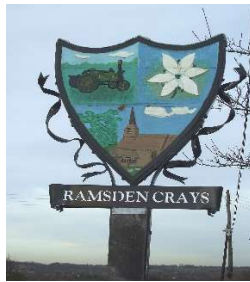


Ramsden Crays Parish Council



Minutes of the Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 14th July 2025

Cllrs. Kirby, Jenkins, Bailey & Cook

Cllrs. Buckley & Ball (Essex County Council)

Cllrs. Sargent & Allen (Basildon Borough Council)

Emma Beadle – Clerk

2 members of the public

74/2025 Apologies for Absence

None

75/2025 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th May 2025

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

76/2025 Declaration of Members Interests

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

None

77/2025 Reports from County and Borough Councillors

Essex County Council

There is still a locality budget available, bids need to be in by the end of the year.

Proposals for reorganisation of local Government are to be reviewed in September. There may be a split of three or five authorities. The fewer local authorities there are, will mean less Chief Executives. The age demographic of the local areas has to be considered when making the split as it can cause challenges with the social care bill. The Government will have the final decision on the reorganisation.

Basildon Borough Council

Cllr. Sargent apologised for not being able to attend the Parish Council meetings. Group meetings are held on a Monday night which makes it difficult for Borough Councillors to attend.

Cllr. Sargent stated there is very little information available about how devolution will affect Parish Councils but it would be unfair for Parishes to take on more responsibilities as being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary role. Cllr. Ball stated there was no expectation for taking on more responsibilities.

Cllr. Sargent has had reports from residents of garden waste collections being missed. She will follow this up with the relevant department.

Play equipment upgrades are now cancelled but a bid can be applied for a specific piece of new equipment.

The Council are looking for larger areas to hold the Crunch service so it can be open to the wider community. It was well attended in Crays Hill Recreation Ground. Another date can be arranged.

A large amount of demolition and regeneration is taking place in Basildon Town Centre and new housing is now being built.

78/2025 Members of the Public

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

Two members of the public attended with concerns about the Appeal of an Application for building of 9 houses on land next to the Beam End Cottage. This was discussed under Planning Applications received.

An email had been received about repair or replacement of a damaged stile at the entrance to Footpath 38 on Church Lane. Clerk to contact land owner to request repair. **RESOLVED**

A further email had been received about funding to repair the bollards outside Hemmings Stores and repair and improvement of the car park and play equipment at the recreation ground. The recreation ground and play equipment are the responsibility of Basildon Borough Council. Cllr. Cook had inspected the play equipment and found it to be in a good state of repair. Basildon Council carry out a full inspection annually. Cllr. Sargent to make enquiries with Basildon Council about improvements.

Concerns were also raised about bushes and shrubs encroaching on to the pavement particularly by Hemmings Stores. Clerk to check whether the bushes belong to a property so that the property owner can be asked to cut them back. Clerk to put together a list of areas that require maintenance to form an improvement project that may be eligible for Locality Funding.

A resident has also raised concerns about servicing and repair of the bus shelters. These are to be inspected and repaired where necessary.

Clerk to arrange a Land Registry Search to determine ownership of land between Approach Road and Gardiners Lane North.

RESOLVED

79/2025 Planning

25/00752/FULL

Erection of three chalet bungalows with associated private amenity space and parking in lieu of existing stable building, hardstanding and menage – **Land North of Holt Cottage, Gardiners Lane North, Billericay, Essex**

The Parish Council agreed to **Object** to this Application on the grounds that it is development of Green Belt Land and does not fulfil the criteria to be classified as Grey Belt.

25/00848/PACU

Notification for prior approval change of use of agricultural building to storage under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class R. – **Crays Hall Farm, Church Lane, Ramsden Crays, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed they had **No Objection** to this Application.

25/00847/FULL

Retrospective planning permission for agricultural access track – **Crays Hall Farm, Church Lane, Ramsden Crays, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed to **Object** to this Application on the grounds that the track access is on a main A road with poor visibility in a speed limit change area.

24/00677/OUT

Appeal Reference: APP/V1505/W/25/3367020

Outline application for the erection of up to 9 dwellings and garages (all matters reserved) at land west of Beam End Cottage, London Road, Crays Hill

The Parish Council confirmed their original objections to this Application. Clerk to lodge this with the Planning Inspectorate.

80/2025 Hope Road/Save a Paw

Cllr. Buckley had received the following statement from Superintendent Norris at Essex Police:

For context, I am the Gold Commander for this matter and working closely with my Basildon Neighbourhood Policing Team as well as our Serious Crime Directorate and Press Office and alongside the RSPCA and Basildon Council colleagues.

Many thanks for your e mail / communication regarding our ongoing investigation into animal cruelty matters in Crays Hill, Wickford.

I acknowledge the deep concern expressed by you and the wider community and we appreciate the time and effort taken to compile your e mail.

Please be assured that Essex Police takes allegations of animal cruelty extremely seriously, and we remain committed to ensuring that all necessary investigative steps are taken in line with legal and procedural standards.

Whilst acknowledging the serious nature of the concerns you have raised, we are limited by law in what we can publicly say around the investigation while it remains ongoing.

At this stage, one man is charged awaiting a next court hearing and two people remain on bail. Officers are working tirelessly to progress the investigation.

This means we're not always able to answer specific questions as fully as we know the public would like. The frustration that may cause is not lost on me, but we must not do or say anything which could hinder the progress of the ongoing prosecution or the wider case.

All public updates are linked here from our Essex Police website and the content on this link will be updated when any new information is suitable for publication.

[Billericay: Woman arrested in dog remains investigation | Essex Police](#)

Your contact will be saved and once we are able to and at the appropriate time, you will receive a fuller update.

The following statement has been received from Grant Taylor at Basildon Borough Council:

Dear Councillors,

We continue to assist the Police to ensure that the issues surrounding these matters are dealt with fairly and in accordance with appropriate legislation. For these reasons the Council will not be divulging any specific details regarding this matter as it would not wish to adversely affect the ongoing investigations or the outcomes of any criminal prosecutions.

However, I can confirm that officers from the Environmental Health team have been making weekly visits to the property to check upon the progress the owner is making in clearing the site, liaising with internal colleagues as appropriate.

As some of the adjacent neighbours may be able to see, the external structures have been taken down and the outbuilding has been cleaned and refurbished. The site has been clear of putrescible material for a number of weeks and correspondingly there are no flies or odours. In accordance with a formal notice served upon the owner, a qualified pest controller has been visiting site weekly and has found no 'take' of the bait laid. Officers are in receipt of their record sheets and will continue to monitor the situation until all works have been completed. Officers have been updating the neighbouring residents of this progress after each visit.

NHS colleagues have also made support available for local residents who may have been affected by the circumstances found at the property.

Should you still be receiving enquires for this support, please direct enquirers to the local surgery. You will be aware that we have committed to carrying out an internal review of our knowledge of activities, and interactions with the occupier(s), at the address concerned. This is currently

underway. Once all investigations and prosecutions are concluded we will be able to release more detailed information into the public domain.

Grant Taylor

Assistant Director for Community & Leisure Basildon Council

The RSPCA are also investigating the case.

81/Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Bench & Pathway

The pathway and base have now been installed. The bench has now been ordered. Funding has been granted for both the bench and pathway. **RESOLVED**

82/Internal Audit Report from Heelis & Lodge

Internal Audit Report has been received and reviewed. They are happy with systems of control in place. Recommendations of updates to governance documents to be prepared by Clerk. **RESOLVED**

83/2025 Finance

(a) Expenditure to Consider

Parish Clerk	Salary for June/July 2025 £884.00 Renewal of McAfee Antivirus (2 year subscription £64.99	Chq. No. 251	£948.99
Prime Klens	Cleaning of bus shelters for June 2025	Chq. No. 252	£90
A Bowman	Gardening services	Chq. 253	£485.86

(b) Bank Reconciliation – Balance of Cash Book as at 30/6/25 - £25,548.66

(c) Cheques agreed and paid as per Agenda for cancelled June 2025 meeting under delegated powers:

Parish Clerk	Salary for May 2025 £442 Purchase of stamps £13.60	Chq. No. 247	£455.60
Prime Klens	Cleaning of bus shelters for May 2025	Chq. No. 248	£90
Heelis & Lodge	Internal Audit Fee	Chq. 249	£210
RJB Construction UK Ltd	Installation of pathway and base at War Memorial	Chq.250	£2880.00

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

All agreed. **RESOLVED**

83/2025 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8th September 2025

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman **Date**