

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

**Present:** Cllrs. Abbott, Bills, Prime, Brailey, Clark and Turner.

**In the Chair:** Cllr. Abbott.

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

**936.. To receive apologies for absence.**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. Wright.

**937.. Disclosure of pecuniary Interests relating to matters on this Agenda.**

There were no disclosures at this meeting.

**938.. To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2014.**

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

**939.. Public Forum for 10 minutes.**

The following matter was brought to the attention of Members:

- \* Rivenhall sign and other damage on Rickstones Road - reported to ECC.

**940.. Matters for Discussion:**

i. Tarecroft Wood - future management.

A site meeting between the Chairman and an ECC officer took place on Monday 16 June 2014 relative to the possible transfer of the woodland to the Parish Council. ECC comments are awaited.

ii. Possible future provision of a play area in Rivenhall End.

The Chairman made reference to the BDC Open Spaces Action Plan, which is due to be updated each January and contains errors relative to Rivenhall. The Clerk will reiterate previous amendments notified to BDC on 23 November 2013 as follows:

Although part of Rivenhall Parish, Rivenhall End is to be considered as a separate entity for the purpose of the Open Spaces Action Plan.

No play equipment is required for Rivenhall Village Green; paths already exist in Tarecroft wood, no more are required and the PC is exploring possible local ownership being transferred from ECC; the PC has looked for but failed to find a suitable site for allotments - those that exist at the Henry Dixon Hall in Rivenhall End are privately owned by the Henry Dixon Hall Charity.

There is a need for some public open space in Rivenhall End.

iii. To consider the possible reinstatement of the VAS in Henry Dixon Road with a 30mph display.

Information has been received that no local speed signs can be erected until one year after the introduction of new speed restrictions orders.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk contact ECC Highways with the request that the site in Henry Dixon Road be included in the rotation system for the 30mph VAS currently used in Rickstones Road and that consideration be given in the 2015/16 budget for the change from 40 to 30 mph of the VAS currently in store so that it can be erected in Henry Dixon Road at the expiry of the one year period, subject to ECC's decision on whether it will support a 40mph buffer zone in Church Road north of the Church.

iv. County Highway Maintenance.

The Chairman is in discussion with ECC Officer Rose (Policy & Performance Manager - Essex Highways) regarding the blocked ditch and pipe along Oak Road, which causes the flooding onto the highway.

The repair to potholes in both Henry Dixon Road and Oak Road remains outstanding.

There may be a possible future devolvement of minor highway repairs from ECC to BDC.

v. General Maintenance.

The Maintenance Contractor is requested to give attention to some rotten posts on the Village Green.

vi. RCCE Annual General Meeting - 9 July 2014.

No Members were available to attend this meeting.

**941.. Planning Matters:**

**New Applications:**

There were no new applications to consider.

**Planning Results:**

There were no planning results to report.

**Planning Appeals:**

There were no planning appeals to report.

**942.. Ongoing Planning Issues:**

i. Local Development Framework.

An acknowledgement receipt has been received from BDC relative to the Parish Council's latest submission regarding Kelvedon Park.

It was reported that BDC has formally abandoned the current LDF in favour of developing a new Local Plan by year 2017. All existing agreed sites are to be retained within the new plan.

ii. Rivenhall Airfield.

Nothing further to report.

iii. ECC Waste Development.

Nothing further to report.

iv. ECC Minerals Plan.

The Inspector has now agreed all the ECC recommendations, including the retention of the Colemans Farm site, and this is to be formally considered by ECC's full Council on 8 July 2014.

v. Braintree District Local Highways Panel:

- a. Rickstones Road drains and kerbing. **AGREED, FUNDED AND DESIGN COMPLETE.** Following site meeting with ECC Highways Cabinet Member, £75,000 central funds allocated so net cost to BLHP is reduced. Estimated total cost £130,772. **New delivery date February 2015** - (possibly earlier).
- b. Railway Bridge, Oak Road. Previously fully **AGREED** and **FUNDED**. Was due for delivery by end of March 2014. **New date for delivery November 2014.** Cost £45,000. Late due to ongoing investigations as to where cables run and dialogue with farmers about width for agricultural machinery. Still being wrongly described in the LHP lists as signal controlled [ECC were advised post the April meeting that it is not and have been again]. New plans produced and circulated at meeting - may need final tweaks as safety audit to take place.
- c. 7.5T weight restriction, Oak Road. Previously **AGREED** subject to surveys. Panel agreed at January meeting to put an additional £7,500 into detailed design. Main hold up is cost of signs on A12 and slowness of Highways Agency in responding. Good agreement of Panel members that the scheme needs to be delivered along with improvements to A12 junctions (Highways Agency future scheme). **New date for design delivery is now December 2014.**
- d. Church Road layby at church. Panel previously **AGREED** to commission design at cost of £1.5k. Estimated scheme cost £20k. **New date for design delivery is December 2014.**

- e. Extend 30mph (or introduce 40mph buffer) northwards along Church Road Rivenhall. Speed survey now conducted which showed average speeds of 42mph southbound and 46mph northbound. ECC stated at April meeting that this shows "excellent compliance" with 60mph speed limit. It was pointed out to ECC that it shows high speeds close to the edge of a 30mph limit where there is a primary school and church. Officers agreed to reconsider. Most likely outcome now is a 40mph buffer. New speed survey, close to the Church gate, **AGREED** at a cost of £210.
- f. Extended railings outside the School entrance. **AGREED AND FUNDED**. 22m of new railing will be installed at a cost of £3,000. Delivery date not known as this was a verbal only item - it will be minuted though.
- g. Possible 20mph restriction outside the School entrance. **It was agreed** that a letter in support of the petition submitted to ECC be sent to ECC Cllr. Bass (Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation).
- h. Church Road/Oak Road highway signage. **AGREED AND FUNDED**. Final drawings for new signs to be produced. Cost £4,500.
- i. Grass verge outside 51-53 Oak Road. **New scheme submitted and awaiting validation** - 2 small areas of grasscrete in Oak Road near Railway Bridge to allow parking and protect verge from further damage.

**943.. Correspondence received since the date of this agenda.**

- \* Empowering PC's to sell electricity: A request has been received asking whether the Council would submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act asking for the government to give all PC's the right to sell electricity that they generate from local schemes.  
**It was agreed** to support this in principle pointing out that the PC had no scheme or plan to put forward.

**944.. Reports from PC Representatives.**

Cllr. Prime reported on the Braintree Parish Passenger Transport Meeting as follows: The poor service on route 132 was blamed on continuing roadworks and staff shortages/sickness. Buses on route 71 will not stop on the A12 unless there are major highway improvements. Future housing developments will have an impact upon local bus services. As the senior citizen passes are part of a Government scheme they are to remain. When the Tour De France passes through the district, no buses will run on the route of the Tour for most of that day,

**945.. Finance matters:**

To agree accounts for payment.

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

973	R.C.C.E.	£66.00	Membership fee 2014/15
974	D. Clark	£16.97	Planting compost
975	The Henry Dixon Hall Charity	£12.50	Hall hire
976	J. E. Abbott	£650.00	Chairman's allowance 2014/15
977	K. P. Taylor	£412.79	Salary/expenses June 2014.
978	A. Walsh	£428.00	Maintenance June 2014.

**946.. Information exchange and items for the next agenda.**

- \* 4 separate police speed checks had been undertaken in Rivenhall during June.
- \* The former allotment site in Rickstones Road is very untidy and is being used as a builders dumping ground.

- \* Parking violations outside the school.
- \* Community Speedwatch - volunteers required.
- \* Carillion completion details still required.
- \* Superfast Broadband now operational in Rivenhall; Rivenhall End to be on stream soon.
- \* Ash die-back disease has appeared in Rivenhall.
- \* A mobility scooter is being dangerously driven along the highway between Rivenhall and Silver End via both Rivenhall and Cressing Road - reported to the police for safety of person concerned and other road users.
- \* Highways Maintenance HGVs are contravening the local weight restrictions, particularly during the afternoons and at weekends.
- \* The Highways Agency have plans to extend the A12 resurfacing to include Rivenhall End but there are no immediate plans to change the signage near Whitelands. Apparently funds are now available for the design work relative to the Oak Road junctions.

**947.. Dates of future meetings:**

Tuesdays 5 August and 2 September, both commencing promptly at 20.00hours.  
Items for the August meeting to the Clerk by 25 July at the latest.

**948.. Closure.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.23 hours.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

CHAIRMAN