

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2 FEBRUARY 2016**

Present: Cllrs. Abbott, Wright, Bills, Anderson, Prime, Clark and Turner.

In the Chair: Cllr. Abbott

Also present: Parish Clerk, BDC Cllr. Bowers and 4 members of the public.

1219. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence received.

1220. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests relating to matters on this Agenda.

Cllr. Abbott declared Non-Pecuniary Interests in all matters relating to ECC and the BDLHP.

1221. To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2016.

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

1222. Public Forum for 10 minutes.

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

- * The blocked ditch at the rear of the properties in Tusser Close and St. Mary's Road - See Item 1223(v)(a) below.

1223. Matters for Discussion:

i. BDC Sites for Development.

A summary of the comments made by residents at the Public Forum of 5 January 2016 had been formulated by the Chairman and Clerk into a draft formal response to BDC, and circulated to each Member prior to this meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Prime, seconded by Cllr. Wright and unanimously agreed that this letter, subject to minor amendments, be sent to BDC forthwith and a copy placed in the Parish Council website.

ii. Defibrillator demonstration.

Cllr. Wright provided a DVD presentation of the equipment which, with the agreement of the RPFPA will, in due course, be erected on the outside wall of the Village Hall.

Cllr. Wright informed Members that the Essex Ambulance Service will be at the Village Hall on 16 May 2016 to demonstrate this equipment and to give further practical advice.

Proposed by Cllr. Bills, seconded by Cllr. Wright and unanimously agreed that this equipment be adequately insured with the council's insurers and that the council assumes responsibility for the equipment's maintenance.

iii. A12 cycle track improvements.

Highways England has commenced this project with overnight working.

iv. ECC Highways Maintenance.

ECC indicate that all the Rickstones Road streetlights should have been repaired by the end of January. It was reported that two lights are still not functioning. The non-functioning lights along Oak Road will be detailed to the Clerk by Cllr. Turner

ECC also indicate that the Church Road Belisha beacons should both be repaired by the middle of February as parts are currently awaited for the beacon on the Village Hall side.

v. General Maintenance.

(a) *Ditch behind Tusser Close garages towards Rickstones Road.*

A report was received that subsequent to the heavy December/January rainfall, this ditch was blocked by fly-tipped rubbish including building waste and hedge trimmings.

Proposed by Cllr. Abbott, seconded by Cllr. Wright and unanimously agreed that, upon receipt of further information the Clerk will report this problem to ECC in the first instance.

(b) *Village Green maintenance report.*

Cllr. Clark presented this maintenance report which indicated that there are 102 posts surrounding the Village Green and 16 need replacement due to rot, the initial replacement estimate is £136.40 per post. Each rotten post has been marked in yellow.

Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Prime and unanimously agreed that the Clerk contact the council's Maintenance Contractor; Danbury Fencing and Mr. A Walsh with a request for their estimate for the replacement of the rotten posts.

The Chairman agreed to undertake a maintenance inspection of all the Parish Council owned bus shelters.

1224. Planning Matters:

New Applications:

There were no new planning applications to consider at this meeting.

Planning Results:

15/00926/FUL: Operational development - Rivenhall Oaks Golf Course.

Application **granted**.

15/01415/LBC: Installation of secondary glazing - Hoo Hall Cottage 223 Oak Road.

Application **granted**.

15/01400/FUL: Erection of outbuilding for workshop/storage use - 43 St. Mary's Road.

Application **granted**.

15/01394/FUL: Installation of dropped kerb - 467 Rickstones Road.

Application **granted**.

Planning Appeals:

APP/Z1585/W/15/3053088 - IWMF, Rivenhall Airfield.

Appeal against the ECC decision for an extension of time until 2 March 2016 rather than 2 March 2017.

Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Prime and unanimously agreed that a reply be sent to the Planning Inspector indicating that this council supports the decision originally made by ECC for a site commencement date of March 2016.

Also, to add a very similar wording to that detailed at Item 1225(ii) below.

1225. Ongoing Planning Issues:

i. Rivenhall Airfield - Bradwell Quarry.

There was nothing further to report at this meeting.

ii. Rivenhall Airfield - Waste Incinerator.

Variation of condition 2 (application drawings) of planning permission ESS/55/14/BTE to allow amended layout of the IWMF.

The Chairman reported upon his inspection of these documents and, subsequent to discussion it was **proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Prime and unanimously agreed** that the following reply be sent to ECC:

The Government required Gent Fairhead to submit updated Environmental information as set out in the letter of 13th November 2015 in respect of the Appeal for another year on the consent. Gent Fairhead has already had 6 years to submit the required pre-commencement details and legal matters. The parish council supports the ECC decision to only allow one year up to March 2016 and not another year to 2017. Essex County Council also required this updated information for the S73 "variation" application.

The letter to Gent Fairhead set out a requirement to see "easily accessible documents". The Parish Council is concerned that the Applicant/Appellant actually submitted another large body of information spread across numerous documents that did not meet that test - and also introduced yet more new matters that have not been considered before in the planning history of the site. The Parish Council notes that with the new information uploaded to the Essex County Council website, there are now 370 documents, for what is described as a minor "variation of conditions" application by the Applicant/Appellant.

The new matters relate to the fact that Gent Fairhead now states an intention to use the River Blackwater for both major water abstraction and the discharge of effluent. This is set out in a number of the new documents, including maps showing pipeline routes. The document "Foreseeable Developments" (Jan 2016) states "The River Blackwater would be the primary source for industrial water use at the site".

The Parish Council would submit to ECC that the River Blackwater is an important water body, both in terms of water resources (agriculture and water transfer as Essex has a summer deficit) and for its habitats. It flows along the boundary of Rivenhall Parish (downstream of the proposed waste plant) and the Parish Council has always sought to protect the quality and setting of the river and its tributaries.

The recently expired water abstraction permit for the site was strictly limited in volume and time of year. It did not support what is now proposed and the current planning consent does not either. The Inspector to the 2009 Inquiry, whose report informed the Secretary of State decision in March 2010, concluded that use of water from outside the plant would be "minimal" as the evidence submitted by Gent Fairhead stated that water would be derived largely from internal recycling and rainwater. There was never any discussion of discharge to the river then or until now. Nor has there been any consideration until now of long pipelines across the countryside to a new abstraction/discharge location on the river, as described by Gent Fairhead in the new information.

The plant water cycle has been consistently, over a period of some 8 years now, been described as a "Closed Loop" system. But the Applicant/Appellant now states that the plant would use both the public water main and the river for industrial processes with effluent discharge to the river. It is not evident as to why this change is being proposed, nor why it was not made clear years ago, nor why it is necessary now given that the primary water user on the site, the paper pulping unit, is proposed to be reduced in capacity by over 50% in the S73 application as compared to the extant consent.

The much more significant use of the River Blackwater would require submission to the Environment Agency of detailed reports and the Parish Council understands that this process would be lengthy. Yet whilst the new planning information describes the new proposal for water use, the Environmental Permit application currently before the EA for the facility specifically rules out discharge to the river. Therefore this matter is being treated inconsistently by the Applicant/Appellant and it raises another layer of uncertainty regarding the plant as a whole, which would be a heavy user of water on a 24/7 basis.

The Parish Council supports the view that the length of time, the uncertainty, the complexity and the inconsistency that has built up surrounding this site points to the need for a refusal of the S73 application and should the developer wish to continue, a completely fresh (and concise and accessible) planning application, to be judged against current planning policies

iii. ECC Waste Plan.

There was nothing further to report at this meeting.

iv. Proposed Colemans Farm Quarry.

The Chairman reported that ECC has agreed a planning condition that will give protection to the Burghey Brook.

Braintree District Local Highways Panel.

The 2016/17 budget will be known soon and a reduction is likely. There are many schemes marked as green and ready for approval, but they cannot be sent off yet for final Cabinet approval until the budget is finally agreed.

Rivenhall schemes:

- a. 7.5T weight restriction, Oak Road (linked) new signage in Church Road/Oak Road. Scheme now advertised for consultation until 14 January 2016. One response received by ECC that they don't think will be a problem. New advance signage due for delivery Spring 2016.
- b. Extended 30mph limit along Church Road. Public consultation underway. The Police have objected. ECC officers are asking the Cabinet Member if he will override the objection or not. Implementation by March 2016 if he does..
- c. Grass verge outside 51-53 Oak Road - a query was raised at the meeting regarding the nature of the grasscrete installation due to the apparent new muddy ruts.
- d. Rectory Lane traffic restrictions and potential Quiet Lane status - in validation. Quiet Lane status likely to be supported subject to funding, and apparently the District is only allowed a quota of such schemes.
- e. Safety improvements along, Park Road - in validation.
- f. Rickstones Road speed monitoring loop - The data doesn't meet the criteria for a VAS?SID (5mph above) nor does it meet the Police intervention criteria of 10%+2.

1226. Correspondence received since the date of this Agenda.

- * Quotation received from Solagen for renewal of warranty for VAS at Henry Dixon Road: cost £1,975.00. It was unanimously agreed not to take up this warranty offer.

1227. Reports from PC Representatives.

There were no reports for this meeting.

1228. Finance Matters:

To agree accounts for payment.

Proposed by Cllr. Bills, seconded by Cllr. Wright and unanimously agreed that the following accounts be paid. Cheques were then drawn accordingly.

1076	D. Clark	£8.98	Spring bulbs
1077	K. P. Taylor	£336.49	Salary/expenses January '16
1078	A. Walsh	£76.50	Litter picking January '16

1229. Information exchange and items for the next Agenda.

- * The Chairman reported that, since the January meeting there had been four further RTAs along Church and Park Roads.
- * The light in the telephone kiosk near the Rickstones Road/Oak Road junction was broken.
- * Highways England be invited to the APA to report on the A12 improvement programme.
- * The broken road surface outside 17 Church Road has been reported to ECC.

1230. 10 Minute Public Feedback.

There was no public feedback on items considered/approved at this meeting.

1231. Dates of future meetings.

Tuesday 1 March 2016 in The Henry Dixon Hall and 5 April 2016 in Rivenhall Village Hall, both commencing promptly at 20.00 hours.

Items for the March meeting to the Clerk by 22 February at the latest.

1232. Closure.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.40 hours.

Signed:

CHAIRMAN

Date: