

## **CLERK'S GENERAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013.**

### **Finance.**

All financial matters are up to date.

### **Half-year Report.**

Report completed, including a notice and detailed map (in colour) referring to the proposed gravel extraction at Colemans Farm. Reports printed and handed to the Vice-Chairman for him to arrange local delivery. The printing cost was higher than last year due to the inclusion of the coloured map.

### **Standing Orders.**

In accordance with the recommendation received from EALC and NALC a revised edition of Standing Orders has been compiled for acceptance and agreement at the November meeting. Financial Regulations do not require any amendment at this juncture.

### **Precept Meeting.**

Due to a clash of dates with the BDC Full Council Meeting, the date of the Precept Meeting has been changed to **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013** at the same time and place.

BDC indicate a 13.5% reduction in the Localism Fund Grant for 2014/15; in real terms a reduction for Rivenhall of £399.00, which, in order to maintain current local parish Council services will have to be added to the 2014/15 Precept. We should receive the BDC forms before the Precept Meeting in December.

### **Street Lighting.**

Reiterated representations to ECC that certain lights remain operational all night. No reply to date.

### **ECC Children's Centre Consultation.**

Receiving via e-mail and printing a copy of the consultation document for inclusion in the circulation box for Members.

### **Parking Matters.**

Lines and notices have now been erected. Arrangements are in hand for a police presence outside the school at the start of next half term.

### **General maintenance.**

Application to the Woodland Trust for 420 trees (large hedge/copse) has been successful, and delivery is anticipated early in November 2013. Delivery will be made to Cllr. Clark.

### **A12 junction with Oak Road.**

Nothing further to report on this subject.

### **Henry Dixon Road/A12 underpass.**

Nothing further to report on this subject.

### **Public Footpaths.**

ECC initially rejected the application for the new public footpath along Church Road due to lack of funding, but I have written again pointing out the minimal cost of creating a footpath over grassland.

### **The Fox.**

It is understood that The Fox has been sold at auction - we await future proposals.

### **Bus Stops on the A12.**

It has been confirmed that First Bus instructed their drivers on the Chelmsford to Colchester route not to stop at either of the stops both northbound and southbound on the A12 due to the hazards experienced regaining entry onto the A12. This has action has also been approved by ECC without any consultation at Parish Council level. The Chairman has raised the matter as the ECC Member for North Witham.

### **ECC Roads Maintenance.**

The bollard at the Church Road zebra crossing has been replaced with a non-illuminated post. The refuge beacon in Henry Dixon Road has a completion date before the end of October. Church Road repairs have been delayed yet again as have those to Rickstones Road. ECC have postponed the repair to Appleford Bridge until March 2014 due to the HA overrun of the work to Wellington Bridge on the A12. ECC have rescheduled the repair to the culvert on Park Gate Road to January 2014. Concerns have been raised regarding the rerouting of HGVs along Hollow Road into Kelvedon. The hedge along Rickstones Road, bordering Footpath 1 has been trimmed.

### **Braintree District Local Highways Liaison Panel.**

Request submitted regarding the lay-by outside the Church on Church Road. The BLHP budget for 2013/14 has been slashed from £815k to £246k. Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October will be in the next circulation box.

### **Railway Bridge, Oak Road.**

Having requested a reply from Network Rail to my previous letter regarding parking close to the bridge I have received an identical reply to say that the matter has been passed to the Community Relations Team!!

### **Tarecroft Wood.**

The business case document has now been forwarded to ECC and receipt has been acknowledged.

### **Planning Matters.**

Receiving details of Planning Applications for appraisal at the next PC meeting. Details relative to the Matchyns were included on the weekly list has been confirmed by BDC as an error. Both appeals relating to Appleford Farm have been dismissed by the Planning Inspector. The decision document will be included in the next circulation box. ECC has approved the planned expansion of Elm Hall School to 210 places.

### **Coffee Morning PC 'Surgery'.**

There has been a regular PC presence at the Coffee Morning.

### **Liaison with Chairman.**

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

Keith Taylor (Parish Clerk)  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2013.