



**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR 2019/20.**

**INCOME**

<i>Precept from Braintree District Council</i>	<i>£11500</i>
<i>Street Cleaning Grant from Braintree District Council</i>	<i>£1915</i>
<i>Collection Fund Surplus Grant from B.D.C.</i>	<i>£112</i>
<i>Vat Refund</i>	<i>£1247</i>
<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>£54</i>
<i>BDC payment re upkeep of Village Green posts</i>	<i>£587</i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>£15415</i></b>

**EXPENDITURE**

	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
<i>Administration</i>	<i>£7,668]</i>	<i>£8305</i>
<i>Major Works</i>	<i>[nil]</i>	<i>nil</i>
<i>Parks, Open Spaces &amp; Maintenance</i>	<i>£8,119]</i>	<i>£6758</i>
<i>Local Govt. Act Section 137 (Special payments)</i>	<i>£106]</i>	<i>£106</i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>£15,893]</i></b>	<b><i>£15169</i></b>

## **Chairman's report 2019/2020**

The health emergency affecting the UK and the world has changed our way of life out of all recognition. The parish council wishes all residents well in this difficult time and urges everyone to follow the guidance so that illness and loss of life can be minimised and so, hopefully, that we all can get back towards normality in the coming months.

All councils have had to completely rethink how they operate, including parish councils. For the time being there will be no parish council meetings but the council will continue to make decisions through electronic means and all decisions will be documented. The Government recently passed legislation allowing councils to meet “virtually” so that they can continue to function without holding physical meetings.

If residents wish to raise any issues with the parish council, such as on planning applications, litter, maintenance of verges, highways issues, etc. then please continue to do so via the contact details in this newsletter.

Many residents are already volunteering to help family members, or friends and neighbours, though the current health emergency. But there may be some residents who fall within the 3 categories of most vulnerable who do not have such support. The 3 categories are:

- 70 or older
- pregnant
- having a condition that may increase risk from Coronavirus

If you or someone you know falls within the vulnerable categories and needs help, the **Essex Welfare Service** has been set up by Essex County Council. It is specifically for those who are staying at home, need support during the Coronavirus period and are unable to access the support they need at this time from either family or friends or from their local district area support groups. The Essex Welfare Service website has more detail, or you can telephone **0300 303 9988**. In addition the Essex Coronavirus Action Facebook Group has been set up to provide the latest advice & information, and to support volunteering.

The parish council is unable to hold the Annual Parish Assembly meeting this year due to the current restrictions. In terms of updates, we have kept this report as short as possible and have concentrated on the key issues of interest. The main development has been the decision of Highways England to publish their Preferred Route for the A12, which as expected, will result in the A12 trunk road being moved to the south of Rivenhall End. More details are set out below on this.

On behalf of the parish council can I once again thank everyone who helps to support the parish; including the local groups and organisations, at the village halls and volunteers who give their time such as litter picking.

James Abbott  
Chairman

## **Planning**

At the time of writing, the Inspector's decision on Braintree District Council's Draft Local Plan is still awaited. This relates to Part 1 of the plan which is about "Garden Communities" such as the proposed new town at West Tey of over 20,000 houses. An Examination of the Draft Plan was held before

the Inspector in January where he heard new evidence. A key issue locally is transport and how, or if, local roads and rail could support major housing development above and beyond that already agreed.

Essex County Council is set to approve plans for a new Special School on part of the Rickstones Academy playing field along Rickstones Road. Whilst there was general support for the plans, an area of concern was the safety of the proposed access.

The Rivenhall Airfield waste site saga goes on. In April 2019, Essex County Council refused a planning application to increase the incinerator chimney stack height from 35m to 58m. A decision on a separate permit variation application made to the Environment Agency to reduce the stack height from 58 metres to 35 metres is currently awaited.

The parish council made a series of submissions to Braintree District Council (BDC) about the housing development south of Rickstones Road, which is entirely within Rivenhall parish. The developers at one point opened up an unauthorised access off Rectory Lane but following representations, including using helpful photos taken by local residents, successful enforcement action was taken by BDC to close the access and subsequently the agreed access off Rickstones Road was used. The housing construction has now started and the mature hedge along Rickstones Road has been retained as originally agreed.

An application to build houses in the field between Church Road and Rivenhall Brook was refused by BDC.

## **Highways**

Whilst some requested highways work was completed during the last year there is more to be done, and the very wet winter led to erosion of a number of local roads, instead of the more usual damage caused by frost. All known defects have been reported including the poor road surface near the zebra crossing at the shop.

The Braintree District Local Highways Panel has a reduced available budget for local schemes for 2020/21. This will mean a further wait to deliver on much needed schemes. However the new interactive height warning signs to direct HGVs away from Oak Road do look likely to be installed this year. In the meantime, reports of offending vehicles have continued to be sent to ECC, with the support of photos taken by local residents. HGV drivers have routinely ignored the 7.5T weight restriction or have "chanced it" to see if they can get under the railway bridge. Damage has been caused to public and private property when HGVs turn round near the railway bridge. One company, whose vehicles were recorded breaching

the restrictions, issued a detailed apology and stated that it had told all its drivers not to use Oak Road.

Over the mid-winter period a series of floods affected part of Rickstones Road and Rectory Lane. This was caused by a number of factors. Following a request to Essex County Council, successful work was carried out to clear and reconnect pipes that run from the John Ray Walk under Rickstones Road. More work is currently under discussion to provide a permanent solution.

The main news on highways in the past year has been the decision of Highways England to publish its Preferred Route for the section of the A12 between Chelmsford and Kelvedon. As expected, this will be a new section of dual 3 lane road south of Rivenhall End with a new all-ways working junction at Colemans. There is still though much discussion to be had on detail, especially on providing permanent relief from through traffic for Oak Road residents, how public rights of way will be protected and enhanced and on how local bus routes can be re-provided. Further consultation is expected later in 2020 and the new date for work to start is late 2023. With respect to the A120, this did not receive funding in the most recent Government announcement and so as things stand currently, the A12 work will go ahead first.

Your Parish Council meets each month, usually on the first Tuesday.

Agendas advertised on the Council notice boards and website.

Residents are welcome to attend the meetings and to question Councillors or comment upon local issues.

**CHAIRMAN: (At date of publication)**

James Abbott: (01376) 584576

**COUNCILLORS: (At date of publication)**

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# **PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**

**[www.rivenhallparishcouncil.net](http://www.rivenhallparishcouncil.net)**

The Rivenhall Parish Council Website is regularly being updated with information relating to Parish Council business and activities. On the site you will find meeting dates, agendas and minutes, the annual budget, information regarding local issues that are being dealt with by the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk's monthly reports upon action taken between meetings. Contact details are also included for other local organisations such as Essex County Council and Braintree District Council; emergency contact details for Police, Gas, Electricity and Flood etc. Annual Reports and official documents, such as Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Annual Returns and many others – all of which can be downloaded (in pdf format).

To contact the Parish Council you can email:  
***[parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net](mailto:parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net)*** or  
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