

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008 AT 7.30 P.M.  
AT THE CHURCH HALL, CRAYS HILL.

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*Present:* Cllr. McPherson-Davis, Cllr. Peake, Cllr. Lucas and Cllr. Borer  
*Apologies:* Cllr. Dornan  
*In the Chair:* Cllr. McPherson-Davis  
*Minute Secretary:* Georgina Bassett  
*Also present:* 5 members of the public

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllr. Dornan.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

To approve as a correct record of events the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. These were agreed to be an accurate record of the minutes.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that:

- (i) The Parish Council elections were held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May this year and resulted in the election of a new Councillor Tina Borer who replaced Roy Reeve.
- (ii) The Parish received grants of over £15,000 in the year up to 31st March 2008 which together with some of the Parish Council's reserves and the Precept enabled the Parish Council to:-
  - a. Purchase two new bus shelters.
  - b. Complete the fencing in the Play Area in the Park.
  - c. Refurbish the Village Sign.
  - d. Purchase a new seat for the Park.
  - e. Plant additional spring bulbs.
  - f. Make donations to the Essex Air Ambulance Service and the upkeep of our local graveyard.
- (iii) A 5<sup>th</sup> Public Inquiry was held in October relating to Dale Farm at which Parish Councillors and others spoke out against the appeal. In January the appeal was dismissed and planning permission refused. Unfortunately Basildon District Council (B.D.C.) was unable to carry out an eviction as there was a Judicial Review pending. This was held in February and the result recently announced. An appeal against the High Court decision has now been lodged by B.D.C.
- (iv) The Parish Clerk has now been with us for over two years and he thanked her for the diligent way in which she has served the Council during that time especially in respect of the professional advice provided to all

councillors and her enthusiastic approach to all the variety of tasks she has been given.

- (v) In addition the Chairman went on to thank all Councillors both past and present for their involvement in the work of the Parish during the last year.

#### **4. CLERK'S REPORT ON FINANCE**

The Clerk gave a brief report on finance explaining the necessity for the Parish Council to have at least one internal audit a year as well as the external audit. The Clerk was pleased to update the Parish that an internal auditor has checked the accounts in the presence of the clerk and has approved the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. A report on these accounts will shortly be issued to the Parish Council.

#### **5. ANY OTHER REPORTS**

No other reports were discussed.

#### **6. QUESTIONS**

A number of questions were raised:

The issue regarding EDF and its movements within the Parish and the apparent turmoil created with regard to 4 apparent water leaks between Gardiners Lane North, Shepherd and Dog Public House, Crays Hill and the London Road.

Other areas for concern are recent bulbs planted via the Parish Council both sides of entry to Crays Hill Recreation Ground.

The Clerk will write to Highways and request an update and the objectives of EDF's working progress and advise them of the aftermath that has been left outside properties and to ask that when work is completed that Highways ensure the defects are rectified.

A resident mentioned that there appeared to be a lack of communication between both the Parish and District Council to the residents of Crays Hill.

The Chairman reminded all residents that in addition to the notice board with dates of all Parish Council Meetings, there is also a Parish Council list of contacts for the for assistance and there is the website that is regularly updated with dates, times and agenda and minutes information for the monthly meetings for residents to attend with the opportunity to speak and raise queries to the Parish Council. This is in addition to the at least twice yearly Parish Council Newsletters that are issued with updates of the Parish Council business.

Residents were advised that there are District Surgeries that they can attend and it was suggested that the Parish Council might consider an annual or bi-annual surgery on a Saturday morning.

It was requested that the Parish Council request the District Council to be more prominent to the Parish of Ramsden Crays.

The question of the Public Inquiry of Dale Farm and the situation in more depth was enquired of.

It was brought to the attention by residents that at least one of the footpaths, particularly number 69 had considerably tall trees growing and it was difficult to see the sign as the trees have grown around it. The Clerk will endeavour to resolve this situation.

***MEETING CLOSED AT 20.45***

**SIGNED (CHAIRMAN): ..... DATE: .....**

NOT YET APPROVED BY COUNCIL