



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 1st May 2012, in the Village Hall, Church Road,
Rivenhall, Commencing at 7.00pm.

This Annual Meeting will precede the Annual Parish Council Meeting and will,
therefore, end just prior to 8.00pm thereby allowing time for the Parish
Council Meeting to commence at the usual time of 8.00pm.

*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. 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

Website: www.rivenhallparishcouncil.net

Budget for 2012/2013

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

<u>Parks & Open Spaces:</u>	£5345
(Incl. maintenance, grass cutting & litter picking, consumables, bulbs and trees etc.)	
<u>Agency Arrangements:</u>	£300
(Street cleaning & grass cutting)	
<u>Administration:</u>	£7755
(Clerk, insurance, office consumables, Audit fees, subscriptions, Hall hire etc.)	
<u>Section 137:</u>	£125
(British Legion, CPRE etc)	
<u>Capital spending:</u>	£8000
(Taken from balances)	
TOTAL BUDGET £13525 giving a PRECEPT figure of £9309 - the same as the previous year's figure.	

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2012:

1ST May (VH) 12TH June (HDH) 3RD July (VH)
7TH August (VH) 4TH September (HDH) 2ND October (VH)
6TH November (VH) 4TH December (HDH)

Provisional for 2013

8TH January (VH) 5TH February (VH) 5TH March (HDH)
2ND April (VH) 7TH May (VH)

VH = Rivenhall Village Hall

HDH = The Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR 2011/12.**

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>Insurance Claim re VAS</i>	£3870
<i>Vat Refund</i>	£813
<i>Bank Interest</i>	£11
<i>RCCE Best Kept Village award</i>	£150
Total	£17522

EXPENDITURE

	<u>2010/11</u>	
<i>Administration</i>	[£7212]	£7105
<i>Major Works</i>	[5268]	£4691
<i>Agency Arrangements re grass cutting</i>	[209]	£235
<i>Parks, Open Spaces & Maintenance</i>	[3347]	£3453
<i>Local Govt. Act Section 137 (Special payments)</i>	[114]	£119
Total	[16150]	£15603

Chairman's Report 2011/2012.

For the next financial year (2012/13), Rivenhall Parish Council has once again kept the local Precept at the same level as in the two previous years. We will maintain services by using some reserve funds and by continuing to seek external funding for local projects wherever possible. We hope that you agree with this approach, but if there are issues you would like to raise, please come along to the Parish Assembly on 1st May starting at 7pm. in the Rivenhall Village Hall.

It was a pleasure to receive the 2011 Best Kept Village Award (Class 4) on behalf of the parish. A lot of the credit must go to residents who look after their gardens so well, and to our village Maintenance Contractor who works tirelessly to pick up litter and mow areas of grass that would not otherwise get tended to. Also we must mention Braintree District Council who keep up a good standard - and GreenfieldsCH, who in 2011 did a much better job of grounds maintenance than in the previous year. It would be great if Rivenhall can win it again in 2012!

James Abbott (Chairman)

PLANNING

As ever there are lots of planning issues affecting the parish. We took part in the Braintree District Council Core Strategy Hearing last summer, and alongside Witham Town Council argued that the 300 houses proposed for land off Forest Road/Rectory Lane should be withdrawn in favour of more sustainable sites. Unfortunately we were not successful and in his report, the Inspector kept the site in the Core Strategy. The site has now been allocated by Braintree District Council, although the start date is kept back to 2021.

We have continued to respond to consultations on potential major minerals developments in the parish, or near to it. In September we issued a letter to residents about the renewed bid for major extraction at Coleman's Farm. We should get news later in 2012 of Essex County Council's views on this large site.

Each month the Parish Council considers any planning applications that have arisen in the parish and sends in views to the relevant planning authority - usually Braintree District Council or Essex County Council - who make the final decisions. Residents are very welcome to attend our monthly meetings or to write to the Parish Clerk if there are issues you would like to raise on planning applications. Mostly the local applications tend to be for household extensions, but recently we considered plans for a major extension to Durwards Hall/Kelvedon Park submitted by the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service.

HIGHWAYS.

The last year or so has been a very difficult time on highway matters. A re-organisation of the Essex County Council Highways Department, together with severe funding cut backs has meant that not only does it often take much longer to get road and path defects fixed, it is more difficult to get a response from the Department on many issues. We are continuing to prioritise three main highway projects in the parish: The proposed HGV weight restriction in Oak Road down to the A12; a new signal controlled traffic management system for the railway bridge (together with a wider footpath) and the much delayed extended parking restrictions near the school in Church Road. All three projects are agreed in principle, but we have to secure funding and, given the cutbacks, this is proving difficult. We do have enough funds to make an offer to pay for the HGV restriction, but Essex County Council are yet to agree this offer.

Further frustration comes with the news that the Highways Agency are now reporting that any improvements to the substandard A12 junctions at Rivenhall End are at least three years away, and even then that is uncertain. Again, they say that budget cuts are the reason.

The Parish Council will continue to use any legal means it can to progress these and other improvements requested by residents.

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*.

A collection of Parish Footpath Walks is in the process of compilation and will be included on the Parish Council website (www.rivenhallparishcouncil.net) in due course.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE.

The Rivenhall Parish Council Website went live in December 2010 and is regularly being updated with information relating to Parish Council business and activities.

On the site you will find meeting dates, agendas and minutes, the annual budget, information regarding local issues that are being dealt with by the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk's monthly reports upon action taken between meetings. Contact details are also included for other local organisations such as Essex County Council and Braintree District Council; emergency contact details for Police, Gas, Electricity and Flood etc. Annual Reports and official documents such as Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and many others – all of which can be downloaded (in pdf format).

To contact the Parish Council you can email
parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net or
councillors@rivenhallparishcouncil.net

If you would like to be sent regular updates and reminders about meetings and local issues, please email *webmaster@rivenhallparishcouncil.net* with NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP WITHIN THE PARISH.

During 2011 work has been carried out by the Parish Council's Maintenance Contractor and members of the Parish Council on a variety of activities, which has included path clearance (hedge obstruction), the strimming of grass from path edges, the continuing maintenance of (and including replacement) of posts around the Village Green, the painting of the posts and repairing the chains where appropriate.

A major activity has been the planting of nearly 1,000 Daffodil bulbs, both in the main part of the village and at Rivenhall End. Another significant planting has been that of an Oak Tree on the Village Green to commemorate the 60 years of Queen

Elizabeth the Second's reign. An additional two planters have replaced the relocated salt bin at the junction of St. Mary's Road and Church Road.

Work has continued throughout the year on general maintenance (including litter picking), with the enthusiastic and reliable support of the Council's Maintenance Contractor. The Parish Council will continue to ensure a clean and tidy village.

WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME

This winter was the first time that Rivenhall Parish Council was given a limited amount of salt & grit by Essex County Council for use on the paths and slopes around the parish. In early February, when we had that heavy fall of snow, our 10 or so volunteers were out clearing and salting the areas that had been agreed with them beforehand.

It made a big difference in the centre of the village and many thanks go to all those who took part. However, if Essex County Council continue the scheme we could do with more volunteers. If you would like some information on how to become a Rivenhall Parish 'salt volunteer' please contact the Parish Council via email at councillors@rivenhallparishcouncil.net or telephone Howard on 07749 251838 for further details.

The salt bag scheme is all about helping the community help itself. Let's all join in and do just that!

COFFEE MORNING 'SURGERIES' – RIVENHALL VILLAGE HALL.

The Committee who are responsible for running and maintaining the Village Hall hold a Coffee Morning that all are welcome to attend every Friday from 09.00 to noon. A member and/or the Clerk of Rivenhall Parish Council is always in attendance from 10.30 to noon, should anyone from the parish have a concern or problem that they think the Parish Council may be able to assist them with.

Rather than make a formal appointment to speak to a Councillor or the Clerk, why not pop in for a chat over a cuppa if there's something that you think we may be able to help you with.

Also, most weeks there are representatives from the Village Agents, GreenfieldsCH and, on occasion, members of the Neighbourhood Police team attend.

It's a nice, friendly coffee morning and everyone is welcome so do pop in and say hello.

***FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES, TOGETHER WITH THE PUBLISHED
MINUTES OF ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS, PLEASE GO TO:
WWW.RIVENHALLPARISHCOUNCIL.NET***

