

RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2009.

Present: Cllrs. Bills, Prime, Salmon, Wright, Brailey and Clark.

In the Chair: Cllr. Bills - Vice-Chairman.

Also present: Parish Clerk, 8 members of the public and PC John Hallworth.

231. Apologies for Absence.

An apology was received from Cllr. Abbott who was attending the BDC Planning Committee Meeting.

232. Declarations of Interest relating to Agenda items.

There were no Declarations of Interest registered.

233. To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2009.

The Minutes were **unanimously approved** and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

234. Public Forum for 10 minutes.

During the Public Forum the following matters were brought to the attention of the Council:

- Questions were raised concerning the continued closure of the Post Office.
- PC Hallworth reported briefly upon vehicle incidents within the Parish, the theft of fuel from the A12 filling station and other minor local issues.

235. Matters for Discussion:

i. ECC Minerals & Waste Development Framework.

It was unanimously agreed that those members of the public present at the meeting be permitted to participate in the discussions regarding this item.

In a reply to a question raised by a member of the public, it was pointed out that the sites at Rivenhall End had previously been objected to by the Parish Council and that the sites now under consideration were in addition to those.

Following a lengthy discussion it was **unanimously agreed** that the following concerns relative to the proposed site A43 - Parkgate Farm, be brought to the attention of Essex County Council:

- The proposed site, at 492 acres, is very large and would transform an extensive area of countryside on the northern edge of the Parish into a gravel working area for up to 20 years.
- The site access is proposed to be by road. Rivenhall already experiences heavy lorries coming through the village at certain times and the Parish Council supports resident's views that these should be decreased rather than increased. It is unlikely that major improvements to the A120/A12 will be completed during the excavation period, therefore, access to the trunk road network would need to be via existing A12 junctions at Kelvedon or Rivenhall End or to the A120 via the B1018 Witham Road all of which carry restrictions for HGVs.
- The applicant has indicated that the site would be worked '...as an extension to Rivenhall Airfield'. It is unclear as to what this means, but, clearly, any further industrial development at the Airfield in addition to the waste site that is proposed, would be very significant for the local area.
- The County Council already has far more offers of sites from developers than it needs to fulfil its obligations. At a recent meeting in Witham, to

discuss the current consultation, County Council officers stated that well over 100 million tonnes of materials have been proposed on sites across Essex - about 3 times the amount required.

- This area already has 8 proposed sites. Parkgate Farm and another new site near Witham brings the total to 10; and these are sites on top of those already operating in the area, such as Cressing Road, Witham and Bradwell Quarry.
- Upney Wood to the north and east of Bumby Hall and Storey's Wood to the east of Bumby Hall are designated Local Wildlife Sites as all that remains of ancient woodland which once covered the whole area.

It was further **agreed unanimously** that the Parish Council will be willing to establish links with Witham Town Council and other nearby Parishes to formulate a joint approach to this matter.

ii. Damage to Appleford Bridge.

As reported at the last meeting, Appleford Bridge had no sooner been comprehensively repaired than the southern parapet wall had again been almost totally demolished. PC Hallworth reported that the whole of Appleford Bridge came under the jurisdiction of the Maldon District Police and explains why this Parish Council had received no official notification of the damage. The Clerk will contact ECC Highways to enquire about repairs to this Listed bridge.

iii. Parking along Church Road near the school.

Meetings have taken place between Councillors and the Headteacher with the Road Safety Officer subsequently offering advice regarding future action. It was also reported that the ECC Senior Road safety Engineer (Olive Cowell) had inspected the location and any further co-ordinated action has been put on hold pending her report.

iv. Report on the site meeting re A12 slips etc at Rivenhall End.

Some Members met with officers from Atkins (Agents for the Highways Agency) at The Fox and outlined the Council's grave concerns regarding the slip roads onto and from the A12. Atkins' response was to accept the Council's concerns and will endeavour to meet them in the new design for this A12 junction, due to commence in 2011/2012.

v. Notification from Atkins re A12 Witham Bypass.

Atkins have given notice that work on the A12, between Hatfield Peverel and Witham was due to commence on 3 November and continue for up to 20 weeks.

vi. Proposed new Public Footpath along Church Road.

At the Chairman's request, the Clerk has investigated whether the Parish Council can undertake the creation of this new Public Footpath as ECC have postponed any implementation of this scheme. There is no way, other than possibly utilising the Power of Well Being, whereby the Parish Council can do this, however, they do not, at this time qualify to use this Power. Matters will have to wait for ECC to implement the scheme.

vii. Maintenance within the Parish.

It was agreed that Mr. Walsh undertake the following maintenance items:

- Repair the damaged post on the Village Green
- Refix the dog bin in Rickstones Road
- Repair one post at the Albert Moss Playing Field

The Clerk will request BDC to replace the padlock on the chain at the Albert Moss Car Park and inspect/repair the surface around the play equipment at St. Mary's Road.

236. Planning Matters:**Applications:**

There were no Planning Applications to consider at this meeting.

Planning Results:

09/00938/FUL: Excavation of fishing lake - Land opposite Coleman's Cottage, Little Braxted Lane.

This application has been approved.

Ongoing Planning Matters:

- i. Local Development Framework.
There was nothing further to report relative to Rivenhall Parish at this time.
- ii. Rivenhall Airfield.
The Public Inquiry having ended, the Inspector's decision is awaited in due course, possibly January/February 2010.
- iii. Allotment land, Rickstones Road.
This land is now up for sale by auction.
- iv. New Rickstones Academy.
The Parish Council's comments relative to the lighting on site were forwarded to BDC on 26 October 2009.
The Full planning application is being debated by BDC this evening.

237. Correspondence received since the date of the Agenda.

- The next Blackwater Cluster Group Meeting will be held at Stisted Village Hall on 14 January 2010, commencing at 19.30 hours.
Items for this Agenda, together with names of Members willing to attend will be included for discussion at the December meeting.

238. Finance Matters:To agree accounts for payment.

Proposed by Cllr. Prime, seconded by Cllr. Brailey, and agreed that the following accounts be paid; cheques were then drawn accordingly.

658	Rivenhall & Silver End PCC	£350.00	Grant towards Parish Magazine
659	Royal British Legion	£35.00	Wreath & donation
660	SLCC-CILCA Management	£55.00	Clerk's re-sit fee
661	K. P. Taylor	£258.85	Salary/expenses (Oct.)
662	A. Walsh	£177.00	General Maintenance (Oct)
663	R. P. F. A.	£10.00	Hire of Hall

Possible cessation of Parish Support Grant 2010/2011.

The Clerk has received a letter from BDC indicating the possible cessation of the PSG due to financial constraints. The Clerk emphasised that this will have to be taken into consideration when discussing the Precept amount for 2010/2011 later this month. Unfortunately, BDC are not due to finally agree their approach to the PSG until 7th December.

239. Information exchange and items for the next Agenda.

- The Parish Council website is now operational and items are continually being added. The question of including adverts and a 'community/social' aspect on the website will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

- The Parish Christmas Tree will be erected on 12th December and will remain for 4 weeks.

240. Dates of future meetings.

Tuesday 1 December in The Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End and Tuesday 5 January 2010 in Rivenhall Village Hall, both meetings commencing at 20.00 hours.

The Precept meeting is scheduled for Thursday 19 November in the Committee Room of The Henry Dixon Hall, commencing at 19.30 hours.

Councillor training on Thursday 26 November at 19.30 hours in the Committee Room of The Henry Dixon Hall.

241. Closure.

The Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 21.13 hours.

Signed:

CHAIRMAN

Date: