



# RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF RIVENHALL AND RIVENHALL END IN  
THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX

## ANNUAL REPORT

### **RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL - DETAILS**

You are hereby invited to attend the  
**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

To be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011, in the Village Hall, Church Road,  
Rivenhall, Commencing at 7.30 pm.

Representatives from local organisations will be present to give a brief presentation, prior to answering questions from the floor. Invitations to speak have been forwarded to Braintree District Council, Essex Police and Essex County Council Highways. Information regarding many other local organisations will also be available at this meeting.

*The Parish Council hopes that you will make every effort to support this important annual village meeting, which has proved very successful in previous years.*

Your Parish Council meets each month, usually on the first Tuesday.  
Agendas advertised on the Council notice boards and website.  
Residents are welcome to attend the meetings and to question  
Councillors or comment upon local issues.

**CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. James Abbott: (01376) 584576

**COUNCILLORS:**

Mr. Dennis Clark (01376) 512418

Mr. Jack Prime (01376) 514255

Mr. Malcolm Salmon (01376) 514377

Mr. Bob Wright (01376) 503983

Mr. Howard Bills (01376) 521316

Mr. Stanley Brailey (01376) 512062

**PARISH CLERK:**

Mr. Keith P. Taylor

23 Mersey Road, Witham, CM8 1LL

Tel: (01376) 516975

Email: [parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net](mailto:parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net)

### **Budget for 2011/2012**

At the Precept Meeting, held in November, the Parish Council agreed the following budget for this financial year:

<u>Parks &amp; Open Spaces:</u>	£5800
(Incl. maintenance, grass cutting & litter picking, consumables, bulbs and trees etc.)	
<u>Agency Arrangements:</u>	£250
(Street cleaning & grass cutting)	
<u>Administration:</u>	£7270
(Clerk, insurance, office consumables, Audit fees, subscriptions, Hall hire etc.)	
<u>Section 137:</u>	£120
(British Legion, CPRE etc)	
<u>Major Works:</u>	£7000
(Taken from balances)	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b> £13440 giving a <b>PRECEPT</b> figure of £9309 - the same as the previous year's figure.	

### **Parish Council Meeting Dates 2011:**

17<sup>TH</sup> May (VH)    7<sup>TH</sup> June (HDH)    5<sup>TH</sup> July (VH)  
2<sup>ND</sup> August (VH)    6<sup>TH</sup> September (HDH)    4<sup>TH</sup> October (VH)  
1<sup>ST</sup> November (VH)    6<sup>TH</sup> December (HDH)

### **Provisional for 2012**

3<sup>RD</sup> January (VH)    7<sup>TH</sup> February (VH) 6<sup>TH</sup> March (HDH)

*VH = Rivenhall Village Hall*

*HDH = The Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End*

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR 2010/11.**

**INCOME**

<i>Precept from Braintree District Council</i>	£9309
<i>Parish Support Grant from Braintree District Council</i>	£1737
<i>Street Cleaning Grant from Braintree District Council</i>	£1632
<i>Other Grants</i>	£Nil
<i>Vat Refund</i>	£707
<i>Bank Interest</i>	£13
<i>EALC Refund</i>	£171
<b>Total</b>	<b>£13569</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

	<u>2009/10</u>	
<i>Administration</i>	[£6638]	£7212
<i>Major Works</i>	[3995]	£5268
<i>Agency Arrangements re grass cutting</i>	[416]	£209
<i>Parks, Open Spaces &amp; Maintenance</i>	[3760]	£3347
<i>Local Govt. Act Section 137 (Special payments)</i>	[74]	£114
<b>Total</b>	<b>[14883]</b>	<b>£16150</b>

**Chairman's Report 2010/2011.**

We hope that you will be able to join us for the Annual parish Assembly on Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. If there are local issues, which you would like to raise, either with the Parish Council, or the other authorities which will be represented at the Assembly, this is your chance.

It has been another busy year in Rivenhall Parish on many fronts, which the more detailed reports in this Annual Report cover. The biggest issue remains the potential doubling of the population of the Parish with housing development planned on land off Forest Road and Rectory Lane. We have been working closely with Witham Town Council on this issue, as they share our concerns.

Over the next few years, all councils, including Parishes, will face difficult times as public finances tighten. We have decided to hold the Precept (the amount of money requested from Braintree District Council for local Parish requirements) for 2011/2012 at the same level as the previous financial year, but we aim to maintain services.

Rivenhall was awarded a Certificate of Merit in the Best Kept Village Competition in 2010.

Thanks are due to everyone who helped achieve this - those who work for the Parish Council and residents who keep their areas looking good. We would also like to record our

thanks to Braintree District Council for providing picnic tables at the Albert Moss Playing Field - it has been good to see the continued improvement of facilities there. The Millennium Committee has once again, with financial help from the Parish Council, ensured we have had one of the best village Christmas Trees in the County. The Millennium Committee also raised funds to ensure that there was a gift for all of the elderly residents of the Parish.

James Abbott (Chairman)

## **PLANNING**

### Local Development Framework (LDF).

A planning hearing before an Inspector is due in May, into proposals by Braintree District Council in its LDF to allocate a site for 300 houses on land off Forest Road/Rectory Lane in Rivenhall Parish. Despite strong representations to a series of consultations, from both Rivenhall Parish Council and Witham Town Council, along with hundreds of residents, there has been no change in the allocation. The Parish Council will continue to work with Witham Town Council to secure a review of this allocation, which stands to double the population of the Parish if it gets built.

### Minerals.

There has been mixed news on proposed new minerals (sand and gravel) sites locally. Essex County Council is continuing to consult on where new sand and gravel excavations should be and in the latest document has suggested that the large site south of the A12 should be deleted, which the Parish Council has pressed for. However, a large cluster of sites is now proposed to the north of the Parish on and around the old Rivenhall Airfield.

### Waste Site.

A year ago, the proposed Major Waste Site at Rivenhall Airfield was granted planning permission, but there remains uncertainty as to whether or not the plant will go ahead. Meanwhile, recycling continues to improve - residents are now recycling over 50% of household waste.

### The New Rickstones Academy.

The Academy has kept the Parish Council informed of progress on the development of the new buildings and a number of residents and Councillors have attended local meetings with the Academy Trust. A regular topic is litter.

### Planning Applications.

Each month, the Parish Council considers planning applications and makes recommendations - mainly to Braintree District Council who are the planning authority for most local applications. Due to the need to make financial savings, the Parish Council will now no longer get copies of plans from the District Council so alternative ways of displaying plans are being looked into.

## **HIGHWAYS.**

Essex County Council (ECC) is the Highways Authority for all the public roads in the Parish except for the A12. ECC is undergoing a major restructuring due to cost savings, but we hope that the good relationship we had built up will not be lost. The Parish Council has secured a third solar powered Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS), which is activate when drivers exceed the speed limit. This will be located in Henry Dixon Road. Unfortunately, the VAS near the Church was demolished by a vehicle, but is covered by our insurers and so is being replaced. We continue to press ECC for lower speed limits – where there are 40mph limits down to 30mph and where there are 60mph limits down to 50mph.

Regarding the A12, we have continued to liaise with the Highways Agency who manage the road. A major works programme is still due through Rivenhall End and we have asked to be kept well informed of all the design options, and have asked for the safety of local residents to be a top priority, and for consideration that HGVs be re-routed away from Oak Road.

### ***PUBLIC FOOTPATHS.***

**Should any Parishioners encounter damaged or missing 'Way Signs' and/or 'Posts' and should any Public Footpath be impenetrable, please contact Parish Councillor *Stanley Brailey* on *(01376) 512062*.**

## **GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP WITHIN THE PARISH.**

During the year 2010, maintenance works have been undertaken by the Parish Council's contractor, members of the Parish Council, Braintree District Council, Greenfields CH and County Highways and these included the following:

The installation of four new dog bins, mounted on concrete posts, at various locations around the Parish; repairs to the notice board situated in Rickstones Road and the removal and repair of the notice board mounted in the bus shelter at the junction of Oak and Rickstones Roads. All notice boards have also received a coat of paint. The installation of the salt bin at the bottom of St. Mary's Road has proved to be very necessary during the early part of this last winter, despite the pilfering by passing motorists salt still remains in the bin. To counter the pilfering by passing 'trade', the Parish Council, in liaison with both Greenfields CH and ECC Highways, are arranging to relocate this salt bin to the top of St. Mary's Road and, with the aid of Greenfields CH, hope to have another salt bin installed at the top of the garage slope off Beech Road.

There has also been continual maintenance of the Parish War Memorial Garden (seasonal weeding and planting); new hedge planting around the recycling site in Oak Road; planting of approximately 700 Daffodil bulbs (donated by Braintree District

Council) in both Rivenhall and Rivenhall End together with the continued maintenance of previous years' tree planting.

To keep the Parish looking in good order throughout the year entails hours of litter picking; the installation of new posts together with the reinstatement of damaged ones; the repainting of posts and bench seats both in Rivenhall and Rivenhall End and the continuous grass cutting programmes during the growing season at locations around the Parish.

Although much of the above maintenance work is undertaken by the Parish Council's Maintenance Contractor and various Local Authorities there is still much that is carried out by local Parish Councillors. This work is 'ongoing' and various elements will continue well into the year 2011 and beyond.

### **PARISH COUNCIL 'SURGERIES'**

***For those who find it difficult to attend Rivenhall Parish Council meetings, or simply do not wish to go out in the evenings, Rivenhall Parish Council ensures that there is always at least one Councillor on duty at the RPFPA Friday Coffee mornings in the Village Hall. If you have a problem or concern that you think that the Parish Council may be able to help with, then come along and have an informal chat over a cuppa. We are here to help.***

### **SALT & GRIT!**

After two really cold icy winters the Parish Council are preparing a plan to ensure that all residents of the Parish have access to a supply of salt and grit. The decision of ECC Highways to put the salt bin at the bottom of St. Mary's Road has proved somewhat problematical.

During the icy weather it is difficult for many to get to the bin itself due to the many sloping footways throughout the village. The other problem has been theft. The entire contents of the bin have been stolen several times.

The new plan will make sure that a supply of salt and grit is secure and more easily available to those who need it.

Upon finalization, details will be available on the Rivenhall Parish Council website [www.rivenhallparishcouncil.net](http://www.rivenhallparishcouncil.net) - the Parish Magazine and the local notice boards.

***For further details of Parish Council activities, together with the published Minutes of all Parish Council meetings, please go to:***

***[www.rivenhallparishcouncil.net](http://www.rivenhallparishcouncil.net)***

