

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH DECEMBER 2022 IN THE
HENRY DIXON HALL, RIVENHALL END.**

Present: Cllrs. Abbott, Wright, A'Lee, Cairns, Elliott, Prime and Turner.

Also present: Parish Clerk and ECC Cllr. R. Playle.

2320. Chairman's Report.

The Planning Appeal for the proposed "Bellway Phase 4" development of up to 230 houses on land off Rectory Lane started today.

The Appeal is being held in unusual circumstances. Braintree District Council refused the application in February 2022 when it did not have an up-to-date Local Plan. BDC now does have an up-to-date Local Plan (as of July 2022) and the Appeal site is not allocated in that Plan, however, BDC's Housing Land Supply has slipped from just over the required 5 years to just under. Due to the complexities involved, this means that local planning policies cannot be applied in full and in fear of losing the Appeal, BDC is not defending its refusal decision. Because of the Housing Land Supply position, the Inspector to the Appeal will be weighing up if the "harms" from the development significantly outweigh the benefits.

The parish council is being represented at the Appeal and is arguing that the harms do indeed outweigh the benefits, especially due to the loss of much of the countryside gap between Witham and Rivenhall and the impacts on the historic and much valued setting of Rectory Lane.

The parish council is also setting out at the Appeal that this area has already seen a high level of development with over 600 houses built in north Witham and Rivenhall in recent years, more commercial development due along the A12, and with the boundary of Witham moving out into Rivenhall in 2 places as a result.

The Appeal decision may not be known for many weeks and meanwhile there could be changes to national planning policy with the Housing Land Supply issue being debated in parliament. Inspectors are required to decide Appeals according to the policies applying at the time, so it is not a given as to which way the decision will go.

2321. To receive any apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2322. Disclosure of any Pecuniary Interests relating to this agenda.

Cllr. Abbott declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 2326 as a member of the BDC Planning Committee.

2323. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2022.

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

2324. Public Forum for 10 minutes.

* A brief presentation was given by Andrew Lipski on the current work of Gigaclear to provide a better Broadband service within the Parish and he answered questions.

* A brief presentation was given by Nigel Allsopp (National Highways) re the A12 streetlights, cycleway maintenance, litter collection and bus shelters and he answered questions.

* ECC Cllr. Playle reported that ECC are now of the view that with the A12 widening Scheme, Oak Road should be a cul-de-sac with no entry from the detrunked A12. He also reported that the malfunctioning streetlights in the Parish should be repaired commencing 12th December 2022; that reported potholes are to be repaired and some ECC provided trees are available for planting. Speed surveys had been undertaken along Church Road with the results being considered satisfactory.

2325. Matters for Discussion:

- i. A12 Detrunking.
 The three parishes meeting (Rivenhall, Kelvedon & Witham) took place yesterday: The meeting considered the ECC proposals:
 1. Retain one existing carriageway and "regreen" the other incorporating crushed material from the unused carriageway to include a linear walk/cycle path and parkland.
 2. The retained single carriageway will not necessitate a roundabout at Rivenhall End East, simply a linkage of the two existing roads from Kelvedon and Rivenhall End.
 3. For Oak Road, Rivenhall End to be retained as a cul-de-sac with no entrance from the detrunked A12.
 4. As there appears to be no close liaison between ECC and NH regarding the detrunking of the A12, a meeting between ECC, NH, and all the local Parish Councils along the route from Marks Tey to Witham was recommended in the new year.

It **was agreed** to hold a special RPC meeting, during January, to discuss the council's official response to the ECC proposals for detrunking the existing A12. There is a scheduled Councillors meeting with ECC on Friday 9th December 2022.
- ii. Speeding vehicles Oak Road & Church Road.
 See under 2324 above.
- iii. Rewilding and verges maintenance update.
 Following the meeting on 22nd November 2022, with BDC officers, the two areas for rewilding/wild flowering on the Albert Moss Playing Field have been approved. The proposed ECC/BDC sites for verge rewilding/wild flowering require a licence for each site from ECC and these require the prior approval of the local ECC Councillor. Details have been forwarded to Cllr. Playle and his formal approval is still awaited. Once this has been received details will be sent to BDC.
- iv. ECC Minerals Local Plan Review & Call for Sites.
 Further details are awaited from ECC.
- v. Planting plaques.
 Quotes obtained were for size 1' X 6": Brass £100; Acrylic £60 each incl. VAT. It **was agreed**, with one abstention, to purchase two acrylic plaques.
- vi. Parishes Liaison.
 Both Lt. and Gt. Braxted have agreed to a joint liaison with RPC as and when the need arises.
- vii. Highway Maintenance.
 - (a) An estimate for the repair of the retaining wall and safety rails at the St. Mary's Road and Church Road junction in the sum of £2,162.00 was considered too high for RPC to accept at this time. The wall and steps are the responsibility of ECC Highways.
 The ECC Councillor has been requested to remind ECC to undertake this repair as a matter of urgency - it was reported to ECC Highways, via their website, on 15th February 2022 and a reminder had also been sent.
 - (b) The demolished 30mph count down warning sign on Church Road has again been reported to ECC.
 - (c) The School sign on Church Road has been damaged and reported to ECC for repair.
 - (d) The cause for the surface water opposite Rectory Lane has been

- confirmed as due to a collapsed gully and programmed for repair in due course.
- (e) Blocked drains at the Oak Road/Church Road junction are causing the road to flood in heavy rain.
 - (f) Fallen trees are blocking the footpaths surrounding Tarecroft Wood.
 - (g) Smashed car parts remain at the Oak Road/Henry Dixon Road junction, these to be reported to BDC for collection.
- viii. General Maintenance.
There were no additional matters to be considered.

2326. Planning Applications:

- i. New Applications:
22/02283/FUL: Erection of storage/distribution units etc. Land off Colchester Road, Rivenhall End.
Comments forwarded to BDC recommending safeguards for residents of Rivenhall End in regard to noise, lighting and the general visual amenity.
- ii. Results:
22/02672/HH: Single-storey rear extension, Park Gate Farm House - **approved by BDC.**
22/01541/REM: Approval of reserved matters, land adjacent Glebe Farm, Rectory Lane - **approved by BDC.**
- iii. Appeals:
The Bellway Phase 4 Inquiry opened today - see item 2320 above.
- iv. Enforcement:
There was nothing to report.

2327. Ongoing Planning Issues:

- i. A12 to A120 widening.
Provision is made under the National Highways Designated Fund for additional works to be included for the improvement, among others, of the Rivenhall End area. It was agreed that the following should be requested as additional items: replacement bus shelters, designated children's play area and the maintenance of the pump within the Henry Dixon Road existing A12 underpass.
- ii. BDC Local Plan.
There was nothing to report.
- iii. Bradwell Quarry.
There was nothing to report.
- iv. IWMF
The next Liaison meeting is scheduled for 8th December 2022.
- v. Colemans Quarry.
The next Liaison Meeting is scheduled for 9th February 2023.
- vi. BDLHP.
The next meeting is scheduled for December 2022 with a date and time to yet be agreed.

2328. Finance matters:

- (a) To review the Clerk's salary; the bi-annual review.
It was **unanimously agreed** that the Clerk's salary be raised to £433.50 per month, with effect from 1st April 2023, with basic expenses remaining at £30.00 per month. The Clerk has given notice that he intends to retire as Clerk at 30th September 2023.

(b) To agree accounts for payment.

It was **agreed** that the following accounts be paid; cheques were then drawn accordingly.

1535.	£60.00	D.M. Payroll Services Ltd.	2 nd $\frac{1}{2}$ yr payroll admin 2022/23
1536	£108.00	Nebulas Website Design	Website Mtce. Dec.'22/Feb'23
1537	£60.00	Henry Dixon Hall Charity	Hall Hire
1538	£200.00	Paul Scott	Litter picking Nov. '22
1539	£80.00	Kim Burton	Litter picking Nov. '22
1540	£432.66	K.P. Taylor	Salary/expenses Nov. '22
1541	£240.00	P.G. Groundcare Ltd.	Maintenance Nov. '22

2329. Information exchange and items for the January agenda.

- * The existing A12 bus shelters and their future.
- * The Chairman will send 'Thank you' messages with Christmas cards to the volunteer litter pickers.

2330. Ten minutes public feedback.

This was not required.

2331. Dates of future meetings.

3rd January (*) and 7th February 2023 in Rivenhall Village Hall, both starting promptly at 19.30 hours.

Further items for the January agenda to the Clerk by 23rd December 2022 at the latest.

(*) Due to unforeseen circumstances after the meeting, the January meeting has been moved to 17th January.

2332. Closure

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.15hrs.

Signed:

Date 17th January 2023.

CHAIRMAN