

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 4TH FEBRUARY 2014.**

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

In the Chair: Cllr. Abbott.

Also present: Parish Clerk and 7 member of the public.

868.. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

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

Cllr. Abbott disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in all items relating to ECC and to item 872(iii).

870.. To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th. January 2014.

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

871.. Public Forum for 10 minutes.

The following matters were brought to the attention of Members:

- Overcrowded parking in St. Mary's Road/Tusser Close - item for the March agenda.
- ECC policy of switching off streetlights.
- Progress (lack of) re Tarecroft Wood.

872.. Matters for Discussion.

i. Review of the Parish Plan.

Details of Cllr. Prime's review had previously been circulated to all Members.

Proposed by Cllr. Turner, seconded by Cllr. Bills and unanimously agreed that the revisions be formally adopted and that BDC be notified accordingly.

ii. Maintenance of VAS in Henry Dixon Road.

Changeover costs for the VAS from 40mph to 30mph is quoted at £1,180.00.

The renewal of the 10 year warranty is quoted at £1,975.00, with the option of flexible payments, one of £915.00 and four of £296.25 with an administration charge of £125.00; totalling £2100.00.

Proposed by Cllr. Abbott, seconded by Cllr. Wright and unanimously agreed that when ECC change the speed restriction the VAS fascia be removed into store pending its possible re-erection in Church Road if the new 40mph buffer zone is created by ECC and that no warranty be extended at present. ECC to be approached to see if they would add the vacant post position in Henry Dixon Road to their rotation schedule for their 30mph sign.

iii. Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review of Braintree District.

Recommendations received indicating proposals for a 49 Member District Council with effect from May 2015. The consultation period closes on 14th April 2014.

It was unanimously agreed that Members consider the recommendation and that it will be included on the March agenda. In the meantime the Clerk is to request that the name of Rivenhall be reinstated as part of the name for the new Ward.

iv. County Highways Maintenance.

Recent road closures had taken place to allow Carillion/UK Power Networks to trench through Church Road and Rickstones Road for laying of new 33kv power lines. During these periods ECC had repaired the potholes at the junction of Rickstones Road and Oak Road as well as a number of other potholes and defects northward to where the road becomes Park Road.

Works to the drains in Rickstones Road during these closures appeared to have failed as flooding was still ongoing when the road re-opened. Following communication about this with ECC, subsequently ECC had cleaned the drains and underground gullies in Rickstones Road on 3rd February 2014.

A site meeting has been arranged for 5th February 2014, all parties attending, to try to resolve the long standing problems with the drainage in Rickstones Road. Members requested that at this meeting the stones on footways and the removal of diversion signs not currently in force be included.

Grateful thanks were expressed to Carillion for their helpfulness during this problematic period, including ensuring access along the Rickstones Road footway and cleaning the road to remove mud and stones.

An approach to be made to BDC asking whether the Parish Council can be empowered to undertake repairs to various damaged grass verges throughout the parish and, if so, are there any funds available which the PC can access to cover the cost of such repairs.

The Chairman has raised with ECC the matter of the late and incorrect highway closure notices related to Church Road and Oak Road.

v. General Maintenance.

The Tarecroft Wood area has become a dumping ground for empty drink cans.

vi. Henry Dixon Hall Charity, Board of Trustee re-election.

Members **unanimously** re-elected Mrs. Carole McCarthy as a Trustee for The Henry Dixon Hall Charity.

vii. Annual Parish Assembly & Annual Report.

Members were reminded that the APA had been re-scheduled for Wednesday 7th May 2014, in Rivenhall Village Hall.

The Annual Report has to be compiled by the middle of April for delivery during the week preceding the APA; all items for inclusion in the report should, therefore, be with the Clerk by the April meeting at the latest.

The Clerk will begin making enquiries as to who might be willing to attend on behalf of BDC, ECC Highways together with the Essex Police Commissioner and the local MP, Priti Patel.

873.. Planning Matters:

New Applications:

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

Planning Results:

There were no planning results to report at this meeting.

Planning Appeals:

There were no planning appeals to report at this meeting.

874.. Ongoing Planning Issues:

i. Local Development Framework.

A public engagement on the Plan will be taking place between 17th February and 28th March 2014; a copy of the document on CD should be available in February. In the meantime public exhibitions of the Plan will be held in Halstead, Braintree and Witham.

This will be included on the March agenda for further discussion.

ii. Rivenhall Airfield.

Scoping Opinion- Proposed Extension to Bradwell Quarry, Sites A3 & A4.

It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk liaise regarding any response within the given time limit, now less than 21 days.

iii. ECC Waste Development.

ECC has announced the launch of their new Minerals & Waste Planning website at www.essex.gov.uk/viewplanning

This new website will provide full details of current minerals, waste and County Council applications that have been submitted to the planning team and will allow

users to make comments on applications, follow progress from submission to decision and even check details of appeals against decisions. From the beginning of February all consultations about minerals, waste and County Council applications will be electronic. This means that the Parish Council will receive notification about planning applications from ECC via email only, with responses being made in the same manner.

iv. ECC Minerals Local Plan.

See 874(iv) above.

The Planning Inspector has indicated that the ECC Minerals Local Plan will require main modifications in order to be considered sound and this will need to be consulted upon from mid February 2014, within a six-week consultation period.

v. Braintree District Local Highways Panel.

- (a) *Rickstones Road drains and kerbing.* Design complete and awaiting consideration - estimated cost £130,772.00.
- (b) *Railway Bridge, Oak Road.* On track for delivery by end of March 2014.
- (c) *7.5T weight restriction, Oak Road.* Panel agreed to put another £7.5k into detailed design. Main hold up is the cost of signs on the A12. Good agreement of Panel members that the scheme needs to be delivered along with improvements to A12 junctions (Highways Agency future scheme).
- (d) *Church Road additional Bus Stop.* Scheme delivered January 2014.
- (e) *Church Road layby at church.* Panel agreed to commission design at a cost of £1,500, estimated scheme cost £20,000.
- (f) *Extended 30mph limit along Church Road.* Speed survey to be conducted.
- (g) *Pedestrian access at Colemans Bridge junction.* Panel agreed to allocate £800.00 to investigate works needed for dropped kerbs/tactile surfacing etc.
- (h) *Extended railings outside the School entrance.* Awaiting validation.
- (i) *Possible 20mph restriction outside the School entrance.* A new local petition has been introduced, which could be submitted to the May ECC meeting. Further details may be available for the March council meeting.

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

Highways Agency has planned carriageway repairs from Boreham (J19) to Kelvedon South (J23) for period 17th March (21.00) to 25th March 2014 (06.00). Northbound carriageway slips roads, lay-bys and Oak Road all closed.

876.. Reports from PC Representatives.

There were no reports to be brought to this meeting.

877.. Finance matters:

To agree accounts for payment.

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

948	Henry Dixon Hall Charity	£6.25	Hall Hire deposit
949	K.P. Taylor	£257.70	Salary/expenses January 2014.
950	A. Walsh	£197.50	Maintenance January 2014.

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

- Probable BDC grant reduction of 15% for 2015/2016.
- Bus breakdowns and staff shortages relating to First Bus.
- NEPP will be introducing random inspections along Church Road.
- Footpath posts and waymark signs are now in stock.

- Reminder to ECC regarding the demolished streetlights and posts near Hoo Hall.
- HGVs still using Oak Road - item for the March agenda.
- Mobile advertising hoardings at Burghey Brook Farm.
- Sheds at the Village Hall - item for the March agenda.
- BT verge reinstatements outside the main village area.
- There has been no response to the Post Office advert for a new village postmaster.

879.. Dates of future meetings:

Tuesdays 4th March 2014 in The Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End, and 1st April 2014 in Rivenhall Village Hall, both commencing promptly at 20.00 hours.

Items for the March meeting to the Clerk by 21st February at the latest.

880.. Closure.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.27 hours.

Signed:

CHAIRMAN

Date: