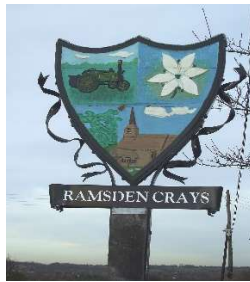


Ramsden Crays Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.00pm at The Shepherd & Dog Public House

Attendance:

Cllrs. Kirby, Jenkins, Pusey & Cook

Parish Clerk/RFO: E Beadle

6 Members of the public

1. Introduction and welcome from the Chairman

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Myers & Hockton

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2025

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

4. Chairman's Report - Attached

5. Comments and suggestions from residents of Ramsden Crays

None

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Chairman **Date**

Ramsden Crays Parish Council



Chairman's Report – 11th May 2026

Welcome to the residents and Councillors.

The Chairman's report includes information on the work and activities of the Parish Council. The Parish Council meetings are held once a month, on the second Monday of every month except August. Due to us having no other venue available in Crays Hill the meetings are currently held at the Shepherd & Dog Public House which is closed for business on a Monday with the kind permission of landlady Becky Bailey. Unfortunately, Becky has had to stand down as a Parish Councillor due to her business commitments of running the pub. I would like to again thank Becky for her work on the Parish Council and for the continued support she gives to this Council and the village.

We are currently operating with a full Council of five Councillors and residents are always welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings and have an opportunity to raise any issues at our meetings or contact any of our Parish Councillors.

As most people are aware there has and will be major changes due to the local elections. It is unclear at the moment will be joining with whom but as there is no clear majority it will be a coalition at the Council. We will await to see how this affects us as a Parish Council.

There have also been changes at Essex County Council. Consequently, we have lost both of our current County Councillors, Councillors Malcolm Buckley and Tony Ball. I would like to wish them both the very best for the future and thank them for all the help they have given us in the past.

Following the resignation of Councillor Bailey, we are pleased to welcome Zoe Hockton on to the Parish Council. Zoe has just been elected as one of our local Borough Councillors and also to Essex County Council. We are looking forward to welcoming Zoe to our Parish Council and think she will be a great asset to the Parish. She sends her apologies for absence this evening but she will join us at the next meeting.

Projects

War Memorial

We have finally managed to install the new Queen Elizabeth II bench and pathway and erect the new flagpole at the memorial.

My thanks to all the Councillors involved in making this possible, County, Borough and Town.

It has been a long battle with Highways who as ever did not make things easy.

On the subject of the memorial, we will shortly be opening up for more submissions for names to be inscribed on our "They also served" area of the Memorial. We will shortly be issuing details of the qualifying criteria required for any additions.

The Memorial Service continues to be well supported, with generally higher numbers each year. Thank you all that attend the service.

Special thanks to Lay Minister Mike Tricker for conducting the service and to Becky Bailey for hosting the buffet and refreshments after the service. Thanks also to our Police Officers that attend to pay their respects and escort us to the Memorial safely.

Please come and support us again this year.

Road Safety

Hopefully very shortly we will have the village speed signs legally signed over to us. It is our intention to get them refurbished and have one at each end of the village.

We are also looking at other options to hopefully encourage more speed awareness through the village.

Planning

As we all know, we are currently inundated with planning applications, some large and some small. We will continue to object and fight against those that we believe are not in the overall interest of the village.

Unfortunately, the final decision is made by Basildon Planning.

Residents must object to any applications that they feel are unsuitable development in our village.

Gardens

We are spending more of our budget on the maintenance of our gardens. They are being very well looked after by our gardener, Woody.

We are always looking for new projects to improve the village.

This is the fourth year that we have not increased the precept.

Finally, I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors, and both our Borough and County Councillors for all their time and work over the last year.

Lastly, thanks to our Clerk Emma who works extremely hard, often unseen, to allow us to operate as a Parish Council.

Councillor Michael Kirby
Chairman