024

(a) Expenditure to Consider

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall	Fee for March 2024 Council Meeting	£12.00
Parish Clerk	Salary for February 2024	E260.00
M.R. Brown	Cleaning of bus shelters February 2024	£90.00
EALC	Councillor Training	£456.00

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

All agreed. **RESOLVED**

38/2024 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8th April 2024

(Date was wrongly stated as 9th April on Agenda)

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Chairman **Date**