



Rivenhall Parish Council

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF RIVENHALL AND RIVENHALL END IN THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT
IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX

CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th. December 2023 in the Henry Dixon Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. R. Turner, J. Abbott, J. Cairns, D. Hammond, J. Macrae, J. Prime, R. Wright

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

2497 To receive any apologies for absence were received from ECC Cllr. R. Playle

2498 Disclosure of any Pecuniary Interests relating to this agenda. None declared

2499 To agree the minutes of the Meeting held on 7th. November 2023 All Agreed

2500 Public Forum for 10 minutes

Verge at Lakeside Cottage is causing a problem. A cut is once a year by Waterfall Cottages.

Bob Wright see letter from Arthur Marshall

Potholes in the area are causing serious damage to a cars suspension. ECC are the worst County to refund pothole damage.

2501 Chairman's report

Firstly I would like to correct Cllr Cairns' email that states I said I would be responsible for forwarding on emails to all Councillors, what I actually said was, I would forward on emails that I could see had not been copied to all Councillors NOT I would be responsible.

It is surely good practice for all Councillors to forward all emails to fellow Councillors.

I apologise if I failed to forward one to all Councillors that I sent.

As has been reported by our ECC Councillor Ross Playle, we met with Highways representative David Forkin and had a frank discussion regarding flooding especially under the rail bridge and the reasons for it. I am awaiting a response from Ross or David. I have also contacted our MP regarding the flooding problems in Rivenhall.

The pothole in Rickstones Road is also water related, I believe there is a broken pipe in the drainage system, as water comes out of the hole when it rains but I think, Highways believe it's a leak in the water main as Essex and Suffolk water have been out and tested it. I expect Highways are now waiting for them to report back.

10 years ago, the problem at railway bridge happened. ECC have failed to rectify this problem.

2502 ECC Councillor report

Rickstones Road - Repairs to the highway's defects in Rickstones Road are due to be undertaken at some point between today Tuesday (5th December) and Thursday (7th December).

Extra funding for road repairs - On the same topic, Essex County Council was recently announced to receive an extra £121million from central Government for highways repairs over the next 10 years. This is on top of its usual annual budget. <https://www.essexhighways.org/news/121m-announced-for-essex-road-maintenance-over-the-next-10-years>. This amount is less than the cut from Government

Oak Road flooding - As promised following our site visit, Essex Highways will be back Thursday to undertake further surveys and CCTV work to identify the source of the flooding issues. I will provide a further update once this has been completed and what the next steps might be.

Witham cycle route plan - Essex County Council is currently consulting on possible future cycle routes for Witham. This includes a largely off-road route from Witham to Braintree via Rivenhall. You can have your say before 17th January by taking part here: <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/sustainable-travel-planning-team/local-walking-and-cycling-routes-basildon-castle-p/>.

2503 BDC Councillor report

Braintree District Council (BDC) is discussing its Budget for 2024/25 and the first public meeting where this took place was the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting of 22nd November. The council faces a significant financial challenge due to a combination of factors including loss of Government grant over the past decade, increased demand for council services and inflation, which for example has resulted in a higher wages bill and higher costs for supplies. The BDC share of council tax is likely to rise and measures are being looked into in order to make savings. Charging for green bins is an attempt by the administration to close the budget gap. Currently less than half the households in the district have signed up for the new subscription system compared to the 88% of households who currently use green bins. Whilst this is rather more than projected earlier this year, it is anticipated the take-up could fall next year when the full charges come in compared to the discounted charges this year.

The Parish Council stated that any vulnerable people require assistance to place their green bins out. BDC will assist with assisted collections. Please let the Parish Council know.

We were pleased as District Councillors to read that the decision taken last year not to scrap Parish Council Street Cleaning Grant has been reversed, at least for the coming year. We are still requesting that those with assisted bin collections (who tend to have disabilities and mobility problems) should be added to the green bin subscription system but without the extra charges. This would be about 2,500 households.

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee also considered an update on council performance, in which there was a report on environmental projects. It was good to see that the Rivenhall rewinding and wildflower verges projects were mentioned. Essex Wildlife Trust has also featured the projects, with a photo, in one of their newsletters and their officer who visited Rivenhall earlier this year has offered to visit again next spring to see how things are going. She has suggested dates in the week beginning 11th March.

I wrote to Essex County Council about the further significant flooding in Rivenhall parish that has taken place yet again, following requests from residents for action. The causes of the flooding are known from previous surveys. The e-mail I sent to ECC included recent photos of the flooding as well as the dangerously deep pothole that has been left for weeks on Rickstones Road with cones around it. ECC does not appear to be meeting its own assessment criteria in respect of that defect and I have been contacted by residents who said their vehicles have been damaged when they hit the hole, when it was full of water from the flooding, before the cones were put up. I sent them details of the compensation claims process.

I attended the Rivenhall Remembrance event and Cllr Wright attended Silver End where we laid wreaths on behalf of BDC along with other local representatives.

Report from the Rivenhall Airfield Waste Site Liaison Group 5th October.

The various applications for the listed Woodhouse Farm complex are due to be determined by Braintree DC this month with work to take place, if granted, in spring 2024 (post meeting note - BDC has now approved those applications).

An application to Essex CC to revise plans for the main car park has been submitted.

Construction of the waste plant is ongoing with first waste deliveries expected September 2025 and final completion May 2026.

The new bridge over the River Blackwater on the haul road has had to be redesigned due to requirements from the EA to reduce flood risk.

This could mean, despite recent assurances, that further abnormal loads will need to come through local villages and then via Woodhouse Lane (post meeting note - this has now been confirmed).

There was discussion and several questions about traffic, including whether there will be periods when quarry traffic needs to come through villages as the new bridge is installed (Indaver said no) and the ongoing issues of construction HGVs running off route.

There is still no certainty on what waste processes the completed plant will include, apart from incineration. Indaver stated that "the final shape is not yet certain".

The condition 66 hearing has been postponed until 2024 pending the likelihood that Essex CC will sign off C66 and so Indaver can then withdraw the appeal.

The effect of this will be to remove requirements for Indaver to build to their current consent in terms of the internal processes.

The Development Consent Order application (for increased electricity production) is due to be submitted to the Government in late 2023 as is the glasshouses application, which would go to ECC for decision. I asked about the impacts of the proposed huge greenhouses having a footprint across a large part of the land legally agreed as restoration for the quarry (to farmland, hedges, woodland etc). In response it was stated some biodiversity restoration may have to go offsite, perhaps adjacent to the land originally intended.

Indaver will be submitting a new full Environmental Statement to cover all the changes that have been made or are being applied for.

Indaver confirmed they will be bidding for contracts from Essex CC to incinerate black bin domestic waste on a 7-year contract.

Finally, I asked Indaver some weeks ago about the red lights on their tall cranes, visible for long distances across the countryside at night. There is also significant light pollution during evening working periods from construction floodlights. (Post meeting note - Indaver has now applied for permission to work at night across a wide range of site activities, with no defined limits of how late this would take place).

2504 Costing of Speed survey – ECC £365 +VAT

Cllr J. Prime proposed allowing for 2 surveys in the Precept to be carried out in 2024/2025. Cllr J. Abbott seconded. **All Agreed.**

2505 Cost of Speed camera – Clerk to update Councillors on costing

2506 2 New Notice Boards at Bluebells and at the Bus Shelter

The Clerk to obtain a price for 2 notice boards. 8 page notice board.

2507 Repair to Notice Board at Rivenhall End

Cllr R. Wright proposed accepting the quotation of £285.00p. Cllr J. Abbott seconded. **All Agreed**

2508 Neighbourhood Plan decision – Councillors to decide way forward

This item to be deferred to another meeting after next General Election. **All Agreed**

2509 Highway maintenance

a) **Marked pedestrian road crossings – Oak Road & Rickstones Road.** No further update

2510 General maintenance

Some trees in the village have been attended to but still require further treatment.

The Oak trees will soon be shedding their leaves and will require sweeping up. The gullies will be swept by BDC. War Memorial – No works have been undertaken to restore the War memorial garden. The Chairman authorised the removal of the dead plants at the War Memorial. The roses have been left in situ. All future decisions on the War Memorial will be made at a Full Council meeting.

2511 Licence for rose beds near bus stop on Rickstones Road

Cllr R. Turner proposed to have all Parish Councillors, who wish to undertake the management and maintenance of sustainable plants, roses and winter interest plants Rickstones Road. The Clerk to return the letter to Paul Partridge.

2512 Re-Wilding verge on Park Road Rivenhall opposite Waterfall Cottages

The Parish Council entered into a contract with ECC to encourage wildflowers on 5 identified sections of verge. Cutting is undertaken once per year by BDC on 1 section and by RPC on 4 sections. BDC has stated in writing that unauthorised cutting beyond the one cut per year policy should stop with immediate effect.

Cllr J. Abbott proposed that RPC approaches ECC for consent to do some spot planting of wildflowers on the Park Road and Oak Road (Rivenhall End) sections of verge.

Cllr J. Prime proposed to take out about 20 metres of verge opposite Lakeside Cottage from the contract due to objections from the residents of that property. Cllr D. Hammond seconded. Cllr R. Wright asked for a recorded vote. F3 Cllrs J. Macrae, J. Prime and D. Hammond. Ag3 Cllrs J. Abbott, B. Wright, J. Cairns.

Cllr R. Turner then voted in favour to have the identified 20 metres removed from the ECC contract.

There was an outburst of shouting by a Councillor which was directed at other Councillors. Cllr J. Cairns and a member of the public both made complaints at the end of the meeting and Cllr J. Cairns also made a complaint when it happened.

2513 Planning Applications

23/02697/VAR - Land Adjacent Glebe Farm Rectory Lane Rivenhall

Variation of Condition 1 (Approved Plans) of permission 22/01541/REM granted 25/11/2022 for: Application for the approval of reserved matters (in respect of access, appearance, landscaping layout and scale) pursuant to outline planning permission 19/01947/OUT granted 11.06.2020 for: Application for Outline Planning Permission with all matters reserved - Erection of 3 No. dwellings.

Variation would allow: the development to be carried out in accordance with the Surface Water Drainage Statement. **RESOLVED:** No objection

23/02822/TPO - Park House Park Road Rivenhall

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO - 20/2009
Horse Chestnut T3 -reduction in size by 2.5m

RESOLVED: Support this planning application subject to the tree officer's approval

2514 Planning Decisions made by BDC. No planning decisions made by BDC affecting Rivenhall

2515 Planning Appeals. No planning appeals submitted affecting Rivenhall

2516 Ongoing Planning Issues

- 1) A12 to A120 widening. Nothing to report
- 2) BDC Local Plan. Nothing to report
- 3) Bradwell Quarry. Nothing to report
- 4) IWMF. 14th. December next meeting
- 5) Colemans Quarry. Nothing ongoing on planning issues however, a vast amount of material is being deposited on the road from lorries leaving the site.
- 6) BDLHP. Nothing to report

2517 Finance matters

- a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. November 2023
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. November 2023
- b. To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2023/24
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2023/24
- c. To approve the payment of Accounts for December 2023 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

Chq No.	Invoice No.	Payee	Cost	VAT	Total
101616	Nov '23	Paul Scott - Litter picking	£ 222.99	£ -	£ 222.99
101617	Nov '23	Kim Burton - Litter picking	£ 84.00	£ -	£ 84.00

2518 Councillors to receive draft budget for 2024/2025

Councillors received the draft Budget expenditure for 2024/2025

2519 Information exchange and items for the next agenda

2520 Ten minutes public feedback (if required)

The meeting this evening was very distressing and should concentrate on the residents of Rivenhall.

2521 Dates of future meetings

15th. December 2023 in the Henry Dixon Hall starting at 7.30pm – Budget meeting

2522 2024 Meeting dates

02.01.24 (VH): 06.02.24 (VH): 05.03.24 (HDH): 02.04.24 (HDH): 07.05.24 (APCM at VH): 04.06.24 (HDH):
02.07.24 (VH): 06.08.24 (VH): 03.09.24 (HDH): 01.10.24 (VH): 05.11.24 (VH): 03.12.24 (HDH): 17.12.24 (HDH
Precept meeting)

2523 Closure of the Meeting

To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.30pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

2nd. January 2024

Robert Turner
Chairman