

RETTENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 11th February 2020 at Rettendon Memorial Hall, Main Road, Rettendon, at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mark Fleming (Chairman)
Cllr Sandie Cottee
Cllr Hazel Dale Evans
Cllr Denise Fleming
Cllr Roy Hart
Cllr James Knight
Cllr David Phillips
Cllr Ray Ride
Cllr Barbara Wright

The Clerk

There were 7 members of the public present.

175-19/20 To Receive Apologies and to approve Reasons for Absence

There were no apologies to receive.

176-19/20 Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

Cllr Ride declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 179-19/20.

Cllr Wright declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 179-19/20.

Cllr Dale Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 179-19/20.

177-19/20 Public Forum – strictly 5 minutes only per speaker

Mr Andrews, Deputy Head of Rettendon Primary School, referred to Item 179-19/20 and said he had seen the queries raised when this application had been discussed at the January Council meeting.

He said the opportunity had been made available to use the land. He said the play area would not be swings and slides but an educational facility that could be used by other schools. He said research had shown the benefit to children of outdoor learning skills and Forest Schools.

He said budgets had been reduced and the effective spend per pupil had diminished. He said it was envisaged the facility would be used by other schools for a fee, bringing benefit to the pupils of Rettendon.

Ward Councillor Clark referred to Item 179-19/20 and said that this application had been discussed at the January meeting and the response

Signed _____
Councillor M. Fleming, Chairman

voted on. He said the response was not on the City Council website and no minutes of the meeting was available.

The Chairman said following an irregularity in the way the matter had been handled which might open the decision to challenge. He said he had spoken to the Clerk who had spoken to the Monitoring Officer and that following this it had been decided to add the application to this agenda.

Ward Councillor Clark asked for clarification about the irregularity.

The Chairman said a photograph had been shown to some councillors immediately prior to the meeting. He said the view had been taken that this photograph could have influenced councillors' decisions.

Ward Councillor Clark said he believed there was a procedure to rescind decisions taken at previous meetings.

The Clerk said that the wording of the agenda item meant that no rescindment was necessary.

A resident referred to Item 179-19/20 and said he had concerns about the change of the usage of the land. He said he was concerned that this was a step towards development. He said it was not the easiest site to access. He asked the Parish Council to take into account the change of usage in considering this application.

A resident referred to item 179-19/20 and said a car had crashed through the fence adjacent to the site of the application. He said police helicopters had been looking at the area. He said he was concerned about fumes from the adjacent road. He said the site was within a conservation area. He said farm animals were kept in a neighbouring field. He asked why the Parish Council had cancelled the purchase of land intended for housing which would have included a play area. He said he believed this was a step towards making this land brown belt prior to residential development.

A resident referred to Item 179-19/20 and said he was concerned about pollution from the A130, the health and safety aspect and access. He said he believed this was turning Green Belt into brown belt land.

A resident referred to Item 178-19/20 and asked if the application site was within the parish.

He referred to Item 179-19/20 and asked for confirmation that the site was on Green Belt land.

The Chairman confirmed that the application site for 20/00062/FUL was within the parish and that the application site for 19/02094/FUL was Green Belt.

Cllr Hart referred to the cancellation of the land purchase by the Parish Council following the 2015 election.

He said he was concerned that use of land had changed under various applications.

He said the Bell Fields were available as an alternative site.

The Chairman said the issues to which Cllr Hart referred were not on the agenda.

Cllr Hart said Cllr Ride and Cllr Mark Fleming had a known connection to the owner of the land for the application 19/02094/FUL.

The Chairman said this input was not pertinent to discussion of the application.

178-19/20 To agree the response to the following planning applications (all applications are available to view at www.chelmsford.gov.uk)

20/00062/FUL – Site at Chelsfield Tileworks Lane Rettendon Chelmsford Essex – Demolish existing dwelling and some ancillary outbuildings. Construction of three residential dwellings. Additional associated landscaping works.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council’s response was as follows:

“The Council notes this application is on Green Belt land. The Council is concerned about future over-development.”

It was also **agreed** to ask the ward councillors to call this application in for discussion at the City Council’s Planning Committee.

Cllr Ride had declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following Item and left the room.

179-19/20 To consider and possibly agree a further response to Chelmsford City Council on the following application:

19/02094/FUL - Land North West Of Hill View Farm South Hanningfield Road Rettendon Common Chelmsford - Creation of outdoor play area with hardstanding to accommodate 10 cars and 1 larger minibus vehicle. Installation of a portacabin and toilet facilities.

It was **agreed** that the Council would not support this application due to the following concerns:

- safe access to the application site;
- provision of services;
- the length of licence for use of the site;
- pollution due to proximity to the A130;

Signed _____
Councillor M. Fleming, Chairman

- safety of users due to proximity to the A130.

The Council was also concerned about the potential use of the site given the use of the phrase “not considering residential use at this time”, and the fact the site was on Green Belt land.

It was also **agreed** to ask Chelmsford City Councillors to consider calling in this application.

Cllr Ride rejoined the meeting.

180-19/20 To consider and possibly agree a response to the Consultation on the Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy Draft Supplementary Planning Document from Chelmsford City Council

Cllr Hart gave the Council information on the Draft Document.

The Council **agreed** that the proposed tariff was an equitable way of raising money for the mitigation measures.

Cllr Hart abstained from the vote.

181-19/20 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 25th February 2020, 7.30pm at the Rettendon Memorial Hall, Main Road, Rettendon, CM3 8DP

The meeting closed at 8.42pm.