

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 1ST APRIL 2014.**

Present: Cllrs. Bills, Wright, Prime, Brailey, Clark and Turner.

In the Chair: Cllr. Bills.

Also present: Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public.

894.. To receive apologies for absence.

An apology was received from Cllr, Abbott who was attending the BDC Planning Committee.

895.. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests relating to matters on the Agenda.

There were no Disclosures at this meeting.

896.. To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th. March 2014.

The minutes were **unanimously approved** and then signed by the Chairman.

897.. Public Forum for 10 minutes.

The following matters were brought to the attention of Members:

- There are a number of trees overhanging the pathway along Henry Dixon Road which the Clerk will again report to ECC Highways

898.. Matters for Discussion.

i. Electoral Review of Braintree District.

Representations as per Minute 885(i) were forwarded to and acknowledged by the Local Government Boundary Commission.

ii. Grass verges near the Railway Bridge in Oak Road.

The verge outside the houses and the grass verge near the Village Sign are both being broken up by parked vehicles. **It was agreed** that the Clerk report these to ECC Highways with the request for a site meeting with PC representatives to discuss remedial action, possibly with the installation of 'Grass Crete'.

iii. General clearance and maintenance of local ditches and watercourses.

At the same site meeting mentioned at 898(ii) above to further investigate the overflowing ditch/blocked pipe along Oak Road requesting that ECC properly clear them or if they claim it's not theirs then for them to require the landowner to do the work. Early in 2013 the Environment Agency acknowledged their responsibility for the maintenance of Rivenhall Brook; the Clerk will contact them requesting action to clear the debris blocking the Brook.

It is understood that the Chairman has a list of all local landowners so that the Clerk can write to each one requesting they give attention to all their field ditches.

iv. Planting a Holm Oak on the main Village Green.

It was agreed by a vote of 5 to 1 that, subject to approval by BDC, a Holm Oak tree be planted in between 2 existing Oaks along the edge of the main Village Green.

v. County Highways Maintenance.

30mph speed limit on Oak Road and Henry Dixon Road is now operational. Solagen have been requested to remove the 40mph VAS into the PC store.

ECC Highways advise the temporary closure of Cressing Road, from its junction with Rickstones Road to the junction with Temple Lane, at some time yet to be

advised but within 18 months of 5th April 2014. This will probably mean additional traffic through Rivenhall during that time.

Outstanding maintenance to grass verges together with the demolition of the streetlight along Oak Road have been referred again to ECC. Their response was to give the maintenance of grass verges a very low priority.

Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Bills and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council proceed with this maintenance work, up to a maximum cost of £300.00; that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman liaise regarding the programme of works, and

that the cost of the work completed be subsequently reclaimed from the Highways Panel Maintenance Budget.

vi. General Maintenance.

The Maintenance Contractor indicated that his grasscutting programme would recommence this month; that the notice board at the Village Hall was in the process of being repaired.

MacDonald's litter is being collected from throughout the parish and checked for receipts that, if found, are then passed on to BDC. This will enable them to continue taking legal action against whoever discarded the wrappings.

vii. Annual Parish Assembly & Annual Report.

Members had been provided with a draft copy of the Annual Report.

It was agreed that 320 copies of the report be printed and distributed throughout the parish one week prior to the Annual Parish Assembly.

The Clerk also produced a draft agenda for the APA, **which was also approved.**

899.. Planning Matters:

New Applications:

14/00334/FUL: Erection of two-storey extension - 4 Foxden, Rivenhall End

Members had no comments/objections to raise regarding this application.

Planning Results:

There were no planning results to report at this meeting.

Planning Appeals:

There were no planning results to report at this meeting.

900.. Ongoing Planning Issues:

i. Local Development Framework. Public engagement.

The Parish Council's representations have been forwarded to BDC and their receipt acknowledged.

ii. Rivenhall Airfield.

There was nothing to report at this meeting.

iii. ECC Waste Development.

There was nothing to report at this meeting.

iv. ECC Minerals Local Plan. ECC proposed modifications.

The Chairman will circulate a recommended response as soon as possible to comply with the closure date of 24th April 2014.

v. Braintree District Local Highways Panel.

(a) *Rickstones Road drains and kerbing.* Chairman reports on the site meeting held with ECC officers and ECC Cllr. Bass. Following the meeting Cllr. Bass has allocated £75k from central highway funds, which more than halves the net cost to the BLHP. This makes it more likely that it can go ahead in 2014/15. Various works have also been done connected to this scheme including industrial jetting of the drains. Questions have also been raised as to why ECC engineers had still not put a camera down to see what the connections are and whether there is a collapse or blockage that cannot be jetted.

(b) *Railway Bridge, Oak Road.* Nothing further to report.

(c) *7.5T weight restriction, Oak Road.* Nothing further to report.

(d) *Church Road layby at church.* Nothing further to report.

(e) *Extended 30mph limit along Church Road.* The speed survey has been completed and the results are awaited.

(f) *Pedestrian access at Colemans Bridge junction.* This scheme has been cancelled by ECC officers due to the lack of pedestrian use.

(g) *Extended railings outside the School entrance.* Nothing further to report.

(h) *Possible 20mph restriction outside the School entrance.* Nothing further to report.

(i) *Church Road/Oak Road highway signage.* Nothing further to report.

901.. Correspondence received since the date of the agenda.

No correspondence received.

902.. Reports from PC Representatives.

There were no reports to be brought to this meeting.

903.. Finance matters:

i. To agree accounts for payment.

Proposed by Cllr. Prime, seconded by Cllr. Wright and unanimously agreed that the following accounts be paid. Cheques were then drawn accordingly.

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|-----|--------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| 956 | E.ON | £13.04 | Power for Xmas Tree lights |
| 957 | K. P. Taylor | £415.36 | Salary/expenses March '14 |
| 958 | A. Walsh | £232.50 | Maintenance March '14 |
| 959 | Henry Dixon Hall Charity | £6.25 | Hall Hire Deposit |

ii. To agree and adopt the revised Financial Regulations.

Proposed by Cllr. Prime, seconded by Cllr. Brailey and unanimously agreed that the revised Financial Regulations produced by the Clerk/RFO, following the recommendation of the NALC, be agreed and adopted.

iii. Review 2013/14 budget statement and accounts.

The Clerk/RFO produced the balanced and reconciled accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014.

Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Prime and unanimously agreed that these accounts be accepted as a true record and the Chairman then signed the Annual Return.

904.. Information exchange and items for the next agenda.

- The untidy grasscutting of the Village Green.
- The outstanding inventory of council assets.
- Record of police escorts for HGVs that reverse up Oak Road having been unable to negotiate the Railway Bridge.
- Installation of cables for Superfast Broadband.
- There have been another 2 RTAs along the far end of Church Road.
- The commemorative tree for Mr. Gibbons has been planted and the interment of ashes and the installation of a plaque is ongoing.
- The Highways Agency has left some of the A12 patching work unfinished near Whitelands.

905.. Dates of future meetings:

Wednesday 7th May 2014 in Rivenhall Village Hall and Tuesday 3rd June in The Henry Dixon Hall, both commencing promptly at 20.00 hours.

Items for the May meeting to the Clerk by 25th April at the latest.

906.. Closure.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.23 hours.

Signed: Date:

CHAIRMAN