

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1STFEBRUARY 2022.**

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

Also present: Parish Clerk, ECC Cllr. Playle and 1 member of the public.

2188. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the February meeting. He referred to the 2 important major planning applications to be considered at the meeting and confirmed that, as with previous major applications, he would leave the meeting for the duration of their consideration as the applications would be decided by the BDC Planning Committee at a later date, of which he is a member.

The Chairman referred to the recent further cases of waste dumping and the ongoing littering in the parish, problems which the parish council in working with BDC, remained determined to reduce. Waste left at the recycling area recently was of a disgusting nature and he thanked BDC for attending to clean up the mess as best they could. He also thanked BDC for their swift response in clearing up the area around the lay-by along the A12 underpass on Henry Dixon Road. He also again thanked the parish litter picker and all those who volunteer to litter-pick locally. Enhanced measures for detecting fly-tipping and littering at known 'hot-spots' are being progressed with BDC and these will be installed as soon as possible.

2189. To receive any apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2190. Disclosure of any Pecuniary Interests relating to this agenda.

Cllr. Abbott declared an interest in item 2194(i) as a member of the BDC Planning Committee and close local resident of the proposed solar farm, he left the meeting and the Vice-Chairman chaired these items.

2191. To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 4th January 2022.

After an amendment to item 2179, the minutes **were approved** and then signed by the Chairman.

2192. Public Forum for 10 minutes.

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

- ECC Cllr. Playle gave brief information regarding the following:
Winter road gritting; revised bus schedules; Oak Road flooding and the damaged bollard in Rivenhall End and that the ECC 2022/23 Precept would rise by 4.4%.
Comments were also raised regarding the tree felling in Tarecroft Wood.

2193. Matters for Discussion:

- i. Annual Report & A.P.A. compilation.
The draft Annual Report should be approved at the April meeting, ready for printing then distribution prior to the APA in May.
The APA is scheduled for Tuesday 10th May 2022 commencing at 18.45 in Rivenhall Village Hall.
- ii. Council RPPFA representative.
It was **unanimously agreed** that Cllr. Wright become the RPC representative.

- iii. Tree & Bulb planting.
The BDC Planting Licence has been agreed and signed ready for return to BDC. An initial quotation of £3,599.50 plus VAT has been received for the supply and erection of this fencing and gate. BDC has been approached to provide a second quotation for this work.
If possible, planting is to be undertaken during the last week in February.
- iv. Tree felling in Tarecroft Wood.
The Chairman has obtained a number of ECC documents relating to the work including costings and it appears that the main financial driver was sale of firewood on a cost per tonne basis. Apparently the felled timber and brush which covers most of the woodland floor will be left there until summer. The oldest tree that had been felled was approx. 120 years old. Many larger trees had been clear felled and it remains to be seen as to whether they will regenerate as coppice. Reps from RPC have met ECC on site several times regarding management of this ancient wood requesting sensitive management, but what ECC is doing is coming into the wood using private contractors about once a decade to heavily cut significant areas with little or no regular management on a year by year basis in-between.
With major gaps now in the tree canopy there is now every opportunity for wind damage to affect the remaining mature trees.
It **was agreed**, by a majority vote with one exception for the Clerk to write to ECC and The Forestry Commission pointing out the wanton desecration of this ancient woodland.
- v. New pole for CCTV cameras at the recycling site on Oak Road.
An initial quotation of £869.00 plus VAT has been received for the supply and erection of this 14' pole. BDC has been approached to provide a second quotation for this work.
It **was agreed** that if the BDC quote was within £100 of the previous one then the Clerk together with the Chairman should decide the course of action.
The Clerk is to approach Mr. Siggers as to whether or not the pole could be erected just off the verge on his land.
- vi. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.
It **was agreed** to progress towards the planting of a Jubilee Oak, via BDC if possible and for it possibly to be planted within the St. Mary's Churchyard.
- vii. Highway Maintenance.
(a) The Chairman continues to be in contact with National Highways regarding the A12 lighting, potholes and cycleway.
(b) All ECC Highways issues have been reported by the Chairman including the loose drain cover in Oak Road, Rivenhall End.
(c) The Chairman has undertaken to conduct another inspection of all streetlights within the Parish and report malfunctions to ECC Highways.
- viii. General Maintenance.
(a) The Chairman will check the steps and slopes from Henry Dixon Road up to the A12 and speak to the maintenance contractor at their next meeting.

2194. Planning Applications:

- i. *New Applications:*
20/02060/OUT: Additional information re Bellway proposed development south of Rickstones Road. Proposed cycle ways.

There was **unanimous agreement** that this application should be rejected as being totally inappropriate and impractical and it **was agreed** that Cllr. A'Lee, given her professional expertise in highway/traffic management matters prepare a suitable reply to BDC, both reiterating previous objections by RPC and expressing RPC's current objections to the cycleway proposals.

21/03735/FUL: Solar Farm - Park Road.

It **was agreed by a vote of 5 to 1** to object to this application and recommend refusal for the following reasons:

The site will be fully visible from Church Road despite any hedge planting which will not mature for many years.

Grade one agricultural land will be removed from food production.

Glare from solar panels will impact upon the visibility of motorist along Church Road and Park Road.

Local wildlife, present at the moment, will be denied access to the whole site; the species affected will include deer, badgers, hares; birds including skylarks, kestrels and other birds of prey, and many insects such as bees and butterflies.

This site would seriously impact upon the overdevelopment of the local countryside, which currently includes various new housing developments, quarries, the IWMF and various major Highway improvement schemes.

Rivenhall has rapidly declined from a rural idyll into one major construction site.

ii. Results:

21/00031/OUT: Land at Burghey Brook Farm, London Road - Outline Permission granted.

21/03409/REM: Reserved matters re the erection of 3 dwellings on land adjacent to Rectory Lane - application withdrawn.

21/03473/FUL: Retention of site offices etc on land southeast of Rectory Lane, permission granted for 6 months, expires 14th July 2022.

iii. Appeals:

Nothing to report at this meeting.

iv. Enforcement:

Nothing to report at this meeting.

2195. Ongoing Planning Issues:

i. A12 to A120 widening.

Nothing to report at this meeting.

ii. BDC Local Plan.

BDC is still awaiting the Inspector's report.

iii. Bradwell Quarry.

Nothing to report at this meeting

iv. IWMF

The Chairman is scheduled to attend a site meeting on 2nd February 2022.

iv. Colemans Quarry.

Cllr. Wright gave a brief, less than encouraging, report from the last liaison meeting.

vi. BDLHP.

Nothing to report at this meeting

2196. Finance matters:

To agree accounts for payment.

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

1468	£190.50	Cllr. B. Wright (Direct 365)	Defibrillator pads
1469	£144.00	A. Wilson	Litter picking Dec. '21/Jan '22
1470	£397.69	K.. P. Taylor	Salary/expenses Jan. '22
1471	£171.00	P. G. Groundcare Ltd.	Maintenance Jan. '22

2197. Information exchange and items for the February agenda.

- * Matters relating to PRoW48 at the next meeting.
- * BDC has attended to the rose beds on the Village Green.

2198. Ten minutes public feedback (as required).

No matters were raised.

2199. Dates of future meetings.

1st March 2022 in The Henry Dixon Hall and 5th April in Rivenhall Village Hall, both starting promptly at 19.30 hours.

Further items for the March agenda to the Clerk by 18th February at the latest.

2200. Closure

The Vice- Chairman closed the meeting at 21.27 hours.

Signed:

Date 1st March 2022.

CHAIRMAN