



# RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF RIVENHALL AND RIVENHALL  
END IN THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX

## 2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL - DETAILS

### ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

***FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED DIRECTIONS REGARDING  
PUBLIC GATHERINGS, RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL WILL NOT BE  
HOLDING THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR.  
RESIDENTS SHOULD CONTACT THE CLERK IN THE FIRST  
INSTANCE WITH ANY MATTERS THAT, IN THEIR OPINION,  
REQUIRE COUNCIL CONSIDERATION.***

### **Parish Council Meeting Dates 2021/2022**

#### 2021

4<sup>th</sup> May (Electronic)

*Face to face meetings will resume when the rules permit.*

1<sup>st</sup> June (HDH)

6<sup>th</sup> July (VH)      3<sup>rd</sup> August (VH)      7<sup>th</sup> September (HDH)

5<sup>th</sup> October (VH)      2<sup>nd</sup> November (VH)      7<sup>th</sup> December (HDH)

15<sup>th</sup> December (VH) Annual Precept Meeting

#### 2022

4<sup>th</sup> January (VH)      1<sup>st</sup> February (VH)      1<sup>st</sup> March (HDH)

5<sup>th</sup> April (VH)      3<sup>rd</sup> May (VH)

*VH = Rivenhall Village Hall*

*HDH = The Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End*

**RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR 2020/21.**

[Excluding VAT]

**INCOME**

<i>Precept from Braintree District Council</i>	<i>£12000</i>
<i>Street Cleaning Grant from Braintree District Council</i>	<i>£1952</i>
<i>Collection Fund Surplus Grant from B.D.C.</i>	<i>£153</i>
<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>£20</i>
<i>Insurance Claims</i>	<i>£483</i>
<i>Unpresented cheque written back</i>	<i>£10</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£14618</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
<i>Administration</i>	<i>£8305</i>	<i>£8666</i>
<i>Major Works</i>	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>
<i>Parks, Open Spaces &amp; Maintenance</i>	<i>£6758</i>	<i>£5481</i>
<i>Local Govt. Act Section 137 (Special payments)</i>	<i>£106</i>	<i>£116</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15169</b>	<b>£14263</b>

## **Chairman's report 2020/2021**

The past year has been exceptionally difficult for many people and Rivenhall Parish Council adds its voice to the thanks to the NHS and all those who have provided support through the pandemic.

Like many other local organisations, the Parish Council has not been able to meet in-person for the last year. At the time of writing it is expected that in-person meetings will resume in June.

Rivenhall Parish and neighbouring parishes such as Silver End and Cressing continue to see major planning applications on sites that have previously been rejected for development as part of the Local Plan process. Until Braintree District Council has a complete Local Plan more applications are likely. Currently the target date for completion of the Local Plan is late this year or early 2022.

Many residents have raised concerns about the impacts of increased development on local roads, with more HGVs, and specifically on Rectory Lane, which is a Quiet Lane, a Protected Lane and part of the John Ray Walk. Braintree District Council has undertaken a series of planning enforcement actions as a result of developers breaching planning consents with respect to the lane.

Highways England say they intend to hold a public consultation in June on their latest plans for the A12 widening and re-routing. Because of Covid rules restricting public meetings, and some legal matters, it has not been possible for Highways England to share their emerging plans to date, however Rivenhall Parish Council has continued to ask throughout the process for key points to be addressed, and these are set out further in this newsletter. The top priority, based on what residents have been asking for over many years, is to remove through traffic and HGVs from Rivenhall End.

As has been reported from many areas in the UK, littering seems to have got worse. Despite this, many local volunteers regularly litter-pick to help keep the parish looking good and we are very grateful to everyone for this. Recently the Parish Council litter picker decided to move onto other things. We thank her for all her hard work and welcome our new worker.

Braintree District Council has been carrying out some improvements to play equipment and also is building a new section of path behind the Village Hall to improve access.

Finally, thanks once again to the ever helpful staff at Oak Stores who have provided an important service to residents throughout the last year.

Cllr James Abbott  
Chairman, Rivenhall Parish Council

### **Highways Update**

During 2020, Highways England confirmed the 'Preferred Route' for the A12. The road is due to be widened to 6 lanes and will bypass Rivenhall End to the south, through the quarry, and re-join the existing line of the road near the Kelvedon Park Fire HQ. The current Witham North junction at Colemans Bridge will be removed and a completely new junction built. The Kelvedon South A12 junction will be removed with only local access provided to and from Kelvedon.

A key issue for Rivenhall is how local access arrangements will change. Highways England has said it intends to consult in June – hopefully in-person – on its proposals ahead of the formal planning process beginning.

Local parish councils including Rivenhall, Little Braxted, Great Braxted and Witham have been asked for their views. Rivenhall Parish Council has asked for a number of key points to be considered, including removing through traffic and HGVs from Rivenhall End, re-providing bus stops on the “old” A12 that will be de-trunked and improved facilities for cyclists and walkers.

The target date for starting work on the new A12 is late 2023. Highways England has recently confirmed it intends to complete the by-pass sections first, which are at Rivenhall End and north of Feering.

Via the Braintree Local Highways Panel, Essex County Council has installed new interactive electronic signs in Rivenhall to divert over-sized HGVs from going down Oak Road to the railway bridge. They have also stated that the conventional signs will be upgraded. Residents have been plagued for years by HGV drivers who ignore the signage that indicates both a weight and height restriction in Oak Road. When HGVs cannot get under the railway bridge it can take an hour or more for the largest vehicles to retreat back to the Oak junction, and some have caused damage as they try. The new signs at one end of Oak Road and the potential A12 related changes at the other should deliver a major improvement.

The Highways Panel is also considering a safety upgrade for the zebra crossing at the shop and funding has been secured for drawing up the necessary plans for a new section of public right of way along Church Road beyond the church.

All outstanding potholes and drainage issues have been reported to Essex County Council which has pledged to carry out remedial work on all of them. During several spells of wet winter weather there was significant local flooding on Oak Road and Rickstones Road due to blocked drains and pipes, which is being investigated.

### **Local Improvements**

Braintree District Council has made some improvements to the play equipment in the village and BDC has also built 2 new sections of path behind the Village Hall to connect the car parks and playing field area. These sections of new path will be wheelchair accessible. The path work was joint funded by BDC, Rivenhall Playing Fields Association and Rivenhall Parish Council.

Rivenhall Parish Council is working with the neighbouring parishes of Silver End and Cressing on a tree planting project to mark the forthcoming 130th anniversary of the official founding of parish councils.

Each parish council will plant a share of 130 trees on local sites. Rivenhall Parish Council is discussing with Essex County Council about planting on land off Rickstones Road.

Braintree District Council and Essex County Council have funded improvements at the Tarecroft Wood car park off Rickstones Road. These include new bins and gates. The gates will be shut at night when the work is complete.

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: (At date of publication)**

James Abbott: (01376) 584576

**COUNCILLORS:**

Bob Wright 07946388184

Jack Prime (01376) 514255

Melanie A'Lee 0777648972

Jean Cairns (01376) 520730

Roslyn Elliott 07545301839

Bob Turner (01376)513659

**PARISH CLERK:**

Mr. Keith P. Taylor

23 Mersey Road, Witham, CM8 1LL

Tel: (01376) 516975

Email: keithtaylor1805@gmail.com

Website: [www.rivenhallparishcouncil.net](http://www.rivenhallparishcouncil.net)