



RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL SPRING 2011

April 2011

Dear Resident,

New Location:

With the loss of use of the Parish Council Church Hall, the Parish Council now meets generally on the third Wednesday of every month (except for August when there is no meeting) at 7.30 p.m. at Crays Hill Primary School.

Projects:

The Parish Council is looking for ideas for projects to spend public monies in the next financial year. It might be that you are interested in equipment in the recreational area, to include more seating within the Parish, additional waste or dog bins, shrubs or have many other ideas. This is your Parish, please let the Parish Council know what you would like to improve your area for you. Please send all suggestions to the Clerk, or complete the attached slip and send to a member of the Parish Council, before the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th April.

The stone memorial currently in the building of the Church Hall is being looked at for relocation within the Parish. We are looking for any named serving parish residents who lost their lives in the course of their duties in World War II as we are considering erecting a memorial to honour their service. Please can you contact either the Chairman or the Clerk.

The Council has requested Essex County Council to look at refurbishment of the surface area to the recreation car park and to tidy up the recycling area.

Emergency Planning:

“Warn and Inform” on emergency relevant to the area. Residents can either request to be warned from completing information on the website on www.basildon.gov.uk then emergencies to register or leaflet providing your mobile/e-mail address.

An additional item can be obtained on the website about preparation items in your household for such an emergency.

Digital Switchover:

Reminder to residents of the forthcoming digital switchover in July. Assistance can be provided by contacting Rural Community Council of Essex, telephone 01376574341.

Dog and Litter Bins:

You may have noticed that an additional dog and litter bin have been installed within the Parish for the use of residents and visitors of Ramsden Crays.

Updates:

Traffic calming: The Council is liaising with the Police and Essex County Council on traffic calming with the Parish.

The Mobile Library Service continues its fortnightly service and arrives at Crays Hill High View Rise at 12.00 p.m. and leaves at 12.15 p.m. and Crays Hill Primary at 13.30 and departs at 14.25.

Park area – it is hoped that another new play equipment item can be installed in the park. The Parish Council is looking to part fund with other organisations during the coming year.

Dates for forthcoming Meetings:

Dates scheduled for the remainder of 2011 are:

18th May, 15th June, 13th July, 14th September, 19th October, 18th November and 14th December

The Public are very welcome to attend the meetings and have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the Open Session at the commencement of the meeting and then again at the end during Open Session on general items.

Please feel free to approach any member of the Council (contact details below), or the Clerk, if you have any issues that you wish to raise with the Parish Council.

Networking/Representation:

Members of the Council regularly attend liaison meetings with Basildon District Council, the Basildon Association of Town and Parish Councils and other agencies and representatives from parish councils to share knowledge and experience. Occasionally the Council is asked to comment on documents received from the District and County Councils and other agencies and to take the opportunity to respond on issues relevant to Ramsden Crays.

Useful Information

The Police Surgeries are regularly held within close proximity if not at Ramsden Crays and further details are available either on the Police website or the Parish Council website. The Police are also attending Ramsden Crays Parish Council Meetings on a regular basis and are able to answer questions. Please note that any criminal incidents should be reported to the Police on 0300 333 4444.

Recent reports from Essex Police indicate an increase in burglaries within the Parish and they advise that residents should ensure that their properties are secure at all times and that they report any suspicious incidents to them immediately.

Ward Councillors, Terri Sargent and Stuart Allen hold regular surgeries at Noak Bridge Village Hall at "Coppice Lane" on the first Saturday of the month between 9.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. and Steepleview Community Centre at "Osier Drive" on the third Saturday of the month between 9.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. any resident from the Crouch Ward is invited to attend. A PCSO is nearly always present.

Parish Councillors

Chairman - Councillor Andrew Peake	01268 525771
Vice-Chairman – Councillor Tina Borer	01268 285795
Councillor David McPherson-Davis	01268 525762
Councillor John Lucas	01268 520965
Councillor Roy Reeve	01268 289740

Non-Elected Appointments 2011 – 2012

Clerk to Ramsden Crays Parish Council - Georgina Bassett – 01702 584158 – bassett19@btinternet.com

Independent Internal Auditor - Heelis and Lodge.

External Auditor – Audit Commission, 2nd Floor, Aspinall House, Aspinall Close, Middlebrook, Bolton. BL6 6QQ

Other Useful Contacts

Member of Parliament: John Baron your local M.P. holds regular surgeries in the constituency. Telephone for an appointment on 01268 520765.

Keep up to date with our latest information including agendas, minutes, etc., visit:- www.essexinfo.net/ramsdencrays

Your Input:

The Parish Council would like to hear from you for future projects within the Parish. Suggested issues for consideration are:

- A large vision in the park area, making this more interesting with trees, plants etc.
- Additional bulbs, shrubs within the Parish of Shotgate.
- Installation of additional benches within the Parish.
- Installation of kissing gates at footpaths.
- Web page, future development as a means of communication.

If you have any ideas on these or any more, please contact either the Clerk or Councillors.

This is a summary of the expenditure of the Parish Council for 2010/11. Further information is published later in the year when the accounts have been audited.

Expenditure Heading	Budget 2010/11	Actual Spend	Budget 2011/12
Salaries	£ 2,606.00	£ 2,592.78	£ 2,597.16
Stationery	£ 153.00	£ 72.99	£ 100.00
External Audit	£ 334.00	£ 120.00	£ 140.00
Insurance	£ 650.00	£ 654.71	£ 700.00
Room Hire/Clerk	£ 343.00	£ 336.00	£ 343.00
Postage	£ 55.00	£ 32.37	£ 60.00
Publications	£ 153.00	£ 115.00	£ 35.00
Subscriptions	£ 434.00	£ 392.85	£ 450.00
Internal Audit	£ 120.00	£ 115.00	£ 130.00
Tel. Calls	£ 214.00	£ 87.53	£ 100.00
Travel Clerk	£ 408.00	£ 225.85	£ 250.00
Use of Equipment	£ 138.00	£ 135.00	£ 112.50
Clerk Training	£ 53.00	£ 27.00	£ 60.00
Cllrs. Travel Expenses	£ 0.00	£ 38.60	£ 0.00
Cllrs. Training	£ 208.00	£ 21.00	£ 180.00
H.M. Revenue and Customs	£ 652.00	£ 746.77	£ 745.70
General Maintenance	£ 350.00	£ 0.00	£ 350.00
Other Expenditure/Misc.	£ 0.00	£ 22.00	£ 100.00
Verge Planting	£ 150.00	£ 0.00	£ 150.00
Hall Hire	£ 200.00	£ 211.00	£ 220.00
Purchase Christmas Tree Lights	£ 50.00	£ 0.00	£ 50.00
Hire of Equipment			
*Elections			
Bench Seat in Park			
Sec. 137 Donations	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
Sec. 137 Upkeep Church	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
Lighting/Heating			
Bank Charges			
Notice Boards			
Bus Shelters			
Courses Split – Shotgate		£ 50.00	
Capital Payments – Park		£ 3,417.05	£ 1,000.00
VAT		£ 761.85	
Newsletter		£ 15.00	
Total Allocations	£ 7,471.00	£ 10,390.35	£ 8,073.36