

MINUTES OF RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING at the SHEPHERD AND DOG PUBLIC HOUSE on **MONDAY** the **EIGHTEENTH OF FEBRUARY** 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Attendance: Cllr. D. McPherson-Davis – Chairman, Cllr. J. Jenkins, Cllr. M. Kirby and Cllr. C. Finn
Mrs. Georgina Bassett – Parish Clerk/RFO

Also in attendance:

Two members of the public in attendance
Cllr. T. Ball – Essex County Councillor
Cllr. M. Buckley – Essex County Councillor

18/19 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. T. Sargent and Cllr. S. Allen – Basildon Borough Councillors and the resident that has applied to be a Parish Councillor should attend the meeting later.

19/19 Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21st January, 2019 were approved as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Jenkins and seconded by Cllr. McPherson-Davis – **agreed.**

20/19 Declaration of Members Interests:

No pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests received from members.

It was **agreed** to move item 21/19 to later in the agenda as the potential candidate should arrive later.

22/19 Public Forum:

No issues raised by the public to speak on items on the agenda.

Borough and County Councillors:

Cllr. Ball – ECC. Update on Budget meetings recently held at Essex County Council 2.99% increase and 1% increase adult social care.

Various consultations to assist budgeting in the future as a deficit likely, consultations include Library and Bus services in the County. Attempts are made to balance the accounts, probable staff reductions in the future. It is intended that in the future not to continue the same level of increase in the Council Tax. Police and Fire Services budget will also be increased due to warranted officers, including 200 plus Police Officers.

Cllr. Buckley updated on an additional £500,000.00 to County Hall for county lines – i.e. drug routes, there will be match funding directly to that project. Additional £700,000.00 for footways other improvements.

Twenty pot hole nominations received in 2018. Cllr. Bentley of ECC's intention to reintroduce the scheme and widen it to include footways, kerbs, lightings etc. depending on how much is available to allocate this project.

Is very probable that Devolution of Highways services to all Parish, Village and Town Councils within the next two years. A pilot scheme is currently underway.

Basildon tax has increased to the maximum of 2.9%. Various services will be reviewed for appropriate delivery including remote/it working/delivery to keep costs under control. A budget has been put aside for two additional police officers and one police dog for the Borough for a two-year commitment although after training is not likely to be effective until a year's time.

Review of leisure, in particular swimming. This may involve replacement/redevelopment of the Billericay Swimming Pool. Regeneration to progress in the town of Basildon and the Wickford

progress of the Library is scheduled to continue. Developers are reviewing the progress with Basildon Borough Council to amend the drawings including elevation, ground floor use, parking etc. The Library is currently progressing and the user area will be the same as currently, a few months now prior to the Library relocation and the other developments will then follow.

A speed watch is likely to be set up in Shotgate due to the Hodgson Way redevelopment. Suggestion that Ramsden Crays Parish Council may want to review this for consideration in the Parish.

Business and technical training bursary for youngsters to be introduced. Additionally, an innovation warehouse for commercial use, to assist small businesses and new businesses to receive advice. There will be £200,000.00 over two years available to LHP which will be match funded, providing a total additional £400,000.00 to spend for LHP.

21/19 Co-option to the Parish Council:

Carol Finn a resident of the Parish arrived. It was proposed by Cllr. Kirby and seconded by Cllr. Jenkins to appoint Carol Finn as a Parish Councillor of Ramsden Crays – **agreed**. This now brings the number of councillors to the Parish to four.

Cllr. Finn accepted signed the declaration of acceptance of office and will complete the declarations of interest after the meeting for submission to the Parish Clerk.

23/19 Finance Report:

(i) **Expenditure:**

| | |
|--|----------|
| Clerk/RFO February 2019 Salary/Expenditure | £ 556.40 |
| Bus Shelters – cleaning February | £ 80.00 |
| Glasdon x 2 litter bins | £ 348.70 |
| CPRE – Campaign to Protect Rural England | £ 36.00 |

(ii) Barclays Bank balance at 31st January, 2019 at £9,132.24.

It was proposed by Cllr. McPherson-Davis and seconded by Cllr. Jenkins to pay the above expenditure and agree the reconciliation of the bank account – **agreed**.

(iii) The Parish Council had submitted an updated Mandate Change Form for removal and addition to Barclays. The form had been returned, due to a technical error by the bank. This will be resubmitted.

24/19 Planning:

Applications:

Application No: 08/01333/FULL. Remodel and reduce height of roof including removal of ridged apex and dormers.

Location: Fairmeadow, Crays Hill Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex. **Closed.**

Decided:

Application No: 18/01405/COND. Discharge of condition 5 of planning permission 18/00928/VAR (arboricultural matters).

Location: Chestnuts Service Garage, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex. **Granted.**

Application No: 18/01457/FULL. Retrospective application for an outbuilding comprising a W.C. and drying/garden storage room.

Location: Land to the rear of Belvoir Maison, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex. **Refused.**

Application No: 17/01450/FULL. Clearance of the site and the creation of 33 no. one, two- and three-bedroom houses and apartments, plus new site access and associated roads, car and cycle

parking, amenity space and landscaping.

Location: Land Corner of Gardiners Close and Gardiners Lane, South Gardiners Lane South, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex. **Granted.**

Application No: 18/01230/ABAS. To display non-illuminated signage to front elevation.

Location: FACEmed Cosmetic Medical and Dental Centre, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Granted.

Consider responses from Basildon:

Longwood, Crays Hill, Foyers, Crays Hill, land to rear of Highlands – Pond Farm, land at the south end of the Pond Farm.

Repeated requests for updates to Basildon had been requested, to date updates not received. The Clerk to write to the Head of Planning to request an update.

The Clerk to write to Planning Department to enquire why deposits have continued to be made at Woolshots Farm – located the west side of Church Road.

Consultations:

The Parish Council considered the Local Bus Consultation ECC.

Cllr. Ball confirmed it was reviewing weekend and evening bus services. The Parish Council asked for its concern for journeys in particular to and from Basildon Hospital.

Superfast Essex:

The Parish Council reviewed the update from Essex County Council – Open Reach.

Cllr. Buckley confirmed that fibre optic work had been carried out from Ramsden Heath being considered at Ramsden Bellhouse. To date not able to confirm if this option will be available in Ramsden Crays.

The Parish Council will include in the newsletter to enquire if residents are receiving a satisfactory service?

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Report:

The update from the Crime Commissioner Report was noted.

Corporate Governance:

Information received from Basildon on a decision at Committee on Corporate Governance was reviewed. A decision made at Basildon not to change constitutions of election dates and numbers of councillors was confirmed following Parish, Village and Town Councils in the Borough to reject the proposal.

Communities Framework:

It was noted that the Ministry of Housing and Communities Local Government (MHCLG) are developing a Communities Framework.

25/19 Community Projects:

- (i) The update on the base of the pathway was noted. The gas board are currently working in the area and until completion no further progress with the pathway. It was **agreed** to defer to consider costs and appointment of contractor to tarmac the pathway at a later date.
- (ii) The two small bins attached to the bus shelters at the top of Crays Hill have now been installed and will be emptied by Basildon Borough Council. The two bins to be confirmed on the insurance policy. Consider review of replacement of the old bin by the Crays Hill Primary School in the future.

- (iii) Payment notification received from ECC on the CIF Funding of £1,465.44.00 prior to 31st March, 2019. On confirmation of bank statement, the Clerk will write to thank ECC for this funding.

26/19 Clerk Report:

To various updates from the Clerk on issues within the Parish.
VAT applied, Internal Auditor review April 2019, request for ECC CIF grant claim, bus maintenance etc.

Request payment and application for bursary towards renewal First Aid Certificate via EALC training. The Parish Council requested the Clerk to make further enquiries for smaller training fee.

27/19 Travellers:

Update received from Basildon Borough Council on planning enforcement.
It was noted that Cllr. Sargent spoke on the radio recently regarding legislation of travellers Criminalised trespass legislation is being reviewed by the Government.

28/19 Car Park at Ramsden Crays Recreation Ground:

Update received from Basildon Borough Council on safeguards with regard to the continual fly tipping in the car park in the Parish.
Consideration of a sign and CCTV camera in the car park. Cllr. Buckley will enquire of Basildon Borough Council on behalf of the Parish Council as this area is owned by Basildon.

29/19 Newsletter – 2019

The newsletter for printing and distribution was considered with a number of points raised.

30/19 Information/Correspondence/External Meeting Reports from Parish Councillors:

Cllr. McPherson-Davis confirmed that CIF fund is changing for future funds.

31/19 Public Question Time:

Footpaths – no. 69 is obstructed primarily with building materials. Cllr. Buckley and Cllr. Ball will review for clearance via members enquiries.

32/19 Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 18th March, 2019 at 7.00 p.m. The venue should be in the Shepherd and Dog Public House.

The Chairman deferred the following:

33/19 To Consider the Exclusion of the Public and Press:

The council to consider the exclusion of the public and press due to the confidential matters arising in item 169/18 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. Councillors are advised that a proposer and seconder are required.

- (i) Consideration of various policies including:
Minor Disputes, Dignity at Work/Bullying, Equal Opportunities and Equality Policy.
- (ii) Signing of continued Contract of Employment.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

Signed
Chairman

Date