

CLERK'S GENERAL REPORT FROM 29 NOVEMBER TO 27 DECEMBER 2016.

Finance/Administration.

Accounts and administration are all up to date.

Dealing with Barclays Bank re mandate change for cheque signatures.

The government has decided not to extend council tax referendum principles to any size of parish or town council in 2017/2018 - the matter will however be kept under review for following years.

Casual vacancy.

Information awaited from BDC re the advertising of the vacancy.

General Maintenance.

Maintenance contractor requested to clear fallen leaves etc from the pavements near the junction of Rickstones Road/Oak Road/Church Road, including the steps up to the bungalows.

Two part-time litter pickers will commence working on behalf of the Parish Council with effect from 1 January 2017. All necessary insurance has been arranged via the council's existing policy with Zurich at no cost up to renewal in June 2017, then approximately £35.00 in additional premium.

BDC Local Plan.

Local Plan meeting on 15 December 2016. It would appear that RPC's views have been noted in the agenda and both large sites - Cressing Road and further land at the golf course are **NOT** recommended by officers.

Rivenhall Airfield - Waste Incinerator Site.

The Environment Agency has refused the permit application "*...because the company has failed to demonstrate that the design of the waste plant will use Best Available Techniques (BAT) to reduce emissions and their impact on the environment. In particular, the company has failed to demonstrate that the proposed incinerator stack height is BAT.*"

The application to ECC, reference ESS/44/16/BTE, for the installation of abstraction point etc from the River Blackwater has been granted.

Planning Applications.

Applications dealt with as per the December minutes.

Planning Appeals.

There are no appeals to report.

Braintree District Local Highways Liaison Panel.

The very latest information remains as follows:

- a. *7.5T weight restriction, Oak Road* - Following the decision of the ECC Cabinet Member to turn down the weight restriction scheme on the basis of one landowner complaining about access to one field, the Chairman submitted a Call-in request, which ECC have confirmed was successful. The next stage will be an informal hearing with the cabinet Member in early January 2017, after which it may go to Committee.
- b. *Extended 30mph limit along Church Road* - Discussions continue regarding a possible reintroduction of the original proposal for a 40mph "buffer" zone.
- c. *Rectory Lane* - a new scheme to block the southern exit of Rectory Lane has been submitted.
- d. *Oak Road* - a new scheme submitted re HGVs ignoring weight and height warnings going down Oak Road to the railway bridge. Numerous residents have complained recently, police called, etc as HGVs try to reverse back causing chaos. The 2 suggestions to the BDLHP are to liaise with all satnav providers to detail the road as unsuitable for HGVs and to install some form of height warning system between the Rickstones Road junction and Hoo Hall Lodge to alert drivers to go no further if they are in over-height vehicles.

Tarecroft Wood.

Work has commenced to upgrade the entrance to the car park and the car park itself just off Rickstones Road. Work has now been suspended because "...the amount of people using the car park to park up and walk their dogs, and also because there's another contractor working in the back garden of the bungalow next door and needing access, we feel that it would be prudent to leave the works for the time being and revisit in the new year. This would, after a period of notice, allow us to get back to site and close access for two weeks whilst the proposed concrete has time to harden without traffic going over it."

Some concerns raised by the Chairman and subsequently forwarded to ECC for observation.

ECC Highways Maintenance.

Repainting the highway surface signs along Oak Road towards the A12 hoping to reduce the number of HGVs turning into Foxmead remains outstanding.

Chairman in consultation with ECC regarding safety improvements at the junction of Rectory Lane and Rickstones Road.

ECC are to replace the broken sign and a request has been made to them for an advisory speed of 20mph to be shown.

Public Footpath 60 - the temporary closure has been extended for an additional 6 months.

A120 consultations commence on 17 January 2017, for 8 weeks. Local public information events are to be held, commencing Monday 30 January 2017, with the Rivenhall event scheduled for Monday 6 February in the Rivenhall Hotel - although this may yet change

Surveys have been commissioned by ECC to examine local traffic routing in the vicinity of the A12 between Kelvedon and Rivenhall. These surveys will assist the development of studies looking into the feasibility of improvements to the A12 and A120 roads.

All non-functioning streetlights have been reported to ECC.

Highways England

A local meeting re the A12 widening was held on 8 November 2016 at Rivenhall End. The only item to report is that H. E. plan to hold public consultations during the first quarter of 2017 together with a public meeting to be held, hopefully, in The Henry Dixon Hall.

H. E. has circulated details of the proposed upcoming Maintenance works on the A120 and A12, commencing on Monday 9 January 2017 with anticipated completion by May 2017. These details were circulated to Members via email.

Liaison with Chairman.

Liaison with the Chairman upon various items of correspondence, the agenda for the next meeting and planning application documents as necessary.

Keith Taylor (Parish Clerk)
27 December 2016.