

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH APRIL 2022 IN RIVENHALL
VILLAGE HALL.**

Present: Cllrs. Abbott, Wright, A'Lee, Cairns, Prime and Turner.

Also present: Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public.

2214. Chairman's Report.

The Parish Council is planting 104 trees this year, working with the 2 other parishes in the District Ward, Silver End and Cressing, in a "Three Parishes" collaboration which is also contributing to the Queen's Green Canopy to mark the 2022 Platinum Jubilee. 103 trees have now been planted, 100 of which were supplied free of charge by Braintree District Council (BDC) along with spring flowering bulbs. The BDC trees are all native species that benefit wildlife and these were planted on 18th March with the help of children from Rivenhall Primary School and Rivenstars pre-school. The Parish Council is grateful for the support of BDC and the Rivenhall Playing Fields Association in assisting to deliver the planting project and I would also like to thank a number of parish councillors and residents for generously giving their time to assist with preparation, planting and aftercare of the trees. The final tree to be planted will be a commemorative Oak to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Following on from the success of the wildflower verges project, BDC is now also commencing its programme on 'rewilding' identified areas, which parishes can propose, and we will be engaging with local residents on where and how best to do this. All in all, these are very welcome improvements to our local environment, both for our residents to enjoy and to support biodiversity.

2215. To receive any apologies for absence.

An apology was received from Cllr. R. Elliott.

2216. Disclosure of any Pecuniary Interests relating to this agenda.

There were no declarations of interest relating to this meeting.

2217. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2022.

The minutes **were approved** and then signed by the Chairman.

2218. Public Forum for 10 minutes.

The following matters were raised:

- Damaged utility pole at garage site off Beech Road
- It was reported that a child had emerged through the hedge fronting the Bluebells estate causing the driver of a vehicle to make an emergency stop. The Clerk to contact Bellway to request a fence to be installed behind the existing hedge.
- A litter bin has been burned out at the Albert Moss Playing Field. BDC to be requested to replace this bin with a lidded bin; to provide lids to all existing bins or to weight the bags within the bins to stop them blowing out in the wind.
- The glass bus shelter on Rickstones Road is currently being replaced.

2219. Matters for Discussion:

- i. Annual Report.
380 Copies to be printed and circulated to each property within the parish before the Annual Parish Assembly.
- ii. Parking on estate verges and the Village Green.
It **was agreed** to request BDC to provide a low railing fence along the main Village Green facing Beech Road and to approach Eastlight asking for the smaller Village Green to be kept vehicle free.
- iii. Charitable donation to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.
Proposed by Cllr. Turner, seconded by Cllr. Wright and unanimously agreed to support this appeal in the sum of £500.00, a cheque will be forwarded to the Disasters Emergency Committee accordingly.
- iv. Tree & Bulb planting.
See under Chairman's Remarks at 2214 above.
- v. New pole at the recycling site on Oak Road.
After much deliberation ECC now require a licence to erect the pole that will support the CCTV camera, also the written support of the ECC Councillor. The written support has been obtained by the Clerk, the Chairman will get the full spec. of the one installed via ECC at the Tarecroft Wood car park and a photo. The Clerk will then submit the licence request.
- vi. Platinum Jubilee Oak Tree planting.
The site for this tree has been notified to BDC at a site on the Village Green at an appropriate distance from the other Oaks facing Rickstones Road.
A metal plaque to be purchased similar to that for the 60th anniversary one.
- vii. F/Path 48.
The Secretary of State, in rejecting the proposed closure of the Network Rail crossing at Potters, included comments that this PRoW "...is waterlogged even in dry conditions, obstructed by a significant ditch, and overgrown such that there is very little evidence of the footpath on the definitive line adjacent to Rivenhall Brook".
Members of the 'End to End Nature Care' Group, including an officer from ECC PRoW, are to include this footpath in a survey on Wednesday 27th April and the Clerk will endeavour to obtain a report from them on the condition of this PRoW.
F/Path 59.
ECC PRoW officers inspected this footpath last week. The surface was absolutely fine. While side vegetation growth is beginning to encroach, there is still sufficient width available alongside evidence of previous maintenance. They will monitor the path over the next 12 months to see if the side growth is addressed, and to gauge the surface condition in the winter.
- viii. Highway Maintenance.
 - (a) BDC agree to the anti-litter locations at Rickstones Road, either side of Henry Dixon Road and Oak Road, and these have been included in the programme.
 - (b) Park Road junction improvements/repairs are still ongoing.
 - (c) National Highways have again been reminded regarding the broken light at the A12 and Oak Road junction.
 - (d) Cllr. Wright had met an ECC Officer undertaking a footway and streetlight survey within the parish - the Clerk will request a copy of this completed survey from ECC.
 - (e) Broken drains near the Rivenhall Hotel have been reported.

ix. General Maintenance.

(a) Litter Picking.

The Clerk has arranged for a replacement Litter Picker who is due to commence working this week. The advertisement is still open for applications until the end of this month. It **was agreed** that additional hours could be considered if required in the future.

(b) BDC are keen to hear if there is any land in the parish that is owned and maintained by BDC that would benefit from re-wilding. Members suggested an area on the Village Green at the corner close to the junction with Rickstones Road and Church Road and after consultation with BDC and the RPPFA along the northern boundary of the Albert Moss Playing Field. Information and a comments reply slip will be included within the body of the Annual Report.

(c) The maintenance contractor to be requested to cut back the surface growth along the footway from the recycling site to the houses along Oak Road.

2220. Planning Applications:i.. New Applications:

(a) **22/00390/HH:** Erection of single-storey three-bay garage - 321 Rickstones Road.

Members objected to this application as the size of the proposed garage building was of too large a scale in comparison to the original main building and other buildings close by. Members also questioned whether the inclusion of the pond and the frontage area within the site boundary was legally accurate.

(b) **22/00664/VAR:** Regularise a 3-metre wide cycleway -7 Hawkins Close.

Members raised the following comments;

Members did not object to the widening of the pathway per se but objected to the assumption that this would be as a supplement to Bellway Phase 4, which had been refused planning permission. Also members strongly objected to the proposed installation of high-level streetlights which would have a detrimental effect upon the local residents with light being streamed into their dwellings and the effect the light would have upon the local population of bats.

ii Results:

Nothing to report at this meeting.

iii. Appeals:

Nothing to report at this meeting.

iv. Enforcement:

Nothing to report at this meeting.

2221. Ongoing Planning Issues:i. A12 to A120 widening.

Nothing to report at this meeting.

ii. BDC Local Plan.

Nothing to report at this meeting.

iii. Bradwell Quarry.

Nothing to report at this meeting.

- iv. IWMF
Following up on the Site Liaison Committee meeting dated 8th March 2022, an ad-hoc meeting has been arranged for 13th April starting 11am in the Information Hub for this meeting. The meeting can be attended online as well, at Microsoft Teams.
- v. Colemans Quarry.
Nothing to report at this meeting.
- vi. BDLHP.
Nothing to report at this meeting.

2222. Finance matters:

- i. To agree accounts for payment
It **was agreed** that the following accounts be paid; cheques were then drawn accordingly.

1474	Cheque cancelled -}		
1475	Cheque cancelled -}	all incorrectly dated.	
1476	Cheque cancelled -}		
1477	£225.23	E.A.L.C.	2022/23 Affiliation fees
1478	£245.20	H.M.R. & Customs	PAYE 4 th $\frac{1}{4}$ year 2021/22
1479	£546.00	P. G. Groundcare Ltd.	Maintenance Feb/March '22
1480	£379.34	K. P. Taylor	Salary/expenses March '22
1481	£500.00	Disasters E. Cttee.	Donation re Ukraine appeal
- ii. 2021/22 Final Accounts
As both the council's annual gross income and expenditure during 2021/22 did not exceed £25,000 the External Auditor's Certificate of Exemption and the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
The accounts for that year will be internally audited by Mrs. Ann Clarke, ready to be finally signed off at the May meeting.

2223. Information exchange and items for the May agenda.

- * Replacement bus shelter
- * Rewilding areas
- * PRow 48
- * General Power of Competence

2224. Ten minutes public feedback.

- * Bat habitat along Rickstones Road and Rectory Lane.

2225. Dates of future meetings.

3rd May in Rivenhall Village Hall and 7th June 2022 in The Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End, both starting promptly at 19.30 hours.
Further items for the May agenda to the Clerk by 22nd April at the latest.

2226. Closure

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.00 hours.

Signed:

CHAIRMAN

Date 3rd May 2022.