

MINUTES OF RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT SHEPHERD AND DOG PUBLIC HOUSE ON MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER, 2019 AT 7.00 p.m.

Attendance: Cllr. D. McPherson-Davis, Cllr. M. Kirby, Cllr. G. Jenkins, Cllr. C. Finn and Cllr. T. Knight
Parish Clerk/RFO Mrs. Georgina Bassett

Also in attendance: Cllr. T. Ball – ECC and Cllr. M. Buckley
Four members of the public

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. T. Sargent – Basildon Borough Council.

171/19 Declaration of Members Interests:

Non-pecuniary declaration of interest received from Cllr. McPherson-Davis on planning application consulted by Borough Council on 19/01631/FULL – Rosedene as resides opposite. Parish Clerk – non-pecuniary declaration item 176/19 (iv) - storage.

172/19 Public Forum:

No questions from the public on items on the agenda.

Borough and County Councillors:

Cllr. M. Buckley – ECC

Interesting few weeks regarding the election. County Hall in the process of setting the budget. This will be voted on in February 2020 and not sure if there will be an increase or not. Pressure put on Highways to continue spending. Continued pressure on Social Care – age profile of the County and more dependent on social services, issues with children in care and these are priority services. Demand led rather than by choose to provide. Other services more discretionary, balance to be reviewed on Council Tax, feasible charges and services.

Concern for capping, not yet Essex County Council perceived for this financial year coming.

Cllr. Ball – ECC - need for growth in the country in the South as well as the North following recent election. Indications from government that the purse strings may be released.

173/19 Finance Report:

(i) **Expenditure:**

Clerk/RFO December 2019 Salary/Expenditure	£ 674.86
Bus Shelters – cleaning – December 2019	£ 80.00

(ii) Bank statement November £11,353.56 to be reconciled with actual of £11,193.56.

Proposed by Cllr. Jenkins and seconded by Cllr. Knight payment of expenditure and bank reconciliation – **agreed**.

(iii) HMRC – re-enrolment was submitted prior to 31st December, 2019 - redeclaration on The Pensions Regulator submission scheduled prior to 2nd March 2020. Noted.

174/19 Planning:

Application No: 19/01467/PACU. Prior notification under Class Q of Part 3 of the GPDO 2015 (as amended) of a proposed change of use of two agricultural buildings to dwelling houses (use class C3).

Location: Land to the East of Andy Cottage, Crays Hill Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.
Parish Council objected on the grounds of greenbelt and lack of information.

Application No: 19/01631/FULL. Demolish existing dwelling and erect replacement single storey dwelling.

Location: Rosedene, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Response due to Basildon Borough Council by 20th December, 2019.

Parish Council reviewed and refer to previous application 14/00196/FULL and objected on the grounds of over development.

Application No: 19/01638/VAR. Variation of conditions 1 and 2 of consent 18/00946/VAR to extend the operational lifetime of phase 2 of the solar farm to 40 years, with no change to phase 1 which is already operational and will expire 04.03.2046.

Location: Land at Outwood Farm Road, Billericay, Essex. No objection by the Parish Council.

Application No: 19/01581/FULL. Proposed minor fenestration and exterior material amendments to planning approval 16/01509/FULL for a single storey side extension to provide a utility/drying room and dining room.

Location: Elmtree Cottage, Oak Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex. The Parish Council responded previously - no objection.

Application No: 19/01600/FULL.

Location: Whites Bridge Cottage, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

The Parish Council responded and objected on the grounds of overdevelopment. The property is substantially larger than the original plans that were agreed.

175/19 Budget/Precept Consideration 2020/2021:

The precept and budget as provided to members were recommended and proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis and seconded by Cllr. Kirby to request from Basildon Borough Council a precept of £13,058.40 – **agreed.**

176/19 Community Projects/Issues:

- (i) Response from the Lottery Application for £1,000.00 towards the installation and purchase of replacement Notice Board at corner of Church Road and Crays Hill. Although notification of workings on this application received, the organisation informed it has not received an online application and the old form has now been replaced online with a new format. Clerk to reapply with the new funding application.
- (ii) Cllr. McPherson-Davis notified the Parish Council not aware of any movement from the Association of Basildon Local Councils or the Borough for a Community of Health and Wellbeing joint session. Requested this be removed from future agendas.
- (iii) Follow up to the appointment in principle in the November meeting of a Website provider suitable for update/legislation – accessibility of the current website. Proposed by Cllr. Kirby and seconded by Cllr. McPherson-Davis for the RFO to contact VCS Website to confirm the minimum package and time frame if this can commence by January 2020. If figures agreed by all council members, Cllr. McPherson-Davis to request RFO to proceed prior to the January Parish Council Meeting – **agreed.**
- (iv) All additional information received by councillors for a decision on the return for review/destruction and storage. Approximately £60.00 total collection and return etc. Proposed by Cllr. Jenkins and seconded by Cllr. McPherson-Davis to proceed – **agreed.**
- (v) The Parish Council considered information received on contractor costings to maintain the Memorial and the Notice Board garden. It was **agreed** for the Parish Council principally to maintain and appoint a contractor ad hoc as and when required.
- (vi) Thanks, were conveyed to residents of Ramsden Crays for their donation of £30.00 in the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal collection box were noted.

- (vii) The structural warranty in conjunction with the service provider was considered in relation to rust on the fitness unit installed in the play area. A photograph to be provided from a councillor to the Clerk to forward to Caloo to assist the review.
Proposed by Cllr. Jenkins and seconded by Cllr. McPherson-Davis – **agreed**.

177/19 Policies/Regulations/Standing Orders:

The Parish Council reviewed the following:

- (a) Amended Model Financial Regulations 2019 for England and Wales as of NALC bulletin via EALC August, 2019.

The Chairman recommended that items 3.1, and 4.4 be amended for review at a later date of no later than January for the forecast of revenue and capital and salary budgets instead of November in the previous year. Additional recommendation by the Chairman to remove paragraph 4.5 related to the RFO/Clerk delegated powers.

It was proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis and seconded by Cllr. Kirby to accept these amendments – **agreed**.

It was noted prior to the decision, the RFO/Clerk referred the Parish Council to e-mail communication advising the Parish Council against these changes referring to issues/ concerns and the likelihood of legal ramifications in the future, particularly relating to item 4.5.

- (b) Standing Orders.
Proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis and seconded by Cllr. Knight to adopt any changes to the Standing Orders – **agreed**.
- (c) Internal Auditor Appointment/Tender.
Proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis and seconded by Cllr. Jenkins for the Clerk/RFO to obtain three quotations for review at the January meeting for year end – 31st March, 2020.

178/19 Clerk Report:

Noted information previously sent from the Clerk to assist with the making of informed decisions on items on the agenda.

179/19 Information/Correspondence/External Meeting Reports from Parish Councillors:

Cllr. McPherson-Davis attending a planning meeting on 17th December, 2019.

180/19 Public Question Time:

Question raised from member of the public on the pothole at a drain outside Byfield near the entrance to Ramsden Crays Parish Council Park. Cllr. Ball offered to make enquiries.

181/19 Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Monday 20th January, 2020 at the Shepherd and Dog Public House.

Meeting ended at 20.00 p.m.

Signed

Chairman

Dated