



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

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd. January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Rivenhall Village Hall

Present: Cllrs R. Turner (Chairman), J. Abbott, D. Hammond, J. Macrae, J. Prime, R. Wright, ECC Cllr R. Playle and Kevin B. Money Parish Clerk. Also, present was 1 member of the public

2524 To receive any apologies for absence were received from Cllr J. Cairns

2525 Disclosure of any Pecuniary Interests relating to this agenda. None Declared

2526 To agree the minutes of the Meeting held on 5th. December 2023

Cllr J. Abbott pointed out that item 2512 was worded incorrectly and proposed making the changes accordingly.

Cllr J. Cairns requested the minutes be amended to show that Cllr R. Turner is showing as being against the proposal as well as giving the casting vote in favour. It was Cllr R. Wright who voted against. Additionally, I am surprised that the outburst of shouting by a Councillor which was directed at other Councillors is not mentioned in the minutes. I feel it was a breach of the code of conduct so should not be simply ignored as if it never happened, especially when myself and a member of the public and both made complaints at the end of the meeting and I also made a complaint when it happened.

Item 2512 Re-Wilding verge on Park Road Rivenhall opposite Waterfall Cottages should now read:-

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.

Following these amendments being inserted into the minutes were agreed

2527 Public Forum for 10 minutes

A resident informed the meeting that buses will stop at Waterfall Cottages

2528 Chairman's report

There was a great deal of confusion over the recycling collection date and time during the Christmas period, this resulted in lots of litter from sacks being run over after being blown into the road by the strong winds.

Collection was meant to be after 7am on Thursday but some residents who had put their sacks out the night before complained that their sacks had not been collected, others said the BDC workers started before 7am.

The wooden sign post on the Oak triangle has blown down - it looks like the wood is rotted.

There is a lot of debris on Oak Road verge opposite the last house on the left before the rail bridge as a result of an accident.

There appears to be some sort of activity at the old Rivenhall Motel site as there are lights on in some of the

accommodation rooms at night, not sure if anyone knows the reason for this.

I attended the solar farm appeal hearing at Braintree on the 12th of December, and was not very impressed by BDC's defense of their refusal decision at the planning stage, it was pointed out that their decision was made late. BDC said it was because they received over 230 signatures in support of the application late in the consultation period. I did make a statement objecting

to the application. I hope I'm wrong, but I feel the government inspector will find in favour of the application, only one other person from Rivenhall attended the resident from West Ford Farm Cottages he objected to the application. No one from Silver End attended.

Regarding the flooding, I have been out today and filmed and photographed all the flooded areas in Rivenhall and unless I hear some positive news tonight from our County Councillor, I will be pursuing this issue further.

2529 ECC Councillor report

Oak Road flooding – Further survey work undertaken

Road Closure between 15 – 18th. January to survey broken pipes by the railway bridge and gullies to be cleared and checked

Cllr R. Playle is working hard to resolve the flooding problem but can only work with ECC Highways time constraints.

Numerous surveys have been undertaken by ECC and BDC for more than a decade.

Repair to Rickstones Road is being undertaken

LHP speeding up process to the applications

Speed consultation being undertaken to try and make a 20mph zone in residential areas

2530 BDC Councillor report

At the BDC Cabinet meeting of 18th. December, a new Policy for Household Waste & Recycling Collections was agreed. This largely confirms existing arrangements but also confirms the introduction of subscription-based garden waste collections from 4th. March 2024.

The policy also clarifies that missed collections need to be reported to BDC by noon the day following the scheduled collection.

The most important change not previously known is that BDC will from 1st April 2024 no longer collect "side waste" (ie waste not in a BDC supplied bin, bag or caddy) and that subject to some flexibility for individual circumstances, BDC will take an approach whereby persistent side waste will result in households being advised, then warned, but ultimately fined if they do not stop presenting side-waste.

The BDC Budget setting process for the financial year 2024/25 continues with the next Budget Scrutiny meeting set to be held on 31st. January at Causeway House.

We have again reported, with photos, the persistent flooding at the railway bridge - to both ECC and BDC - and also the failure to repair the dangerous hole in Rickstones Road over a prolonged period.

The responses from ECC to date are weak and ineffective and do not appear to recognise the inconvenience and safety impacts caused by these highway defects.

The Solar Farm Appeal was heard on 12th December and the result is that planning permission has been given. The Inspector did not consider that impacts on heritage assets or the rural character were sufficient to refuse consent. 20 planning conditions were applied (with numerous sub clauses).

BDC Planning Committee had previously agreed it was minded to refuse the application (the Appeal process had already begun) and was represented at the Appeal by a planning officer and 2 specialists.

Several inaccurate comments were made about us as district Councillors in respect of this application and now that the decision has been made, we are in a position to respond.

In particular a comment was made by a serving Parish Councillor at the Rivenhall Parish Council meeting of 7th September 2022 that he "knew how Cllr Abbott would vote at BDC Planning Committee and that he knew he would vote for the solar farm application".

Due to declaring an interest purely on the basis of the site being very close to his home, Cllr Abbott had already said he would not take part in the decision at BDC but has been unable until now to respond.

As a matter of fact, had Cllr Abbott taken part and voted at the BDC Planning Committee, Cllr Abbott would not have supported the application, due to concerns about nearby listed buildings, the public right of way and the adjacent ancient woodland, and he had confirmed that in confidence, in writing, to BDC officers in the context of the incorrect comment made at the RPC meeting in 2022.

Rivenhall Airfield Waste Site Liaison Group meeting report

At the meeting held on 14th. December updates were given on the numerous planning applications and changes being applied for, of which the main ones relate to the Woodhouse Farm complex (BDC being the determining authority), the DCO to increase electricity output (the Government decides) the waste site buildings (ECC determines), use of Woodhouse Lane (ECC determines), the new haul road bridge over

the River Blackwater (ECC determines) and the proposed glasshouses (ECC determines).
An update was given on construction of the waste site plant buildings. It was anticipated that waste burning would start in November 2025. In regards to the application to have more construction working at night, which RPC has objected to, the ECC Planning Case Officer stated that ECC did have concerns about it. A discussion at the end of the meeting was held about the options for having "real world" air quality monitoring for communities around the airfield. Without a network of monitoring locations, the only air quality monitoring would be at the plant itself. The next meeting is scheduled for 12th. March.

ECC Cllr R. Playle left the meeting

2531 Cost of Speed camera – Clerk to update Councillors on costing

Due to the clerk illness over the Christmas period this item will be discussed at the February meeting

2532 2 New Notice Boards at Bluebells and at the Bus Shelter

Due to the clerk illness over the Christmas period this item will be discussed at the February meeting

2533 Repair to Notice Board at Rivenhall End

The repair has been done and is back up

2234 Highway maintenance

Already covered on a previous item on the agenda

Fallen triple finger post at Rickstones Road

Chevron signs in Church Road have been blown down

Sign by railway bridge damaged

Ringway damaged verge play area in St. Mary's Road – inform BDC

2535 General maintenance

Nothing to report

2536 Licence for rose beds near bus stop on Rickstones Road – Update from the Clerk

Email from Paul Partridge at BDC received on 2nd. January which says that

Thank you for your email, the comments of which I have noted. I have asked our Legal Team to draft a simple letter of agreement that we can jointly agree. I will send you a copy for the Parish Council's consideration and comments when I receive it.

2537 Re-Wilding verge on Park Road Rivenhall opposite Waterfall Cottages – No update

2538 Planning Applications

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

Two storey rear extension and pitched roof to flat roof on existing extension

RESOLVED: No Objections to this planning application

2539 Planning Decisions made by BDC. No planning decisions have been made by BDC affecting Rivenhall (The Solar Farm off Park Road has been granted following an Appeal hearing in December (see 2530)

2540 Planning Appeals. No planning appeals have been made affecting Rivenhall

2541 Ongoing Planning Issues

1) A12 to A120 widening. Earth moving equipment by A12 Kelvedon is being moved.

2) BDC Local Plan. Nothing to report

3) Bradwell Quarry. Nothing to report

4) IWMF. Next meeting 12th. March 2024

5) Colemans Quarry. Next meeting is 14th. March 2024. Most Rivenhall resident are opposed to this quarry as all traffic will use Braxted Road. This is a pre-empted move to increase the quarry site. The wheel wash is not being used and is depositing mud on the roadway. Lorries are breaking the weight-restrictions in Oak Road and Braxted Road.

New Minerals Plan review on 30th. January – ask James Abbott for a report

6) BDLHP. Nothing to report

2542 Finance matters

- a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. December 2023
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. December 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 January 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

Chq No.	Invoice No.	Payee	Cost	VAT	Total	RPC Ref
101681	Nov '23	Kevin B. Money - Clerk salary	£ 260.30	£ -	£ 260.30	61
101682	Dec '23	Kevin B. Money - Clerk salary	£ 330.72	£ -	£ 330.72	62
101683		HMRC - Tax on 3 months tax	£ 463.20	£ -	£ 463.20	63
101684	14105	Nebulas - 3 months webhosting	£ 90.00	£ 18.00	£ 108.00	64
101685	3235	DM Payroll - Oct '23 - Mar '24	£ 60.00	£ -	£ 60.00	65
101686	Jan '24	Kevin B. Money - Clerk salary	£ 300.44	£ -	£ 300.44	66
101687	Jan '24	HMRC - Tax on January salary	£ 183.20	£ -	£ 183.20	67
101688	T/F	Transfer monies to UTB	£ 9,500.00	£ -	£ 9,500.00	68
101689	Dec '23	Kim Burton - Litter Picking	£ 105.00	£ -	£ 105.00	69
101690	Dec '23	Paul Scott - Litter Picking	£ 210.00	£ -	£ 210.00	70
TOTAL:			£ 11,502.86	£ 18.00	£ 11,520.86	

The Clerk informed the meeting that the cheque for £22,000 had been refused by Barclays Bank as possibly being fraudulent. Therefore, cheque number 101688 for £9500.00p was issued in the hope that Barclays Bank would accept this transfer of money to Unity Trust Bank.

2543 Councillors to agree final budget and Precept for 2024/2025.

Councillors discussed the Budget for 2024/2025 of £19720. This resulted in a Precept demand of £15220. This made a Band D property figure for 2024/2025 of £48.23p. Cllr J. Abbott proposed and Cllr R. Wright seconded. **All Agreed**

2544 Information exchange and items for the next agenda

New Website: Minerals Review: Flooding In area

2546 Ten minutes public feedback (if required)

Cllr J. Abbott was thanked for his update on the Solar Panel Appeal result

2547 Dates of future meetings

6th. February 2024 in Rivenhall Village Hall starting at 7.30pm

2548 2024 Meeting dates

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)

2549 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.55pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

R Turner

Robert Turner
Chairman

6th. February 2024