

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2020
HELD ELECTRONICALLY DUE TO THE COVID-19 HEALTH RESTRICTIONS.**

All councillors took part via email.

2025. Disclosure of any Pecuniary Interests relating to this agenda.

Cllr. Abbott declared non-pecuniary interests in all matters relating to ECC, and the BDLHP, plus items 2027(i) and 2028(i).

2026. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2020.

The minutes were approved.

2027. Matters for Discussion:

i. BDC Planning Scheme of Delegation.

It was the general opinion of members that there appears to be no significant recognition of comments made by Parish Councils upon applications within their local area. The Clerk will write to BDC objecting to the review proposals since they appear to weaken, not enhance, any objections/comments made by parish councils who represent the best interests of local residents.

ii. Tree planting including ECC Forest Initiative.

The Chairman has still to receive confirmation regarding an alternative site to the playing field.

iii. Additional CCTV cameras.

BDC confirm that the equipment has been ordered. Both ECC and BDC now confirm details of the location for one of the cameras on a pole as part of the work at the Tarecroft Wood car park and paid for by the ECC Locality funding.

iv. Highway Maintenance.

(a) BDC highway verge cutting and wildflowers.

It would appear that the 2020 verges trial was a success and it was agreed that Rivenhall apply to be part of the expanded scheme in 2021 with the inclusion of Park Road up to the junction with Western Road and Church Road from its junction with Park Road up to Rivenhall Church, apart from the farm accesses.

Suggestions for wildflower planting strips are Park Road, two strips one either side of the brook crossing; Church Road, one on the high straight section north of the church and one diagonally opposite the school; Oak Road, one strip near the RPC trees south of the recycling centre; Henry Dixon Road, one strip near the railway bridge and Rickstones Road, one strip on the raised bank north of Stoverns Hall.

(b) The Chairman has chased ECC regarding the badly damaged directional sign at the junction of Henry Dixon Road and Oak Road and that ECC said that an order has been raised for this work to be undertaken.

vi. General Maintenance.

(a) There is a broken Oak Tree branch on the Village Green which requires removal.

2028. Planning Applications:

i. *New Applications:*

CC/BTE122/20/PRE: Erection of two buildings, one at Southview SEN and one at New Rickstones Academy.

Members raised concerns regarding the proposed on-site and on-street parking. Problems already exist at this location where the road is rather narrow and where local residents tend to park vehicles thereby making the roadway even narrower for the regular use of other vehicles including public service vehicles. This road is very well traversed by motorists from Braintree wishing to access the estates to the north of Witham.

20/01739/FUL: Redevelopment of site at Park Gate Farm.

Members raised the following concerns regarding this application:

This site is really only accessible by motorists; the site may be very close to a bus route but the nearest stop is 900m away along a country road with no footways, a 60mph speed limit and not really safe for cyclists either. Numerous accidents have occurred along this stretch of roadway and damage to fences and hedges give evidence of this.

This development will cause light pollution in the open countryside.

It is very questionable whether such a development is necessary as office blocks in the surrounding area have been turned into dwellings and local employment sites in Witham remain empty.

- ii. *Results:*
No planning results to report
- iii. *Appeals:*
Nothing to report.

2029. Ongoing Planning Issues:

- i. A12 to A120 widening.
There is a parish workshop with HE on 13th November 2020, and this will be via video conferencing.
- ii. BDC Local Plan.
Nothing further to report.
- iii. Bradwell Quarry.
Nothing further to report.
- iv. **IWMF.**
It would appear that, other than the planning conditions still to be met, the 'go-ahead' has been granted by ECC and the EA for the waste plant. However, one of the conditions still to be met is significant, it being the layout of the internal processing for the whole plant..
- v. Colemans Quarry.
Nothing further to report.
- vi. BDLHP.
Nothing further to report.

2030. Finance matters:

To agree accounts for payment.

With **full agreement** the following cheques were drawn:

1398	£200.00	Fred Smith	Christmas Tree donation 2020
1399	£146.70	S. Bills	Deposit re new website hosting
1400	£128.25	K. Bridge	Litter picking October '20
1401	£420.00	P. G. Groundcare Ltd.	Maintenance October '20
1402	£383.47	K. P. Taylor	Salary/expenses October '20

2031. Information exchange and items for the December agenda.

Nothing to be included.

2032. Dates of future meetings.

1st December 2020 and 5th January 2021, but both may be convened electronically.

Further items for the December agenda to the Clerk by 21st November at the latest.

Councillors are reminded that the Budget/Precept Meeting is scheduled for 16th December 2020 and will be held electronically.

2033. Closure.

Signed:

Date: 1st December 2020

CHAIRMAN

The Chairman could not sign the minutes at the December meeting due to the COVID-19 restrictions.