

RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE CHURCH HALL, RAMSDEN CRAYS ON WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2009 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors: A. Peake (Chairman), T. Borer (Vice-Chairman), D. McPherson-Davis and R. Reeve

ALSO PRESENT:

Cllr. S. Allen
Georgina Bassett – Clerk to the Council
7 members of the public

01/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received for absence were received from Cllr. J. Lucas, Cllr. D. Morris and Cllr. T. Sargent.

01/08 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 15th July were approved as an accurate reflection - **agreed**. Cllr. Borer asked for the Clerk to note on record that she did not agree with all of no. 90. The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 29th July, 2009 were approved as an accurate reflection – **agreed**.

01/09 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive any “personal” or “personal or prejudicial” interests relating to items on the agenda. None received.

01/10 PUBLIC SESSION

An opportunity for members of the public to speak and raise issues on agenda items (10 mins. maximum)

- (a) Code of Conduct 2007 s.12(2): Members with prejudicial interests to be heard, then leave the room immediately after they have made their representations, answered questions or given evidence. Councillors are unable to remain in the room to hear the representations of others. After the close of the public participation session, any member having left due to section 12(2) may rejoin the Council.

Please note: When the Council starts to discuss any item on the agenda where a member has an interest, the member with that interest must have regard to the Code of Conduct and make the necessary disclosure and where appropriate leave the meeting.

- (b) Public to be heard.

Open session 19:38

- (i) Resident from Hardings Elms Nursery offered to provide further winter and summer bedding in Hardings Elms Road by the junction of the

Southend Road and at either side of the entrance to Crays Hill Park.
Clerk to liaise with ECC to confirm whether or not this is possible.

- (ii) Resident enquired as to the options available for enforcement notices at Barleylands. The Clerk to contact BDC for further information.

Closed session 19:43

Open session 19:44

- (c) **Essex County Council by District/Basildon District Council Ward Councillors Reports.** Five minutes allocation to allow them the opportunity to update the Parish on various issues within the Parish, District and County.

Cllr. S. Allen confirmed that:

- (i) The Sporting Village contract has been awarded. Work will commence in 2010 and it should be open during late 2011.
- (ii) Wat Tyler Park Heritage Centre is up and running.
- (iii) There has been a successful recycling trial period in Central Basildon, this will transfer across the entire district, all residents will be able to recycle – communal bins will be phased out.
- (iv) The “crunch” – recycling of larger furniture etc. is popular and will currently continue.

Closed session 19:46

01/11 PROGRESS CHECK FROM LAST MEETING

No further updates on actions from extraordinary meeting – 1st July and meeting of 17th June, 2009.

01/12 ELECTRICS – CHURCH HALL – CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

Cllr. Peake confirmed that prices for initial quotations held and that all firms provided timer, RCD and lockable box. It was proposed by Cllr. Peake that the Clerk should contact Test Assured and request them to install at a cost of £250.00 – **agreed.**

01/13 P3

Cllr. Peake commented that there had been confusion between the P3 regarding the Nature Reserve and the Parish Council's role. He confirmed that the Parish Council is responsible for the actions of the P3.

Cllr. Peake proposed that there is meeting with BDC for all councillors to be invited to attend a meeting with BDC to receive information on an action plan with regard to funding on the Nature Reserve – **agreed.** The Clerk to arrange.

01/14 BUS LAY-BY

Data has been received from the bus company that operate in Ramsden Crays. The Clerk to write to BDC to confirm that the facility is continued to be provided for use of the bus lay-by in Crays Hill, by the Park area. Proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis and seconded by Cllr. Peake – **agreed.**

01/15 BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE

The Parish Council received an application on the bus shelter maintenance and

the Clerk will make further enquiries regarding conditions prior to the Council's decision.

01/16 OAK AVENUE – BUSINESS INVOLVING EXCESSIVE PARKING OF VEHICLES ON THE ROAD

Cllr. Peake commented that the parking situation had improved and proposed to monitor the situation – **agreed**.

01/17 FOOTPATHS 69, 70 AND 157

Clerk informed members that despite numerous attempts for an update, communication from E.C.C. Highways had been minimal on these improvements and rubbish on the footpaths. This was partially due to a change in personnel. The Clerk and Cllr. Lucas to liaise.

01/18 NOTICE BOARD

Cllr. Peake has volunteered to paint the notice board and follow requested procedures from the insurance company. It was **resolved** that the notice board will be painted by Cllr. Peake with an all weather paint.

01/19 GRANT SITUATION – ELECTRICS FOR PAROCHIAL CHURCH

Cllr. McPherson-Davis informed members that the Parochial Church is holding a meeting in October to discuss the future of the church as a place of worship and are currently unavailable to meet. To be deferred to the November meeting.

01/20 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – SPEED RESTRICTIONS HARDING ELMS

- (i) Cllr. Peake informed members that the only item to add to previous communication with E.C.C. is they are looking into improvements to assist with the speeding of Harding Elms Road.
- (ii) Pedestrian Crossing – outside the Shepherd and Dog - further communication to be received.

01/21 LETTER FROM RESIDENT

Cllr. Lucas not at the meeting. To be deferred to the October meeting.

01/22 POND FARM

Cllr. Peake confirmed that there are no horses at Pond Farm, no further update available.

01/23 OAK ROAD

Cllr. Reeve confirmed:

- (i) The litter situation in the road has worsened.
It was resolved that the Clerk write to BDC to request continued weekly clean up.
- (ii) The Clerk to write to ECC to thank it for the improvements to the road condition at the Gardiners Lane end and looking forward to this continuation at the Belvedere end in the future.

01/24 PRECEPT CONSIDERATION

To review the expenditure and forecast for 2009/2010 and consider precept for 2010 – 2011.

A three year plan was considered to commence in 2010 financial year and it was suggested that the residents are consulted for their views in a newsletter. It was resolved that there should be an Extraordinary Meeting within two weeks to consider a questionnaire for this purpose.

01/25 LOCAL GOVERNMENT/LOCAL DEMOCRACY CONSULTATION

The consultation was noted, but no contribution to be sent. Proposed by Cllr. Peake – **agreed**.

01/26 PROJECTS FOR BUDGET 2008/2009

Cllr. McPherson-Davis confirmed that the slide application will shortly be sent for the CIF grant.

Cllr. Borer updated members that she is still awaiting communication regarding the troughs and on receipt, details will be circulated to members.

01/27 MINUTES BOOK

It was **resolved** not to order a new minutes book and in the future for the Clerk to use loose-leaf filing. Proposed by Cllr. Peake and seconded by Cllr. Borer.

Cllr. McPherson-Davis requested the Clerk to note that he was in favour of retaining the minutes book.

01/28 EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Consultation response on homes within the area. Reply due by 24th November, 2009. Deferred to October meeting.

01/29 CLERK'S REMUNERATION – HOURS

The Council requested the Clerk to review hours worked monthly over a six month period until April 2010 in order to maintain the Parish Council's standards.

01/30 THREE YEAR PLAN FOR PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

This item was considered under minute no. 01/24 three year plan for precept.

01/31 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT/EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

It was **resolved** that the following changes to procedures and insurance cover be amended/considered:

- Fidelity Cover – increase to £8,500.00 – Clerk to action.
- Low reserves – increase for maintenance, general reserve to £6,000.00 – Parish Council to consider.
- Insurance Value – assets register – increase amounts – Clerk to action.
- Risk Assessment – Financial Procedures - Parish Council to regularly review.

Cllr. McPherson-Davis requested that the Parish Council's thanks to the Clerk for her undertaking of the financial procedures.

01/32 MORE POWERS FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

The Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill – the Parish Council's response that it supports the Bill – proposed by Cllr. Peake - **agreed**.

01/33 NATURE RESERVE

The Parish Council to receive a full update and decide the Parish Council's position and involvement with the nature reserve. Refer to earlier minutes in agenda item 01/13.

01/34 TRAINING SESSIONS

- (i) It was recommended that Cllr. Lucas attend "Consulting Your Community Training Session".

- (ii) Cllr. McPherson-Davis requested that he was interested in any planning courses.

01/35 EXTERNAL MEETINGS – REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

To note reports from councillors on any meetings they have attended or updates, since the last meeting (or, where written reports have not been made available before the meeting, representatives will give verbal reports). No reports received.

01/36 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting.
Planting – Donation - Hardings Elms Road
Bus Shelter – maintenance grant
Letter – resident – grooves on roads and footpaths
East of England Regional Assembly - consultation

01/37 PLANNING:

Submitted:

Application No: 09/007766 FULL. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 no. detached dwellings and car port.

Location: Pump Cottage, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.
The Parish Council objected.

Application No: 09/00682/COND. To discharge conditions 1,2,3,4, 5 and 6 of planning approval 07/00166/FULL.

Location: Shirley, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.
No comment from the Parish Council.

Decided:

Application No: 09/00486/FULL. Single storey side and rear extension.

Location: Orchard View, Hardings Elms Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Refused.

Application No: 09/00592/FULL. Single storey rear extension and reposition existing garage.

Location: Maylands, Gardiners Lane North, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Granted.

Application No: 09/00507/FULL. Erection of outbuilding to rear for use as a games room.

Location: Walnut Tree House, London Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Granted.

Application No: 09/00544/LDC. Single storey side extensions and single storey rear extension.

Location: Mount Lodge, Oak Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex. **Refused.**

01/38 FINANCES:

Cheques agreed for payment:

Clerk's salary/expenditure – September	£280.14
Internal Audit – Heelis & Lodge	£115.00
HM Customs	£157.62
Audit Commission (External Auditor)	£327.75
Total	<u>£880.51</u>

01/39 CORRESPONDENCE:

For information only:

BDC

Appeals and General Purposes Committee Minutes 09.07.09, 04.08.09

Cabinet Minutes 24.06.09

Community Initiatives Fund

Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee Minutes 10.06.09

Development Control and Traffic Management Committee Mins. 07.07.09, 21.07.09, 11.08.09

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Minutes 09.06.09

Members Bulletin – 31,32, 33

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2008/2009

Leisure and Health Scrutiny Committee, Minutes,17.06.09

Licensing of Hackney Carriages 01.07.09

Standards Committee, Minutes, 16.06.09

EALC

County Update July 2009 No. 68

ECC

15.07.09, 19.08.09, 02.09.09 Road Works (e-mail)

Making the Links July 2009, August 2009

South Essex Area Forum – 2nd September – Wickford

South Area Forum – Members Induction Programme June 2009

Temporary Prohibition of Traffic Order 2009 – 24th – 28th August closure of Oak Road

General

Campaign to Protect Rural England – September, 2009.

Essex Playing Fields Association Newsletter, Summer 2009.

RCCE – Best Kept Village Competition 2009

RCCE – Salings Village Hall, Braintree – RCCE Village Hall & Community Building Conference 2009

Press Release John Baron M.P. 21.07.09 – Dale Farm

CPREssex Newsletter Issue no. 9, September, 2009

01/40 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

An opportunity for members of the public to speak and raise issues on items not on the agenda (10 mins. maximum)

21:00 – session open

- (i) Resident enquired what the problem is at the lay-by.
Cllr. Peake informed him that the Parish Council had been contacted by residents on this and had followed it up with BDC.
- (ii) Suggestion from a resident that a 30 mile speed restriction be installed at Hardings Elms Road. Resident informed that the Parish Council has requested this restriction.

21:10 – session closed

01/41 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st October, 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at the Church Hall, Crays Hill.

MEETING CLOSED AT 21:11.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN): DATE: