



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 - Kevin B. Money

7 Roach Vale Colchester CO4 3YN

Tel: 07810781509 - Email: clerk.rivenhallpc@gmail.com

Website: www.rivenhallparishcouncil.net

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th. February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Rivenhall Village Hall

Present: Cllrs R. Turner (Chairman), D. Hammond, J. Macrae, J. Prime, R. Wright, ECC Cllr R. Playle and Kevin B. Money Parish Clerk. There were no members of the public present.

2550 To receive any apologies for absence were received from Cllr J. Abbott

2551 Disclosure of any Pecuniary Interests relating to this agenda. Cllr J. Macrae declared an interest in item 2567

2552 To agree the minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd. January 2024. Cllr R. Wright informed the meeting that the minutes are incorrect. The Clerk informed the meeting that the draft minutes were circulated well before the meeting and is required to have any amendments to be circulated to ALL Councillors for correction. With this in mind Councillors voted **For 3 Ag1 Ab1** to accept the minutes as they stand.

2553 Public Forum for 10 minutes

Cllr J. Cairns raised a point on behalf of a resident about electric scooters being ridden on the pavement being dangerous and driven close to house front doors. A PSCO informed J. Cairns to contact the police to report such incidents. The scooter/s can be confiscated. To ride a scooter, it is required to have insurance and is illegal to ride such scooters either on the road or pavement. Do the police have any leaflets to discourage riding at such speeds?

Proposed Mineral Waste Local plan consultation. Should a leaflet drop be undertaken to inform residents on the expansion and extension? Information to be placed on the website/notice boards/Facebook

2554 Chairman's report

I attended a BALC meeting on the 17th. January - the guest speakers were Mr. Dan Gascoigne CEO and the Leader of BDC Cllr Graham Butland.

Those present were invited to ask questions about local issues; I asked if BDC could bring any pressure to bear on ECC Highways regarding flooding and potholes. BDC did not commit to do this and suggested we speak to our County Councillor. I said we had spoken to Ross, and he was doing his best, but it was proving very difficult to get any firm answers and Highways will not give contact details of anyone with any authority. I did point out that Rivenhall has had flooding issues for over twenty years, and it was then acknowledged by other Councillors at the meeting and the fact that our problems were quite severe, especially at Rivenhall End. I also asked about the green bin subscription update and, as of the 17th. January, it was 43%, but if you excluded flat and residential homes etc. from the number of dwellings, it would be about 51%. BDC were surprised how many residents had joined the scheme after the discount offer had expired.

Finally, I asked if BDC knew what was happening at Rivenhall Motel, but they didn't have any information regarding the site. I have now been informed by Police Inspector Phil Jackson of police activity and have passed this information on to Councillors and residents.

I am pleased to say that the drain gullies in Church Road and Oak Road have been cleaned today. I hope that Cllr Playle will have an update on the situation regarding flooding at Rivenhall End.

The 'no entry' sign on the Oak Triangle is now down along with the Finger post and the 30mph sign is damaged.; we will ask the clerk to report both to Essex Highways.

I forwarded further information regarding the Minerals Plan today. I am disappointed to see so many sites put forward in Rivenhall End, but not surprised. I hope that the Parish Council will object as strongly as possible with the aim of protecting this area.

Mr. Siggers has planted some willow trees on land along Rivenhall Brook, near the Oak and Railway Bridge.

2555 ECC Councillor report

Minerals Plan Review (2025 to 2040)

Essex County Council, like other authorities across the country, is required to publish a Minerals Local Plan. This provides planning policies for minerals development in Essex and identifies future sites for mineral extraction or quarrying. In 2020, the Council started a review of the Essex Minerals Local Plan in order to ensure it is up to date and fit for the future. This led to a decision to extend the Plan end date to 2040. As a result, new sites are needed in the county to meet the forecasted demand for materials, otherwise known as aggregates. A consultation has been launched for residents to have their say on the sites submitted for inclusion, as well as the revised Plan itself. No decisions on the allocation of any sites have been made at this stage, and the Council will take the views of local communities into account as the Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan is finalised. The consultation is open until Tuesday 19 March 2024 and residents can find out more about the Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan and take part at:

www.essex.gov.uk/minerals-review.

Council Tax

Essex County Council has published its proposals for its element of Council Tax. ECC is asking 2.99% for its core Council Tax and an additional 2% higher authorities are able to raise under the ringfenced Social Care Precept. This is just shy of the maximum that County Councils are able to raise without a referendum, and I know is not a decision that has been taken lightly. Like many organisations, and particularly the situation of many councils has been well publicised, are facing financial pressures. Rising costs are especially prevalent in the social care sector and for the first time in many years for Essex, the 2% will not be sufficient to cover this and so some of the core element will be needed to maintain these statutory support services for vulnerable residents.

Buses

Essex County Council has published the outcome of the bus consultation that it ran last summer. I am pleased that all buses routes in our area will continue to receive financial support from the Council to allow them to continue. In attention to this, it would appear there is movement on the bus shelter contract that has been outstanding for a number of years now. This will mean that requests for new shelters will be able to progress again. Finally, it is expected a reserved matters application will come forward shortly with regard to Rivenhall Park Phase 4. This will include two TRO options for a bus gate as previously proposed but another being a bus loop which would mean the bus would no longer enter/exit onto Rickstones Road but circle back down Evans Way.

Oak Road flooding update

See attached document. Following this week's rainfall, I have reported back my own observations and have asked for next steps and timelines.

A12 widening

As has widely trailed and discussed at Tuesday's meeting, the A12 widening project has been given the go ahead by the National Planning Inspectorate. I have requested a meeting with National Highways to support residents with what they can expect when. First steps etc.

County Council Boundary proposals

The Local Government Boundary Commission has published draft proposals for new divisions for Essex County Council. This to take into account change in populations (75 to 78 councillors) and fluctuations in areas. These current proposals can be viewed and commented on by 19th February. It is expected the final versions will be published in Summer 2024 in time for the next County elections in May

2025. <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/essex>

2556 BDC Councillor report

Cllr J. Abbott sent a report prior to the meeting. It read:

BDC will set its budget for 2024/25 at a meeting on 19th February to be held at the council offices in Braintree. The BDC share of council tax is proposed to be increased of 1.99%. In terms of local items, for at least one more year, the parish street cleaning support grant continues as does the District Councillor grant scheme. The latest figures on the take-up of subscription paid green bins is that about half of households have signed up, almost all via the "early bird" discount, which means that about half of the households that were using green bins in 2023 will no longer be doing so. We will be supporting an amendment to the budget to increase the number of residents using greens bins via a support measure for those with assisted collections. We have continued to add our voices to the calls for Essex County Council to take action on the repeat flooding at several locations in the parish. With respect to the railway bridge, ECC said in response to a

complaint we submitted on their failure to stop the flooding, that it would carry out “further investigations” regarding the underground pipework, but it has been known for years that the underground pipes are the primary cause of the problems. We also contacted Network Rail following a request from residents, to ask about the bridge brickwork being underwater and subject to wave action from vehicles for weeks at a time. Network Rail has investigated and said it is not something they need to action on at this time, but they will monitor.

We both attended the ECC seminar on the revised Minerals Plan, which goes out to consultation today for 6 weeks. We were appalled to see that once again, the southern part of Braintree District has more proposed sites than any other council area in Essex and that numerous extensions to quarries and new quarry areas have been put forward by landowners around Rivenhall End, near Kelvedon and near Coggeshall, as well as north of Witham.

The “transshipment site for rocks carried by road and rail” has been resubmitted for Pond Farm, despite the very strong community opposition when this was proposed (and withdrawn) some years ago. The proposed new quarry areas at Appleford Farm and northwards along the A12 are linked to using Braxted Road as their access for HGVs. This is completely unacceptable, and we will oppose it. These new quarry areas also raise questions about how they could be worked in respect of the timing of the A12 widening, which now has Government consent.

ECC Cllr R. Playle left the meeting

2557 Cost of Hand-held Speed device – Clerk to update Councillors on costing
The Clerk to explore combining Rivenhall with Cressing to set up a Speedwatch system.

2558 2 New Notice Boards at Bluebells and at the Bus Shelter

As there are numerous notice board designs the manufacturers are asking for further information regarding size, height, backboard, locking device etc. Legs (wooden/metal/protection from strimmers etc.)

The Clerk asked Councillors for their opinion, and they informed the Clerk that an aluminum notice board with a 2 door opening would be best. The clerk was asked to select a few designs and to circulate to Councillors
It discussed that Bluebells is for the sole use of the Parish Council however, it could be erected on private land so authorisation will be needed before purchasing the notice board.

2559 Repair to Notice Board at Rivenhall End – Update from the Clerk. The repair has been completed

2260 Highway maintenance

- Oak finger post & No Entry sign at Rickstones Road
- 30mph sign near Church

2561 General maintenance – 8 wheeled vehicles parking in Rickstones Road
Brickwork on handrails by bungalow on slope – brickwork to be repaired

2562 Licence for rose beds near bus stop on Rickstones Road – Councillors to discuss letter received from Paul Partridge at BDC. If in agreement, then Councillors to sign letter.

Cllr J. Prime proposed signing the letter from Paul Partridge at BDC. Cllr J. Macrae seconded. **All Agreed**

2563 Planning Applications

24/00088/NMA - 15 Foxden Rivenhall End Witham Essex CM8 3HN

Non-Material Amendment to permission 21/03390/HH granted 06.05.2022 for: Single-storey rear extension. Amendment would allow the flank elevation wall to be moved in by 150mm.

Please note that this is for information only and due to the type of application BDC do not seek RPC comments.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (as amended)

Non-Material Amendment Following a Grant of Planning Permission

Application No: ESS/34/15/BTE/NMA8 - Land at Rivenhall Airfield Coggeshall Road CO5 9DF

Proposal: Non-Material Amendment to amend the wording of Condition 35 of planning permission

ESS/34/15/BTE to allow out of hours working between January 2024 and June 2024. ESS/34/15/BTE is the planning permission for the Integrated Waste Management Facility

2564 Planning Decisions made by BDC

23/02789/HH - 2 Rivenhall Fields Rickstones Road Rivenhall Essex CM8 2PG

Two storey rear extension and pitched roof to flat roof on existing extension. **Application GRANTED**

23/02595/HH - Park Gate Farm House Park Road Rivenhall Essex CM8 3PS

Retrospective application for the erection of piers and winged walls. Proposed installation of electric gates and permeable paving to highway boundary. **Application GRANTED**

23/02061/VAR - Land Adjacent Glebe Farm Rectory Lane Rivenhall Essex

Variation of Condition 1 (Approved Plans) of approved application 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 for: Alterations to fenestration - Plots 1,2 and 3 Installation of roof lights - plots 2 and 3 Alterations to roof - Plot 1 Alterations to porch - Plots 2 and 3 Double garage to replace single garage - Plot 3 Internal layout changes - Plot 2 and 3 **Application GRANTED**

2565 Planning Appeals. No planning appeals have been submitted affecting Rivenhall

2566 Ongoing Planning Issues

- 1) A12 to A120 widening. No update
- 2) BDC Local Plan. No update except for a call for sites
- 3) Bradwell Quarry. No update
- 4) IWMF. No update
- 5) Colemans Quarry. The next meeting is in March '24
- 6) BDLHP. No update

2567 Village Magazine – Councillors to discuss the insertion into the magazine

Councillors discussed the insertion into the Parish Magazine. Using Notes should only be used and to use the agreed minutes terminology

2568 Finance matters

- a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. January 2024

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. January 2024

- 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 February 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the

Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

2569 Information exchange and items for the next agenda

December minutes should be sent to all Councillors

Mineral Waste Local plan consultation

Speedwatch with Cressing

2570 Ten minutes public feedback (if required) - No questions

2571 Dates of future meetings

5th. March 2024 in the Henry Dixon Hall starting at **7pm**

2572 2024 Meeting dates

02.04.24 (VH): 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)

2573 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

Robert Turner
Chairman

5th. March 2024