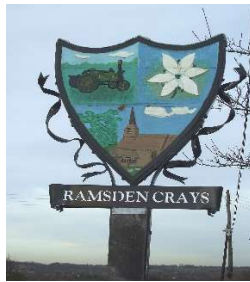


Ramsden Crays Parish Council



Minutes of the Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 10th March 2025

Cllrs. Kirby, Jenkins & Cook

Cllr. Ball

Emma Beadle – Clerk

2 members of the public

24/2025 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Sargent, Buckley, Bailey & Pusey

25/2025 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th February 2025

All agreed. Proposed by Cllr. Jenkins, seconded by Cllr. Cook **RESOLVED** Signed by Cllr. Kirby.

26/2025 Declaration of Members Interests

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

None

27/2025 Reports from County and Borough Councillors

Essex County Council

Budget

In the recent budget Council Tax was increased by 3.75% in total, 2% of which being for adult social care.

An extra £8 million on last year's budget has been allocated to Highways to help with pothole repairs and road maintenance.

Nicole Wood has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of Essex County Council.

Devolution

The consultation for appointment of a Mayor for Essex will open in May 2026.

Government Reorganisation

There are currently 15 local Councils serving 1.9 million people. It is likely that Essex County Council and Basildon Borough Council will be disbanded when reorganisation takes place. There will be

shadow elections in May 2027 and new Councils will be formed in May 2028. The final decision will be made by Jim McMahon, guided by the Treasury but the goal of the reorganisation is to look for long term savings. A compromise letter has been submitted by Essex County Council.

Local Plan/Development

Cllr. Kirby asked Cllr. Ball for an update regarding any infrastructure such as GP Surgery, dentists and schools that may be being considered in line with the large amount of new housing proposed in the local area.

28/2025 Members of the Public

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

None

29/2025 Planning

None

30/2025 Appointment of Heelis & Lodge as External Auditors

Proposed by Cllr. Jenkins, seconded by Cllr. Kirby. **RESOLVED**

31/2025 Governance Document Updates

Councillors to review and agree governance documents including Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. To be Agreed at next meeting. **RESOLVED**

32/2025 Review of Risk Assessment

Councillors to review the Risk Assessment for 2025. To be Agreed at next meeting. **RESOLVED**

33/2025 Insurance Renewal

Clerk to complete Pre Renewal Questionnaire and return to Gallaghers. Fixed Asset Register reviewed and updated. **RESOLVED**

34/2025 Local Council Liaison & ABLC Representatives

Cllr. Jenkins has agreed to represent the Parish Council at Local Council Liaison meetings which can be attended via Teams. ABLC representative to be confirmed when Cllrs. Pusey and Bailey are present. **RESOLVED**

35/2025 Update on Memorial Bench

Retrospective Licences have now been received for the bollards, trees and flowerbeds surrounding the War Memorial. Wickford Town Council have sponsored the purchase and installation of the bench. Locality Funding from Essex County Council has been applied for to contribute to the cost of installation of a new footpath to access the War Memorial and bench. Cllr. Kirby to obtain a quote for this work from a local contractor and arrange purchase and delivery of the Memorial Bench. **RESOLVED**

36/2025 Finance

(a) Expenditure to Consider

Parish Clerk	Salary for February 2025 - £430.95 Purchase of Memory Stick - £19.99	Chq. No. 237	£450.94
Prime Klens	Cleaning of bus shelters February 2025	Chq. No.238	£90

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

All agreed. **RESOLVED**

37/2025 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 7th April, 2025

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Chairman Date