

RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7TH MAY 2013.
(The meeting commenced early at 19.30 due to the early closure of the preceding Annual Parish Assembly)

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

In the Chair: Cllr. Abbott

Also present: Parish Clerk and 6 members of the public.

758.. Election of Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr. Bills, seconded by Cllr. Wright that Cllr. Abbott be re-elected as Chairman.

This was agreed by a vote of 4 in favour with 2 abstentions. Cllr. Abbott acceded and signed the Chairman's Acceptance of Office.

759.. Election of Vice-Chairman

Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Brailey that Cllr. Bills be re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

This was agreed by a vote of 4 in favour with 2 abstentions..
Cllr. Bills acceded.

760.. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence received.

761.. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests relating to matters on the Agenda.

There were no Disclosures recorded at this meeting.

762.. To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2013.

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

763 Public Forum for 10 minutes.

The following matters were brought to the attention of Members:

- The Chairman was congratulated upon being elected as a Member of Essex County Council.

764.. To appoint Council representatives to outside bodies:

The following nominations were **unanimously agreed:**

RPFA - Cllr. Bills

BALC - Cllr. Prime

EALC - Cllr. Prime

Braintree District Local Highways Panel - Cllr. Abbott

Tree Warden - Cllr. Clark

Emergency Contact - Cllr. Wright

Footpath liaison including ECC P3 - Cllr. Brailey

Henry Dixon Hall Charity - Cllr. Clark

Essex Police liaison - Cllr. Bills

Community Speedwatch - Cllr. Bills

Passenger Transport Liaison - Cllr. Prime

765.. Matters for Discussion.

i. Solar Farm planning application - Little Braxted Hall.

Despite two requests being made by the Clerk to Maldon District Council, no details have been made available other than those reported in the local press.

An approach will be made to Witham Town Council, who have submitted comments to Maldon District Council, in an endeavour to obtain accurate information for consideration at the June meeting.

- ii. Highway Maintenance
 There has been a temporary reinstatement of the pothole in the centre of the zebra crossing in Church Road.
 No date has been given for the resurfacing of Rickstones Road; the Chairman will try to obtain a date from ECC.
 The pump under the A12 on Henry Dixon Road has failed once again and the Highways Agency has promised an investigation with a view to a possible new pump being installed.
 The count down speed signs in Church Road are loose; ECC have been informed.
- iii. General Maintenance.
 Damage/vandalism to the basketball court fencing and the field fencing to the playing field are to be reported to both BDC and Essex Police.
 The notice board at Rivenhall End requires attention to stop water ingress.
 Additional wooden posts are required for the Village Green; **proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Bills and unanimously agreed** that the sum of £300.00 be allocated for the purchase of 12 posts. Cllr. Clark will arrange a suitable supplier for the Clerk to issue an official order.
 The village sign on the Village Green requires urgent attention.
- iv. EALC Training Courses:
 Councillor Training Day (1) - 6th June 2013 - No candidates
 Councillor Training Day (2) - 27th June 2013 - Cllr. Clark will attend
 Chairmen's Day (1) - 26th June 2013 - No candidates

766.. **Planning Matters:**

New Applications:

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

Planning Results:

13/00255/FUL: Proposed internal and external alterations and part conversion of existing stabling into office use - Hoo Hall.

Application granted.

Planning Appeals:

There were no additional planning appeals to consider at this meeting.

767.. **Ongoing Planning Issues:**

i. Local Development Framework.

Landowner proposed additional site at the Old Rectory.

Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Prime and unanimously agreed that this proposal be rejected for the following reasons:

In the Parish Appraisal (PA) carried out in 2003, 81% were against development of green wedge areas of which this site is one.

In the same appraisal question "Should that part of the John Ray Walk that passes through the parish be preserved against development" had 97% in favour of preservation.

Again, "Should Rectory Lane be preserved from development" had 87% 'Yes' vote. In the Village design Statement (VDS) approved as 'Material Planning Consideration in 2005, the guidelines include "Rectory Lane should be preserved in its current dimensions".

Both in the PA and VDS it is demonstrated and contained that parishioners wish to preserve an area of clear countryside between Witham and Rivenhall.

It is clear from the PA that parishioners want any new developments of any size to be "...within Rivenhall but not into Rivenhall".

The Old Rectory parkland is currently designated as an area for preservation not development in the Local Plan.

Rivenhall Parish Council objected to the proposal to develop housing alongside Rectory Lane as part of the Core Strategy 300 new homes off Forest Road.

That part of that proposal was resited by BDC to meet those objections.

If permission is given to build on any part of this Old Rectory site, it will open the way for further applications also likely to be successful and the building on farm land also bordering Rectory Lane.

No development other than conversions of barns/existing buildings should be allowed on this site. This will protect an area of rural character that does not exist elsewhere with the parish of Rivenhall and is part of John Ray Walk, safe for pedestrians and as an oasis of peace and old world charm. It will also preserve a countryside boundary between Rivenhall and Witham.

The proposed site lies within 30 metres of the Old Rectory, which itself is a listed building of some note; development would have a serious detrimental effect upon this property.

The cumulative effect of this proposal together with the already approved Forest Road development site will severely impinge upon the existing overstretched infrastructure of this northern part of Witham.

- ii. Rivenhall Airfield.
Nothing to report at this meeting.
- iii. ECC Waste Development.
Nothing to report at this meeting.
- iv. ECC Minerals Local Plan.
Nothing to report at this meeting.
- v. Braintree District Local Highways Panel.
All three Rivenhall projects continue to have an onward progression.
- vi. Tarecroft Wood: Freehold Transfer.
This matter was deferred until the June meeting so that any further public comments/representations might be fully discussed.

768.. Correspondence received since the date of the agenda.

- i. The next Passenger Transport Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25th June 2013 at 10.30am in The Courtauld Gallery, Braintree Town Hall. Cllr. Prime agreed to attend.
- ii. **Proposed by Cllr. Abbott, seconded by Cllr. Wright and unanimously agreed** that £30.00 be approved for floral arrangements at Rivenhall End and £80.00 approved for the purchase of flower bulbs for the parish generally.

769.. Finance matters:

- i. To agree accounts for payment.
Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Bills and unanimously agreed that the following accounts be paid. Cheques were then drawn accordingly.
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| 893 | A. Clarke | £60.00 | Internal Audit fee 2012/13. |
| 894 | E.ON UK plc | £13.04 | Electricity for Xmas Tree lights |
| 895 | Kempco Ltd | £124.92 | Printing Annual Reports etc. |
| 896 | K. P. Taylor | £248.40 | Salary/expenses April |
| 897 | A. Walsh | £378.50 | Maintenance April |

- ii. To agree the final accounts for 2012/13 and for the Chairman to sign the Annual Return.
Proposed by Cllr. Bills, seconded by Cllr. Brailey and unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign the Annual Return.
 The Chairman then signed the Annual Return
- iii. To review the Clerk's salary.
Proposed by Cllr. Bills, seconded by Cllr. Prime and agreed by vote of 5 to 1 that the Clerk be paid a salary of £3382.08 per annum (£281.84 per month) with effect from 1st April 2013, in accordance with the latest NALC agreed pay scales.

770.. Information exchange and items for the next agenda.

- Footpath 59, previously notified as being overgrown has been trimmed back.
- Footpaths 7 and 8 being flooded have been reported to ECC.
- Rubbish left at the bottom end of the Playing Field has been cleared by the Maintenance Contractor.
- Bluebells are reported as blooming in the local woodlands.

771.. Dates of future meetings:

Tuesdays 4th June in The Henry Dixon Hall and 2nd July in Rivenhall Village Hall, both commencing promptly at 20.00 hours.

Items for the June meeting to the Clerk by 24th May at the latest.

772.. Closure.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.13hours.

Signed:

CHAIRMAN

Dated: