

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2014**

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

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

**Also present:** Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public.

**977. To receive apologies for absence.**

An apology was received from Cllr. Wright who was on holiday.

**978. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests relating to matters on this Agenda.**

Cllr. Abbott declared non-pecuniary interests in all matters relating to ECC and the BDLHLP.

**979. To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2014.**

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

**980. Public Forum for 10 minutes.**

The following matter was brought to the attention of Members:

- Overgrown hedge alongside Footpath 1 in Rickstones Road - the problem lies along the Academy boundary and the Chairman will again request urgent action by ECC Highways to cut this back. See also item 981(vi)(a) below.

**981. Matters for Discussion:**

i. Half-yearly report.

The Clerk produced a draft report, which included the Chairman's report together with other relevant PC information. This report was **unanimously approved** and 320 copies will be printed and circulated during this month.

ii. RBL Memorial wreath and grant to Essex Air Ambulance.

**Proposed by Cllr. Prime, seconded by Cllr. Brailey and unanimously agreed** that the sums of £45.00 and £25.00 be donated to the RBL and Essex Air Ambulance respectively.

iii. Future possible alteration of parish boundaries.

The Clerk had circulated an information document to Members regarding the procedure to be adopted in the event of any future request for boundary changes brought about by new development along the local parish boundaries. It would appear that action cannot be taken by anyone until all properties within such future developments are occupied and a petition is presented by the residents.

iv. Parking in St. Mary's Road & Tusser Close.

Greenfields have rejected approaches from some owner/occupiers for vehicle access across the greensward onto their private properties for parking and have indicated that (a) there are vacant garages available in Tusser Close and (b) Greenfields are investigating possible future options for parking on this estate.

v. What's happening with the former Fox P.H.?

The current situation regarding the former Fox Public House is that it was purchased at auction by a greengrocer for use as either a local farm shop or storage depot for merchandise.

The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to maintain a list of assets of community value, which have been nominated by the local community. When listed assets come up for sale or change of ownership, the Act gives community groups the time to develop a bid and raise the money to bid to buy the asset when it comes on the open market. This will help local communities keep much-loved sites in public use and part of local life.

**Proposed by Cllr. Clark, seconded by Cllr. Brailey and agreed by a vote of 4 in favour with 2 abstentions** that BDC be requested to list the former Fox PH as a building of local interest and possible community value.

- vi. County Highway Maintenance.
  - (a) It has been agreed that the ECC Highway Rangers will cut back the overgrowth along the boundary between Footpath 1 and The New Rickstones Academy. See item 980 above.
  - (b) It would appear that, with only a few minor exceptions, all the road within the parish are now maintained up to an acceptable standard.
- vii. General Maintenance.
  - (a) There was a lack of grass cutting during August/September by Greenfields' contractors
  - (b) The PC may receive a letter from the PCC regarding the planting surrounding the War Memorial - Next Agenda.
  - (c) The Maintenance Contractor is requested to paint/repair the notice board on the shop wall.

## 982. Planning Matters:

### New Applications:

**14/01246/FUL:** Construction of car parking - E H Smith (Builders Merchants) Ltd., Glebe Yard, Forest Road.

Members raised the following objections relative to this planning application:

Due to the very uncertain nature of this application, it was difficult to ascertain details of exactly what was being requested, originally a new storage facility then a car parking area. Information from BDC suggested the application is actually for a car park.

There was a complete lack of detailed information in regard to the actual size of the parking area in relation to Rickstones Road, which was not even shown on the layout drawing and no information given regarding the justification for the application.

If the application should be considered for approval then that approval should be for a limited period of 18 months after which the land must be immediately reinstated to farmland as at present. It was also pointed out that this entire site was within the parish of Rivenhall, not Witham as indicated within the limited documentation available and entirely within the countryside.

### Planning Results:

There were no planning results to report at this meeting

### Planning Appeals:

There was no planning appeal information to report at this meeting.

## 983. Ongoing Planning Issues:

- i. BDC Local Plan.  
Information regarding possible future sites may become available within the next few weeks.
- ii. Rivenhall Airfield.  
The Liaison meeting is scheduled for 9 October 2014 and the Chairman will attend.
- iii. ECC Waste Development Plan.  
There was nothing to report at this meeting.
- iv. ECC Minerals Plan.  
Colemans Farm - A PC representative is registered to speak when the planning application is considered by the ECC D&P Committee.  
**Proposed by Cllr. Abbott, seconded by Cllr. Bills and unanimously agreed** that Cllr. Wright be nominated to represent the PC at this meeting.

v. Braintree District Local Highways Panel:

The next Panel meeting is scheduled for 9 October 2014.

- 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.**
- 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. New plans have been produced which incorporate all the PC's requests.
- 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).
- d. Church Road layby at church - Panel previously **AGREED** to commission design at cost of £1.5k. Estimated scheme cost £20k. **New date for delivery is during 2015/16.**
- e. Extended 30mph limit along Church Road - Speed survey now completed (loops set at the War Memorial) and shows that the majority of drivers are exceeding the 30mph limit. ECC officers still think this isn't strong enough for them to recommend a 40mph buffer but are willing for the PC Chairman to attempt to get it through as an exception to policy - Chair of the LHP has agreed this action.
- 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 at this stage.
- g. Possible 20mph restriction outside the School entrance - A letter in support of the petition submitted to ECC was sent to ECC Cllr. Bass (Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation). Cllr. Bass has since written to the Chairman (in his role as County Councillor) to announce that he has turned down the proposal.
- 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. Estimated cost £1,500 with delivery during 2015/16.

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

- \* Essex Police will be holding a 1 hour "Street Meet" on Thursday 23 October 2014 between 10.00 and 11.00 hours in Rivenhall Village Hall. Any member of the public may attend and talk to the police about any problems or concerns they may have.
- \* The next Passenger Transport meeting will be held on Thursday 23 October 2014 at 10.30am in Braintree Town Hall. Cllr. Prime will attend.

**985. Reports from PC Representatives.**

Cllr. Prime: EALC, AGM - Membership fees are to remain as existing; the President will step down 2 years early due to age and the Chairman will step down in November 2014.

**986. Finance matters:**

To agree accounts for payment.

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

986	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£120.00	2013/14 Audit fee
987	Glasdon UK Ltd	£100.80	New dog bin
988	Kempco Ltd	£51.50	Planning copies
989	RPFA	£45.00	Hall Hire
990	K. P. Taylor	£322.80	Salary/expenses Sept. '14
991	A. Walsh	£307.48	Maintenance Sept. '14
992	Royal British Legion	£45.00	Memorial wreath
993	Essex Air Ambulance	£25.00	Donation
994	RPFA replacement for cheque 970 (03/06/14), unrepresented and "lost" £30.00		

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

- Finger post at entrance to Footpath 48, near the Railway Bridge in Oak Road is awaiting replacement by ECC.
- Footpath 59 alongside Hoo Hall Cottages is currently overgrown by nettles.
- Flooding resulting from the recent storm in Oak Road resulting from the blocked ditch and pipe, which the Chairman will again report to ECC for urgent clearance (Next agenda). Also flooding in Foxmead.
- Vehicle erosion of verge in Oak Road close to the village sign - Clerk to write to homeowner.
- Chairman will contact ECC regarding loose drain cover outside 17 Church Road.
- The Clerk will contact BT regarding the very poor service within the parish.
- The poor bus service via the parish was once again reported.
- Lead had been removed from the Church Vestry roof.
- Additional seats in the Playing Field are being considered by the RPFA.
- Litter along the John Ray Walk was again reported.
- A question was raised concerning the state of the ditches along Rectory Lane.
- Two local RTAs were reported, one in Church Road the other on the A12 at Whitelands.

**988. Dates of future meetings:**

Tuesdays 4 November in Rivenhall Village Hall and 2 December in The Henry Dixon Hall, both commencing promptly at 20.00hours.

Items for the November meeting to the Clerk by 24 October at the latest.

**989. Closure.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.52 hours.

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

CHAIRMAN