

**MINUTES OF RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 19TH JUNE, 2017 AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE SHEPHERD AND DOG
PUBLIC HOUSE**

PRESENT:

Councillors: D. McPherson-Davis, Cllr. N. Flint, Cllr. G. Jenkins and Cllr. M. Kirby
Parish Clerk – Georgina Bassett
Cllr. M. Buckley – ECC
Cllr. T. Sargent - BBC
One member of the public

79/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

No apologies for absence.

80/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th May, 2017 were received and approved as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Jenkins and seconded by Cllr. Kirby – **agreed**.

81/17 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS:

No pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest by members on any agenda items.

82/17 CO-OPTION:

No applicant as yet for co-option to the Parish Council.

83/17 PUBLIC SESSION:

- (i) Issue raised regarding delay in response to the 101 number.
Cllr. Sargent - Borough Councillor additionally received similar complaints in relation to the delay in answering the 101 number.
Cllr. Buckley of ECC will raise this with the Police and Crime Commissioner – at the panel on behalf of the parishes. The Parish Council will write with a complaint and the Borough Councillor confirmed she will also follow this up.
- (ii) Orchard upkeep.
Clerk to write to Parks Department to report the disappearance of trees in the newly planted orchard in the recreation ground.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS:

The opportunity for councillors to provide updates:
Cllr. Buckley informed those present that control of Essex County Council has not changed after the election. At the next meeting in July the priority will be laid out in the manifesto. Digitalisation is one of the items for consideration, which includes social care which will be reviewed as this is cost driven. Council Tax may have to be increased to cover for care costs.

Cllr. Sargent confirmed that at the Basildon Borough Council AGM in May, a new governance system has been agreed. A committee system will replace the Cabinet and Leader system, with Chairman of committees. A Leader has not been appointed

Cllr. Sargent sits on the Audit and Risk and Regeneration and Environment Committees. There are no executive powers, decisions are only decided at a main committee or Full Council.

Dhamma Land:

Cllr. McPherson-Davis, Cllr. T. Sargent and a local resident recently attended a site visit on Dhamma land to review an event, including the drains. Cllr. Sargent confirmed recent communication from Basildon does not acknowledge any odour emitting from the ditch or other concerns from issues raised at this location.

Cllr. Sargent will follow this up with the Planning Department/Environment Agency and update the Parish Council. As a Governor of Crays Hill Primary School, Cllr. Sargent provided an update and confirmed that the school would really welcome the parish council appointing a councillor to get involved with the school and events etc.

It is understood that there has been an issue at Oak Road recently involving an animal and the Police were in attendance.

84/17 FINANCE:

(i) The payments of the following to be considered:

Clerk's Salary/Expenditure June 2017	£411.32
Post Office Ltd – March – June 2017 Tax	£286.05
ASAP Office Services	£179.72
Commissioner Information – Data Protection	£35.00

Proposed by Cllr. Flint and seconded by Cllr. McPherson-Davis to approve the above - **agreed**.

(ii) Bank statements for approval 31st May 2017:

Co-operative Account = £2.95. Account will be closed, cheque to be received. Barclays Account bank account details received, amount to be reconciled at the July meeting. £12,575.37 is the statement amount in the Barclays bank account at the end of May.

(iii) One set of bank signatories to be received to assist with the change for the Barclays account.

85/17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Dhamma Land:

To note any update received via Basildon Borough Council planning department on issues at Dhamma land.

As in 83/17 above – Cllr. Sargent.

86/17 COMMUNITY – PROJECTS:

(i) Consideration for project for an application for an ECC CIF for funding for a double notice board at the junction of Gardiners Lane North and the A129 to include installation and inclusion of locks and keys and and permission from Basildon Borough Council re installation.

Proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis and seconded by Cllr. Kirby approximately £2,000.00 including installation excluding VAT to be applied to the CIF funding Contribution by the Parish Council of £500.00 – **agreed**.

(ii) To note any updates on the commencement of the work for the cleaning and maintenance of the four bus shelters. The date for this is awaited.

(iii) Basildon Borough Council's feasibility for a conversion to a small Community Hall adjacent to the toilets in the park area was reconsidered. It was **agreed** to defer until January 2018.

(iv) The quotation requested via Cllr. Flint for work to replace the gate in Ramsden Crays church yard and repair/replacement of the wood frame where ashes are spread. The Clerk to write to the Church re quotation for work with costings for the repaired wood frame and ask if the Parish Council goes ahead with the work, is it prepared to then pay for this.

- (v) No response from residents for CPR/defibrillator training and whether this is an option to arrange for hall hire and open this up to the residents of Crays Hill. The Council **agreed** for the Clerk to contact the Medcare Centre to see if they would be prepared to support the community with its resuscitation facilities as it is considering purchasing this equipment for the parish and would it be prepared to liaise with us on this issue.
- (vi) The minutes provided by the Governors of Meetings at Crays Hill Primary School and the hire details for dates and times at the School on Tuesday 23rd May were reviewed and an update on the meeting was provided. An invitation to attend afternoon tea at the school for two councillors of the Parish Council was received for July. The Clerk to thank and accept the invitation and request further information.
- (vii) Participation in the 2017/18 Winter Salt Bag Partnership Scheme was considered and it was **agreed** not to uptake this offer.

87/17 HIGHWAYS – BASILDON BOROUGH COUNCIL:

- (i) An update on the damage to the kerb near the properties by the village sign. This was reviewed and noted not yet repaired.
- (ii) To consider any further communication from Highways on the installation of the 7.5 tonne weight restriction signs at Ramsden Crays that was approved under Schemes Approved LBAS 152017. It was noted that this In progress.
- (iii) To consider the progress forward via Highways in relation to speeding deterrent VAS signs. Cllr. Buckley confirmed no longer supported by Highways. The Parish Council to complete the relevant form. Possible imminent changes to the Highways Panels in the future for projects in the area.
- (iv) Cllr. Buckley update from his enquiries to ECC Highways regarding Gardiners Lane North junction with Oak Road surface repair and any update on when Gardiners Lane North will be resurfaced via Highways – noted, is on the list.
- (v) Damage to footpath outside MedCentre junction of Oak Avenue and A129. It has now been boarded off, appears will shortly be repaired.

88/17 MINUTES BOOK:

Updated information awaited for the costing for the purchase of a new minutes book.

89/17 TRAVELLERS:

Horses in Staceys Field at Church Lane grazing in this area is a cause for concern and permission has been given by the landowner. Developments in the area/Dale Farm with regard to land in the parish were considered.

90/17 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT:

The Independent Audit Report and any recommendations following the report were considered. It was **agreed** to defer to the July meeting as a couple of requests were made for changes to the report from “Grays Hill” and for the report to be signed on both sides.

91/17 INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

Information received as to why the Parish Council had agreed to withdraw the picnic benches in the park. Reason is that the Woodland Trust as part of their overall development in the park are now going to provide a bench at no cost to the Parish Council.

92/17 EXTERNAL MEETINGS – REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS:

To receive additional updates on other meetings attended.

Three councillors attended a training session last Saturday at Billericay Town Offices and Cllr. Sargent which was a very useful information session for new councillors in particular.

93/17 NOTE CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence received noted.

94/17 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

None.

95/17 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 10th July, 2017 at 7.00 p.m. at the Shepherd and Dog Public House.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

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Signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council

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Dated