

RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE CHURCH HALL, RAMSDEN CRAYS ON WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 2009 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Georgina Bassett – Clerk to the Council
7 members of the public

01/58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received by Cllr. S. Allen and Cllr. T. Sargent.

01/59 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on 7th October, 2009 were signed and **agreed**, proposed by Cllr. Lucas and seconded by Cllr. McPherson-Davis.

01/60 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No "personal" or "personal or prejudicial" interests relating to items on the agenda were declared.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

- 01/61** (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.
None.
- (b) Public to be heard.
None.
- (c) **Essex County Council by District/Basildon District Council Ward Councillors Reports.**
None.

01/62 PROGRESS CHECK FROM LAST MEETING

The Clerk updated members on actions from the meeting of 7th October, 2009.

01/63 THREE YEAR PLAN FOR PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

The Clerk confirmed that suggestions from residents for a three year plan for

precept or other projects to date had not been received. It was **agreed** to carry forward to the November meeting.

01/64 PRECEPT

The Clerk reminded members of the internal auditors recommendation to have a £6,000.00 reserve and urged members that it was also the Clerk's advice for members to consider this. The Parish Council chose not to take this advice.

Cllr. McPherson- Davis proposed and Cllr. Reeve seconded for the decision to be deferred until the November meeting to consider any suggestions from residents for the three year plan as this might affect the precept request – motion was defeated.

Cllr. Peake proposed and and Cllr. Lucas seconded that the precept be increased from 2009 – 2010 by 2% for 2010 – 2011.

The majority decision was for the precept to be increased by 2% the exact figures and paperwork would be available at the November meeting for the Chairman's signature.

Cllr. McPherson-Davis requested it be put onto record that he was against the decision having been taken not to wait and decide at the November meeting.

01/65 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND – HIGHWAYS

It was proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis and seconded by Cllr. Peake to request CIF Highways funding for an extension on the right hand side footpath to allow pedestrians to walk up Crays Hill – **agreed**.

01/66 ESSEX CLERK'S BURSARY SCHEME

The Parish Council agreed in principle for the Clerk to attend training courses during 2010 with 75% refundable, to be split between Shotgate Parish Council.

01/67 PLANTING

The Clerk confirmed that at the moment in time permission had not been given from B.D.C. to accept the donation for bulb planting on the approach to Hardings Elms Road from the London Road on the left hand side. The Clerk will pursue. The Clerk will write a letter to Hardings Elms Nursery to thank them for the donated plants in Oak Road.

01/68 MINUTES BOOK

The Parish Council agreed to accept the offer of a donation by residents to fund a replacement, proposed by Cllr. Lucas and seconded by Cllr. Peake – **agreed**.

The Parish Council then considered whether to pay for gold embossment on the minutes book. It was proposed by Cllr. Lucas and seconded by Cllr. Peake not to pay for this embossment. There was a vote and the majority decision was that the Parish Council would not pay for the gold embossment.

Cllr. Reeve offered to pay for the embossment. The Clerk thanked Cllr. Reeve for his generous donation and confirmed to the Council that a letter of thanks and acceptance would be distributed and put onto the notice board to thank residents for their kind donation.

01/69 EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Parish Council considered the consultation response on homes within the area. It was proposed by Cllr. Peake and seconded by Cllr. Reeve that the Clerk

would respond on behalf of the Parish Council that the greenbelt to remain untouched and only controlled infill to be permitted – **agreed**.

01/70 CHRISTMAS TREE AND CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

Session Opened at 20:20

Session Closed at 20:22

- (i) The Clerk updated members as to the cost of the purchase of the LED low voltage Christmas lights complying with safety legislation. It was proposed by Cllr. Peake and seconded by Cllr. McPherson-Davis to purchase 200 LED lights at a cost of approximately £24.00 – **agreed**. The Clerk to purchase the lights.
- (ii) The Christmas tree was considered and Councillors Reeve and Peake will ask local businesses if they are prepared to donate a tree. It was **agreed** to defer to the November meeting.

01/71 BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE GRANT

The Clerk to complete and send request for rolling bus shelter grant of £600.00 for upkeep of bus shelters.

01/72 ROAD/FOOTPATH/TREES – IN THE PARISH

Cllr. Lucas updated members on the situation from a request from a resident in North Road.

- (i) Cllr. Lucas advised that the first letter with regard to the infill of the holes had been resolved.
- (ii) The Clerk will write to B.D.C. Planning Department relating to structural development to confirm whether or not this has been authorised. The resident to receive a copy of the letter.

01/73 EXTERNAL MEETINGS – REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

- (i) Cllr. Lucas provided update on pond reclamation at Writtle.
- (ii) Cllr. Peake advised members attended a meeting with B.D.C. about the Nature Reserve – this is an ongoing situation.

01/74 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting.

Christmas tree

Traffic Speed – Hardings Elms Road

Oak Road – holes in road

Gardiners Lane North – litter and holes in the road

Precept

Three year plan for Parish Council objectives

Travellers situation – Oak Road

01/75 PLANNING:

The following planning decisions were noted:

Decided:

Application No: 09/00701/LDC. To establish the lawfulness of proposed front and rear conservatories.

Location: Westbury, Hardings Elms Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Granted.

Application No: 09/00613/FULL. Replacement bungalow with detached garage.

Location: Loven Joel, Crays Hill Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Granted.

01/76 CLERK – NALC INCREASE 1ST APRIL 2009

The Parish Council **agreed** the increase in hourly rate for SCP scale 17 effective 1st April 2009 which included arrears.

01/77 FINANCES:

All cheques were agreed for payment except Cllr. Peake, receipt to be provided at November meeting and cheque then to be issued:

Clerk's salary/expenditure – October	£336.01
Test Assured Electrics – RCD circuit lighting	£250.00
Cllr. A. Peake – Printing Autumn Newsletter – Images	£ 30.00
BATPC – annual subscription 2009 – 2010	£ 10.00
Total	<u>£626.01</u>

01/78 CORRESPONDENCE:

For information only:

Basildon District Council

Cabinet Minutes 24.09.09

Council Minutes 25.06.09, 29.07.09

Development Control and Traffic Management Committee Minutes 06.10.09

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Minutes 09.09.09

Leisure and Health Scrutiny Committee Minutes 16.09.09

Essex Works

Telecare Home Safety System

Summer/Autumn 2009 Update – Countryside and Rights of Way (ROWIP)

General

Volunteer Centre – Uttlesford

01/79 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

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

Residents commented:

- (i) Gardiners Lane North – newly constructed footpath – missing.
- (ii) Boot Sales in Gardiners Lane North have been restricted to 15 weeks in a year.
- (iii) Oak Road – footpath behind “Oaklands” rubbish still blocking area – to be cleared.
- (iv) Corner of Pitsea View Road and Gardiners Lane North – mains telephone cable is overhanging near to tree. Electricity company to be contacted.
- (v) Ditch in Gardiners Lane North in poor condition – Cllr. Peake will contact Peter Wright of E.C.C.

01/80 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 18th November, 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at the Church Hall, Crays Hill.

MEETING CLOSED AT 20:55

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN): **DATE:**