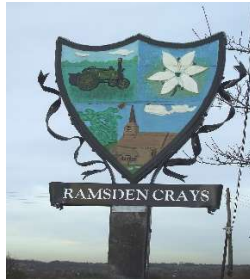


Ramsden Crays Parish Council



Minutes of the Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 14th September 2026

Cllrs. Jenkins, Cook & Pusey
Emma Beadle – Clerk

4 members of the public

72/2026 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Kirby, Sargent & Hockton

73/2026 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th July 2026

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

74/2026 Declaration of Members Interests

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

75/2026 Reports from County and Borough Councillors

Cllr. Hockton provided a written report prior to the meeting:

Apologies for not being able to attend tonight, I have some updates for you from ECC and locally:

The Government has dropped its preferred local government reorganisation plan for Essex following a challenge by Essex County Council. This avoids an estimated £100 million in implementation costs, allowing funds to remain focused on local services and infrastructure. District Council elections in Essex will also proceed as scheduled in May.

ECC Highways pothole repairs are up by 60% on this time last year.

All ECC councillors were asked to choose 3 roads in dire need of pothole repairs, I selected Barleylands Rd, Elder Ave and Wash Rd. Unfortunately, Barleylands Road needs more extensive work carried out but it is on the work program at last. Elder Ave is a concrete road and could not be repaired under the pothole scheme. Wash road is still on the list to be repaired and I will have an

update on when this will happen by the next meeting. I am in discussions with Highways to select another road for repair, suggestions are welcome!

There is also a new Highways scheme to reduce the timeframe on all repairs about to be announced.

I have had many reports of dangerous driving and speeding through Crays Hill, Ramsden Bellhouse and down the Castledon Road, particularly at night. I contacted Chief Inspector Paul Hogben of Basildon Police and he has reported this to his Neighbourhood Policing Team and Roads Policing colleagues for additional focus in these areas.

He also shared the Essex Safer Roads – Extra Eyes Campaign where residents can report any dangerous driving with uploading dash cam and doorbell footage. This is the link:

www.saferessexroads.org/extra-eyes.

Clerk to share details of the campaign on the Parish Council website.

I have enquired about a speed survey for the villages which Highways will carry out providing the parish councils can cover the cost which still needs to be discussed.

I have been engaging with groups of residents regarding local planning applications, including Barnsfield and Glebe Road, assisting where I can, gathering information from council resources both at Basildon and ECC. I have also been discussing Barnsfield with the cabinet member for Highways and hope to arrange a visit with him and officers at the proposed site very soon.

The 2 Wickford Reform councillors and I are supporting the agenda for tackling the anti-social behaviour in Wickford town centre, supporting businesses and targeting those that are selling illegal goods, especially to underage children.

76/2026 Members of the Public

A resident raised concerns about Basildon Council mowing and cutting back roadside verges and roundabouts and proposed that areas that do not pose any road visibility issues be left to grow, maybe be planted with wild flowers to become conservation areas. He felt it was far better for the environment to increase natural conservation areas than use petrol mowers to cut everything back. Clerk to contact Basildon Council for consideration.

Residents from Barnsfield asked if it was possible to get any update or clarification from Planning as to what reports have been received from consultees such as Highways and Anglian Water so that should the application go before the Planning Committee they can be confident that the Committee are in receipt of the most up to date reports. The comments/reports are not displayed on the planning portal. They are very concerned that this may go before the Committee before a site visit from Highways has taken place. Clerk to forward concerns to Cllr. Hockton to request an update from Planning.

Residents raised concerns about levels of litter in the village. A litter pick had taken place by residents in the summer. Clerk to contact Cllr. Hockton to arrange further dates and publicise the litter picking group.

77/2026 Planning

Application No. 26/00948/OUT

Construction of detached dwelling and associated works including vehicle access, car parking, cycle storage and hard and soft landscaping on land at Meadow Sweet, Oak Avenue, Crays Hill (Outline application with all matters reserved) – **Meadow Sweet, Oak Road, Billericay, Essex**

The Parish Council agreed to OBJECT to this application on the grounds that it is inappropriate and excessive development of greenbelt land.

Application No. 26/00898/FULL

Erection of 4 No. residential dwellinghouses with associated parking, hardstanding, accesses and amenity space – **South Lodge, Southlands Road, Crays Hill, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed to OBJECT to this application on the grounds that it is inappropriate and excessive development of greenbelt land.

Application No. 26/00892/FULL

Retrospective application for a Retractable Swimming Pool Enclosure – **4 Bromfelde Road, Billericay, Essex, CM11 2XT**

The Parish Council agreed they had NO OBJECTION to this application.

Application No. 26/00817/FULL

Single storey rear extension, extension to rear dormer and side rooflight – **Redlands, Gardiners Lane North, Billericay, Essex**

The Parish Council agreed they had NO OBJECTION to this application.

Application No. 26/00877/FULL

Change of use of two dwellinghouses (Use Class 3) to ancillary accommodation, office and staff facilities for FACEMED (Use Class E(e)). Along with associated hard and soft landscaping works (part retrospective) at The Firs and Willowmead, Oak Avenue, Crays Hill – **The Firs and Willowmead, Oak Avenue, Crays Hill, Billericay**

The Parish Council agreed to OBJECT to this application, on the grounds that change of use would result in the loss of homes in the village that is already under pressure to provide new dwellings to meet the local plan target and would introduce further overdevelopment of commercial use into an area that is predominantly residential.

The proposal would contribute to the gradual increase of commercial premises within a residential area, undermining its primary function as a place for people to live.

The Parish Council feels that the applicant has been misleading in previous applications as to the intended use. The works that have taken place appear to be clearly directed towards preparing the properties for commercial occupation rather than ordinary residential use.

Application No. 26/00976/VAR

Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 23/00805/FULL (granted on appeal -APP/V1505/W/24/3347517) to allow minor changes proposed to layouts and elevations – **Land Corner of Corner Road, Ramsden Crays, Wickford**

The Parish Council agreed they had NO OBJECTION to this application.

78/2026 Licences for Adoption of VAS Units and Speeding in the Village

Licences have now been received for responsibility for the two SID/VAS units in the village. Clerk to obtain quotes for assessment and repair of units. Cllr. Hockton is currently investigating a traffic count from Essex Highways. **RESOLVED**

79/2026 Remembrance Sunday Preparations

Clerk to purchase wreath and arrange with gardener, Mr Bowman, to tidy and plant the garden area and also cut back any overhanging shrubbery on the route between the Shepherd & Dog and the War Memorial. An increase in budget to £200 was agreed for the refreshments provided at the Shepherd & Dog. Becky Bailey is kindly allowing use of the marquee for refreshments after the service. Clerk has prepared Order of Service for proof reading before being sent to print. Clerk to prepare risk assessment. Cllr. Kirby has booked Lay Minister Mike Tricker to deliver the service. **RESOLVED**

80/2026 Preparation of Autumn Newsletter

Cllr. Jenkins to prepare the Autumn Newsletter. Items suggested to be included are litter picking, speed watch, new Councillor, addition of names to the War Memorial and clear signposting to the Ramsden Crays Parish Council website. **RESOLVED**

81/2026 Online Banking Mandate Changes

Clerk has provided forms to Cllr. Hockton to be completed for addition of Cllr. Hockton to the banking mandate. Cllr. Kirby to sign form to remove Cllr. Bailey. Postponed to next meeting.

82/2026 Invitation for Applications for Additional Names to be added to the War Memorial

An invitation will be made for residents to apply for names to be added to the War Memorial. The name, address and details of any military service are required for the application to be considered. **RESOLVED**

83/2026 Jon Austin – Willow Green Travellers

Postponed to next meeting.

84/2026 Finance

(a) Expenditure to Consider

Parish Clerk	Salary for August 2026 - £459.22 Microsoft Annual Subscription - £84.99	Online Payment	£544.21
Prime Klenz	Cleaning of bus shelters - September	Online Payment	£90.00
Payments Approved in August:	Approved by Cllrs. Cook & Kirby		
Arthur J Gallagher Insurance	Additional Premium for VAS Signs	Online Payment	£21.90
Prime Klenz	Cleaning of bus shelters	Online Payment	£90.00

(b) Bank Reconciliation as 31st August 2026 - £28,856.12

Proposed by Cllr. Jenkins, seconded by Cllr. Cook **ALL AGREED**

85/2026 Date of next meeting

Monday 12th October 2026

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Chairman **Date**