

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2ND AUGUST 2022 IN THE RIVENHALL
VILLAGE HALL.**

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

Also present: Parish Clerk, ECC Cllr. Ross Playle and 2 members of the public.

2268 Chairman's Report.

Essex is approaching what could be an official drought situation and following a very hot and dry July, fields and vegetation are at greater risk from accidental fires.

There have been some fires, fortunately put out quite quickly, in local villages and although temperatures are not quite as extreme now as they were a few weeks ago, the fire risk is still very high.

The Essex Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner has stated that "The extreme heat may have passed but everything is still tinder dry. Please put out the message about being particularly careful around barbecues, around careless use of fire, smoking materials and really do everything we possibly can to stop there being any further increase because until it rains properly it's going to remain a high-risk environment."

Thank you to the volunteers who are watering young trees in the village and also to everyone helping wildlife through these acute conditions.

More hot conditions are forecast later in August and so keeping an eye on vulnerable residents will be important.

2269. To receive any apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2270. Disclosure of any Pecuniary Interests relating to this agenda.

Cllr. Abbott declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 2274 as a member of the BDC Planning Committee.

2271. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2022.

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

2272. Public Forum for 10 minutes.

* A discussion ensued regarding the rewilding areas on the Albert Moss Playing Field and the site on the Village Green which has been removed from the current proposal.

* ECC Cllr. Playle briefly mentioned the following matters:

The BDLHP meeting is scheduled for 3rd August 2022;

A12 widening - N. H. expect to submit documents during August 2022;

The A120 re-route proposals are currently on hold;

It is anticipated that the Chipping Hill Bridge works in Witham will commence during September 2022;

The Essex police annual crime survey is due shortly.

Cllr. Playle was reminded of the defunct streetlights within the parish.

2273. Matters for Discussion:

- i. Glass bus shelter
The Clerk has reiterated to ECC the request for a wooden seat to replace the plastic one and registered RPC's dissatisfaction with the replacement shelter which is inferior to the one removed. The Clerk will send a reminder to ECC re the seat.
- ii. BDC & ECC verges policy.
Spurious allegations have been circulating regarding this policy, the maintenance of roadside verges, and the Parish Council's recommendations for rewilding of certain areas within the parish.
It was agreed that the Clerk write to the originator of these allegations highlighting the following:
The rewilding recommendation is totally different from the BDC/ECC verges policy. Both are facilitated and controlled by BDC, and any complaints regarding verges should be addressed directly to BDC.
Litter picking and fly-tipping in the northern part of the parish is well managed and contained as far as is possible.
- iii. Planting plaques.
It was agreed in principle, with just one abstention, that a commemorative plaque be placed at the newly planted trees on the Albert Moss Playing Field celebrating both the 125th anniversary of the inauguration of Parish Councils and the Platinum Jubilee of H. M. Queen Elizabeth II.
- iv. Recycling site CCTV location
Given the onerous requirements from ECC, the bins have been moved and other adjustments made by BDC so that there is a much better view via the CCTV camera at the current location. BDC also confirm that the current camera position is yielding good results re people abusing the area by fly-tipping.. As a result it is felt by BDC that the need for a new pole on the site is unnecessary.
- v. Three Parishes Meeting.
Crossing PC has opted out from this venture, leaving Silver End and Rivenhall to continue if it is felt necessary to do so.
The Clerk will contact Silver End PC seeking confirmation of their continued interest in going forward with this venture and with the possible approach to the two Braxted Parish Councils who may wish to join.
- vi. Highway Maintenance.
 - (a) A12/Oak Road junction - there has been yet another incident of damage to the boundary wall of 2 oak Road. N.H. to be asked what action can be done/are they prepared to undertake in order to safeguard 2 Oak Road from similar future damage.
 - (b) A12 footway at Rivenhall End.
The Chairman will speak to N.H. regarding the overgrowth on the footway from the BP garage to the bus shelter.
 - (c) There are still various streetlight malfunctions along the A12 which the Chairman has often reported to N.H.
 - (d) The 30mph advance warning sign on Church Road has still not been replaced.
 - (e) The 30mph sign on Rickstones Road, upon entering Rivenhall, is obscured by bushes.

- (f) Essex Police appear to consider that the prevention of pavement parking is now the responsibility of the NEPP. The Chairman will make enquiries of NEPP to confirm if this is the case or not.
 - (g) Essex Police have conducted speed checks within the parish, and more are planned.
 - (h) The bus shelter, south carriageway on the A12 has been damaged by vandalism and fire. The Clerk will seek advice from N.H. regarding repair in light of the A12 widening scheme.
- vii. General Maintenance.
- (a) Church Road planters.
One planter was damaged and has been removed, two remain satisfactory, planted with lavender; the third will be inspected again with a view to repair and replanting later in the year.
 - (b) Painting Village Green posts.
An estimate to repaint all the posts surrounding both Village Greens has been received in the sum of £1,350.00.
There are now at least 5 posts that require replacement/repair plus chains that need to be secured. As the maintenance contractor has not yet been able to undertake the repair already requested **it was agreed** to approach another contractor for a Daywork schedule for all subsequent repairs. There are 5 or 6 new posts in the council shed.

2274. Planning Applications:

- i. New Applications:
There are new documents relating to application **21/03735/FUL**: Solar Farm off Park Road. Members are to check these out and make comments via email for referral to BDC via the Clerk.
- ii. Results:
21/02933/FUL: Erection Of 3x2bed bungalows and garages - Rectory Lane.
Application refused.
- iii. Appeals:
Bellway Phase 4. There is nothing to report at this stage.
- iv. Enforcement:
No matters to report.

2275. Ongoing Planning Issues:

- i. A12 to A120 widening.
See under item 2272 above.
- ii. BDC Local Plan.
The Local Plan was adopted by BDC on 25th July 2022.
- iii. Bradwell Quarry.
No matters to report.
- iv. IWMF
ESS/01/22/BTE/03/01: Pursuant to temporary use of Woodhouse Lane by non-HGV vehicles to provide access for visitors and staff to the IWMF - Traffic management measures. Signage approved.
ESS/34/15/BTE/NMA3: To allow delivery and removal of abnormal indivisible loads associated with piling rigs.
It was agreed to object to this application on the basis that all previous discussions/agreements were that all HGVs access the site via the haul road off

the A120. If the Bailey Bridge was not considered strong enough then it must be strengthened by the contractors building the IWMF. A request be made that this application be decided by ECC Committee rather than by Officers.

v. Colemans Quarry.

There is a possibility that a new planning application will be submitted to ECC to move the quarry processing operation over to Appleford Farm with access via Braxted Road and for the Little Braxted Lane access to be used in the main for the import of in-fill waste materials. The Parish Council has been made aware of this potential application due to a Scoping Request being considered by ECC. However, ECC did not contact the Parish Council about this. The Clerk to ask ECC why this Scoping request was not referred to RPC for comment.

vi. BDLHP.

See under item 2272 above.

2276. Finance matters:

To agree accounts for payment.

It was agreed that the following accounts be paid; cheques were then drawn accordingly.

1505	£240.00	Braintree District Council	New litter bin
1506	£700.00	J. E. Abbott	Chairman's allowance 2022/23
1507	£210.00	P. G. Groundcare Ltd	Maintenance July '22
1508	£140.00	Paul; Scott	Litter picking July '22
1509	£100.00	Kim Burton	Litter picking July '22
1510	£376.70	K. P. Taylor	Salary/expenses July '22

2277. Information exchange and items for the September agenda.

- * The Chairman reported that upon further inspection of Tarecroft Wood it was found that all the cut timber and brushwood was still lying on the ground from the felling carried out last winter. This was suppressing wildflower recovery and was also a clear fire risk, the woodland being extremely dry following this summer's heat and drought. Furthermore, storm damage caused by the opening up of the woodland canopy last winter has still not been attended to.. The Chairman will once again report this mismanagement to ECC.

2278. Ten minutes public feedback.

There was no feed back.

2279. Dates of future meetings.

6th September in The Henry Dixon Hall, and 4th October in Rivenhall Village Hall, both starting promptly at 19.30 hours.

Further items for the September agenda to the Clerk by 26th August 2022 at the latest.

2280. Closure

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.07 hours.

Signed:

Date 6th September 2022.

CHAIRMAN