

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
HELD ON 23RD MAY 2023 IN RIVENHALL VILLAGE HALL.**

In the Chair: Cllr. Turner, who welcomed everyone to the Assembly.

Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from J. Allen, A. Marshall and P. Little

There were 16 attendees including all 7 Parish Councillors and ECC Cllr. Ross Playle.

To approve the minutes of the previous year's meeting.

The minutes were approved and then signed by the Chairman.

Parish Council Chairman's report.

As a full Annual Report had previously been circulated to all residents within the Parish, the Chairman gave a brief resume and an up to date report regarding the following:

The increased number of local planning applications.

The A12 widening (National Highways) and detrunking (ECC).

Rewilding of certain local highway verges.

National Grid pylon proposals.

IWMF - Rivenhall Airfield.

Future proposals for Colemans Quarry.

The local Solar Farm planning application - RPC should be represented at the BDC Planning Committee.

Public questions/comments relating to the Chairman's report.

There were no comments or questions.

BDC Ward Councillor's Report.

BDC Councillor J. Abbott reported upon the following matters:

BDC new councillor structure not yet formulated since the local elections.

The latest Central Government Planning provisions are not sympathetic to local councils.

The ongoing applications for the IWMF.

The Solar farm application process is still ongoing.

BDC indicate no change to the local recycling system.

The roadside verges re-wilding is an ECC/BDC initiative where RPC was invited to suggest sites for inclusion - these being approved both by ECC and BDC. Further discussion is to be held at local parish level.

Public questions/comments relating to the Ward Councillor's report.

A member of the public (not present) expressed approval of the verges re-wilding project. The Chairman also said he was in favour of re-wilding in the correct locations but not on the Albert Moss Playing Field.

BDC cost savings re reduced grass cutting and the fact that Eastlight have sprayed weed killer onto the grass surrounding the smaller village green - this has been discussed with Eastlight regarding a solution re re-seeding.

The Eastways bund screening between Witham and Rivenhall End has been completely removed with, apparently,, no plans for reinstatement.

ECC Area Councillor's Report.

ECC Cllr. Playle reported upon the following matters:

The additional Government funding for pothole repairs.
 ECC Cllr. recommendations for local pavement repairs/upgrades.
 The ongoing problems with roadside flooding and dysfunctional streetlights is being strategised for remedial action.
 A22 widening and detrunking proposals.

Public questions/comments relating to the ECC Councillor's report.

The ECC A12 detrunking proposals do not conform to the RPC recommendations - will there be any local public consultation prior to future approval? The matter will be decided initially by the Planning Inspector's consideration of the Highways England application.

The actual repairing of potholes could be done to a better standard than currently - any problems with repairs to be forwarded to Cllr. Playle.

The cones surrounding the potholes at Ford Farm, Church Road are now widely scattered and the potholes remain unrepaired.

The local highway flooding is not simply due to blocked drains it is a much more complex problem with no easy solution.

An objection was raised to the booking system at the Perry Road recycling site. Does ECC monitor any increase in local fly tipping? Cllr. Playle replied the he is not aware of any increase in local fly tipping.

Additional questions/comments relating to Parish matters.

Would RPC consider making a donation to the local Neighbourhood Watch? A written (Email) request must be made to the Clerk for the council to consider.

The Chairman indicated that BDC intend to make a charge of £100 for the local fete to be held on the village green this year.

The Clerk indicated that he would be retiring after the September meeting and job adverts were available for anyone interested in submitting an application.

The Chairman and those present thanked the clerk for his service over the years.

Final remarks and closure of the meeting by the Council Chairman.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Assembly meeting at 19.57 hours

Signed:.....

CHAIRMAN

Date: May 2024