

RETTENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at the Rettendon Memorial Hall, Main Road, Rettendon, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Mark Fleming (Chairman)
Cllr Tom Chapman
Cllr Roy Hart
Cllr Glenys Jones
Cllr Lance Millane

The Clerk

There were 15 members of the public present.

Cllr Cheater attended the meeting but sat in the public gallery and took no part in any discussion or vote.

164-18/19 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs D Fleming and Ride.

165-18/19 Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

Cllr Hart said he had two comments to make on Items 172-18/19 and 175-18/19.

166-18/19 Public Forum – strictly 5 minutes only per speaker

A resident asked for the response to questions he had raised at a previous meeting.

The Chair said the written response was available for the resident.

A resident asked if Cllr Chapman still held the office of Parish Councillor, having not attended a Council meeting for more than six months. The resident said the Monitoring Officer at Chelmsford City Council had given advice in the matter.

The Clerk said she would discuss the matter with the Monitoring Officer and report back to the Council.

A resident asked why the PA system purchased by the Parish Council was not being used.

The Chairman said the Village Hall's PA system was being used.

A resident asked whether the Sonters Down Working Group had met.

Cllr Jones confirmed that it had not.

Signed _____
Councillor M. Fleming, Chairman

A resident asked if the Clerk had brought the minutes as requested at the previous meeting.

The Clerk said she had the minutes available.

The resident asked who held the minutes of meetings held in between full Council meetings.

The Clerk said there were no meetings held in between Council meetings, other than HR Committee meetings, and these minutes were held by the Clerk.

167-18/19 To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th December 2018.

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th December 2018.

168-18/19 To receive the Essex County Councillor and Ward Councillors' reports.

Cllr Millane said he had no report, but that he would like to wish Cllr Ride all the best for his recovery.

The Chairman said the whole Council added their best wishes.

169-18/19 To receive the Clerk's report

There was no report.

170-18/19 Finance

To agree to authorise invoices for payment, receive copy Bank statements and details of expenditure to date.

Cllr Chapman said that until the position with regard to his status as a Councillor was resolved, he would take no further part in the meeting and would not vote on this or any other item on the agenda.

Payee	Reason for Payment	Amount
Mrs K Kane	January salary/expenses	£678.28
Tees Law	Legal Costs	£3,180.00
Rettendon Parish Hall	Meetings – Invoice 0411	£254.00
W & H (Romac) Ltd	Streetlighting repair	£205.35
Cllr M Fleming	Expenses – Postage	£7.30
Skippers Ground Maintenance	Sonters Down – Invoice S1454	£1,050.00
Total		£5,374.93

Signed _____
Councillor M. Fleming, Chairman

It was **agreed unanimously** to authorise invoices for payment, and copies of bank statements and details of expenditure to date were received.

171-18/19 To agree the response to the following planning applications (all applications are available to view at www.chelmsford.gov.uk)

18/01870/FUL – Newbarn, Hawk Hill, Rettendon, Essex – Proposed change of use of the first floor to residential to create 1 x 2 bed flat including single storey infill extension

18/00207/FUL – Site at 2 Mill Hill Cottages, Chalk Street, Rettendon, Chelmsford, Essex – Conversion and extension of existing outbuilding to create an annex

It was **agreed** to support both applications.

Cllr Chapman did not vote.

172-18/19 To agree in principle to pay the costs of mediation between the Parish Council and the purported trustees of the Bell Fields Charities

The Chair set out the circumstances that had led to the offer of mediation to the purported trustees of the Bell Fields charities.

The Clerk said she had done some research on the procedures and costs involved in mediation.

Cllr Hart said he had suggested the Vicar as mediator but that the Parish Council had advised a mediator experienced in charity law was required. He said the Charity Commission had been asked to recommend mediators.

The Clerk said she had been advised that both parties would need to accept any proposed mediator. She said the mediator that she had approached for advice had no connection with the Parish Council's solicitors.

The Chairman said that the claim form for the action in the High Court had been received. He said progress in the matter needed to be made.

Cllr Hart said an independent mediator was required, and questioned why a Colchester firm had been approached.

The Clerk said she had approached a firm in Colchester who had done work for a charity of which she was a trustee. She said she had approached them purely for information, so that the Council would have some idea of procedures and costs. She said she would like to make it clear she had not asked either Tees nor any Councillor for a recommendation, so that any advice was completely unconnected to any of the interested parties.

Cllr Hart said he felt the matter was being rushed because of upcoming elections.

It was **agreed** in principle to pay the costs of mediation between the Parish Council and the purported trustees of the Bell Fields Charities

Proposed: Cllr Millane Seconded: Cllr Jones (4 For; 1 Abstention)

Cllr Chapman did not take part in the vote.

Cllr Jones left the meeting to sit with members of the public.

173-18/19 To agree to accept the quotation from Richard Fordham Tree Surgeons to carry out the proposed work on the Rettendon Oak

The quotation had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Hart asked if it would be possible to delay the work and ask a local trader to have a look, as the work appeared extensive and expensive.

The Chairman said this firm had done the original survey and the work was considered necessary both for the health and well-being of the tree, and to prevent possible injury to the public or damage to property. It was therefore felt this firm should be asked to carry out the work as soon as possible.

The Clerk confirmed that planning permission for the work had been granted by Chelmsford City Council.

Cllr Jones rejoined the meeting.

It was **agreed** to accept the quotation from Richard Fordham Tree Surgeons to carry out the proposed work on the Rettendon Oak.

Proposed: Cllr Millane Seconded: Cllr Copsey (4 For; 1 Against)

Cllr Chapman took no part in the vote.

174-18/19 To agree to replace the dog bin at the end of Old Bell Lane

It was **agreed** to replace the dog bin at the end of Old Bell Lane at a cost of £270.00.

Proposed: Cllr Millane Seconded: Cllr Fleming (4 For; 1 Against)

Cllr Chapman took no part in the vote.

175-18/19 Highways and Footpaths – to note Essex Highways Notices and receive reports from Councillors.

Cllr Copsey referred to the very dangerous condition of South View Road.

Cllr Millane said Cllr Ride had said he would discuss this with Essex County Council when possible.

Cllr Hart referred to the new gateways and said there should be an enquiry into the costings. He said it had subsequently been said that the Parish Council did not have to go through Ringway Jacobs.

He referred to the post by the school and said this should be straightened.

176-18/19 Street Lighting

Cllr Jones said the lights on East Hanningfield Road were still out although she was aware they had been reported to ECC.

The Council asked the Clerk to report the light in the alleyway down by the school.

177-18/19 Reports from Councillors on Council activities undertaken since the meeting held on 18th December 2018.

Cllr Hart referred to a public enquiry into Goss's Farm.

He said Planning Enforcement would be approached regarding a building in Bypass Nurseries in Battlesbridge.

178-18/19 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 26th February 2019, 7.30pm at the Rettendon Memorial Hall, Main Road, Rettendon. CM3 8DP