

CLERK'S GENERAL REPORT FOR APRIL 2014.

Finance.

The accounts for 2013/14 have been closed and submitted to the Internal Auditor for verification and approval.

The External Audit notices have been displayed on the notice boards as required.

BDC's Street Cleaning Grant; for 2014/2015 of £1,752.95, has been received.

The insurance renewal is due for payment at the May meeting; all items are included correctly.

Annual Parish Assembly.

The council's Annual Report has been printed and will be distributed throughout the parish during the last week of April and the first week of May.

Information received from the local MP, Priti Patel, that it's not possible for her to attend the APA due to parliamentary duties.

Rectory Lane.

The demolished road name sign, the litter and fly-tip and the fact that the lane needs a good sweep have all been reported to BDC for attention.

General Maintenance.

Information has been received from Greenfields that their grasscutting programme is 3 weeks behind schedule, but there will be more cuts this season than last.

New inventory of tools and equipment compiled on 19 April 2014.

Letters sent to local landowners requesting their cooperation to inspect and where necessary clear the ditches that run alongside local roads.

Request made for the Environment Agency to clear Rivenhall Brook.

Henry Dixon Road.

The Solagen VAS have now been removed into the Parish Council's safe keeping.

ECC Minerals Local Plan.

A considered response has been submitted to ECC within the deadline of 24 April 2014.

ECC Roads Maintenance.

A request for a site meeting in Oak Road, Rivenhall End has been submitted to ECC Highways together with an indication that the Parish Council is prepared to take action to repair the damaged grass verges previously reported to ECC but given very low priority.

Demolished highway sign in Oak Road, Rivenhall End reported to ECC.

The roadside hedge along Oak Road, from opposite the recycling site down to Hoo Hall Cottages has been reported to ECC Highways with a request that it be trimmed back so as not to touch vehicles using the road.

ECC Highways advise that Braxted Park Road will be closed so that repairs can be undertaken to Appleford Bridge from 12 May to 23 May 2014.

Highways Agency - A12.

Communication sent to HA asking why part of the A12 through Rivenhall End, near Whitelands, has not been repaired along with the other stretches recently completed. Also a request for information has been made to the HA regarding improvements to the Oak Road junction.

Braintree District Local Highways Liaison Panel.

The very latest information remains as follows:

Oak Road railway bridge widen footway and introduce priority working - Previously fully **AGREED** and **FUNDED**. Looking positive - final drawings due which suggests the UKPN situation is resolved.

However, a local landowner has threatened taking legal advice if the width is not 4.3m - LHP officers say it will be 4.3m, which means a slightly narrower footway.

Oak Road one-way weight restriction towards the A12 junction - Previously **AGREED** subject to surveys and now scheduled for delivery 2014/15. Panel agreed at January meeting to put an additional £7,500 into detailed design. Main hold up is cost of signs on A12. Good agreement of Panel members that the scheme needs to be delivered along with improvements to A12 junctions (Highways Agency future scheme).

Rickstones Road widening, new drainage and kerbing - RAG rated Amber - design complete and meeting agreed to fund and proceed scheme in 2014/15. Following site meeting with ECC Highways Cabinet Member, £75,000 central funds allocated so net cost to BLHP is reduced. Estimated total cost £130,772.

Church Road layby at church - Panel previously agreed to commission design at cost of £1.5k. Estimated scheme cost £20k.

Pedestrian access at Colemans Bridge junction with Colchester Road/Eastways/Motts Lane- Panel previously agreed to allocate £800 to investigate works needed on dropped kerbs/tactile surfacing, etc. PV2 survey shows low pedestrian use. Scheme cancelled.

Extend safety railing at Rivenhall School, Church Road - awaiting validation and did not appear on agenda. ECC asked at meeting to put it back on agenda for July meeting.

Extend 30mph (or introduce 40mph buffer) northwards along Church Road Rivenhall - Speed survey now conducted which showed average speeds of 42mph southbound and 46mph northbound. ECC state this shows "excellent compliance" with 60mph speed limit (!!). It was pointed out to ECC that it shows high speeds close to the edge of a 30mph limit where there is a primary school and church. Officers agreed to reconsider.

New bus stops Church Road - scheme partly delivered January 2014. Officers reminded that scheme included flags and poles which to date have not been installed.

New scheme to remove existing confusing signage and install new along Church Road and Oak Road warning of low railway bridge and weight restriction. Awaiting validation.

Coffee Morning PC 'Surgery'

There has been a regular PC presence at the Coffee Morning.

Liaison with Chairman.

Liaison with the Chairman upon various items of correspondence, the agenda for the next meeting and the photocopying/collection, as necessary, of planning application documents.

Keith Taylor (Parish Clerk)
29th April 2014.