

RETTENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 25th 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 21 members of the public present.

182-19/20 To Receive Apologies and to approve Reasons for Absence

No apologies had been received.

To

183-19/20 Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

Cllr Knight referred to Item 195-19/20 and said he was a resident of Hayes Country Park. He said the owners of the site would not provide security other than a couple of CCTV cameras. He said as a resident he was declaring a non-pecuniary interest.

Cllr Phillips referred to Item 195-19/20 and said he was also a resident of Hayes Country Park. He said he was declaring a non-pecuniary interest in this Item.

184-19/20 Guest Speakers – S-type Security

Mr Stephen Appleby of S-Type Security gave an outline of the service provided by the firm and answered questions from residents.

The Chairman thanked S-Type Security for attending the meeting.

185-19/20 Public Forum – strictly 5 minutes only per speaker

A resident referred to the mediation session due to take place on Friday 28th February 2020 and asked if it was true that only 3 Councillors would be attending.

The Chairman said he would cover this under the relevant agenda item.

Signed _____
Councillor M. Fleming, Chairman

The resident said the other party in the Bell Fields dispute had been trying to arrange a meeting with the Council since November 2019 but the Parish Council Chairman had blocked this.

The Chairman said the Council had agreed to proceed with mediation. He said without a lawfully convened meeting the Council could not agree to accept any settlement reached at the mediation. He said it was likely any proposed settlement would be sent to Tees for their advice, then taken to a Council meeting for discussion in an open forum and a vote.

The resident asked why this was anything to do with Tees.

The Chairman said this was a legal dispute and it was possible that a settlement might be agreed which was not compliant with the law. He said all parties had a positive attitude about the mediation and would like to avoid the expense of court if possible.

Cllr Hart said he had received a response from the mediator which he would bring up at the appropriate time.

A resident referred to Item 192-19/20 and said the application to build on land at the back of Bell Lane was almost identical to the previous application. He said the application presented a danger to Old Bell Lane and the bridleway, which was an unmade track used by children. He referred to the loss of privacy for existing dwellings. He said the building was outside the permitted development for Rettendon and he asked the Parish Council to object to the application.

A resident referred to Item 195-19/20 and said they had spoken to many residents who had expressed support for the security firm. He said he felt the money was well-spent and the service should be expanded.

A resident referred to the problem of flooding in Farm Crescent. He said the footpath from the Turnpike to Farm Crescent was difficult to navigate, with the surface breaking up and flooding. He said he was looking for the owner of a piece of land where the trees had grown into a dangerous state.

A resident expressed their thanks to S-Type Security and said they would also support expansion of the service.

A resident said he understood the Council had agreed to fund a police officer and asked what was happening.

The Chairman said the position had been advertised but that as yet no one had come forward for the position.

A resident said that now the Parish Council had handed responsibility for Sonters Down back to Chelmsford City Council, how did they expect to

maintain the Bell Fields. He said a personal vendetta was being pursued against Cllr Hart and asked the Council to stop wasting money.

The Chairman clarified the position on Sonters Down.

He said the Council had received unambiguous legal advice regarding its position on the Bell Fields. He said the Council was obliged to follow through and assert its right as trustee, and this was the basis on which the Council was proceeding with the matter.

He referred to the proposed mediation session and said if the dispute could not be resolved it would proceed to court.

He said Birkett Long had advised the Council on a different matter, that they had not had all the relevant documentation and that the person who had dealt with the query had not been a charity specialist. He said the Council now had an Opinion from a barrister who was a specialist in charity law.

Mr Appleby said Rawreth had asked for a PCSO which had proved more expensive and who would have been provided only with a bicycle as transport. He said many Councils were now looking to employ private security firms due to police cuts.

A resident said he had concerns regarding private security. He said he understood the police were not keen on these firms.

Mr Appleby said he believed residents would rather pay a little more for something rather than nothing.

The resident said if the money was available for S-Type why not for the PCSO?

Mr Appleby said an effective use of money would lead to reduced crime.

186-19/20 To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2020 as a true record for signature by the Chairman

With the amendments below, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2020 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Under 164-19/20 the total payments figure was amended to £1,856.52.

Under 171-19/20 the final sentence was amended to "Cllr Dale-Evans referred to the state of the road surface along Main Road opposite Hoe Lane."

Cllr Dale Evans referred to the query about the Curry Hill bridge. She said the bridge had been built to link to a footpath but the footpath had never materialised.

187-19/20 To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2020 as a true record for signature by the Chairman

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 202 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

188-19/20 To receive the Essex County Councillor and Ward Councillors' reports.

Ward Councillor Paul Clark referred to police operations in Runwell and said speeding traffic was being monitored through Rettendon and Runwell.

He said if anyone was aware of land where trees could be planted to contact the Parks department at Chelmsford City Council.

He said the Army and Navy Flyover was being taken down and work would be completed within the next five weeks.

189-19/20 To receive a report from the Sonters Down Working Group

Cllr Phillips said the Group was waiting to hear from Chelmsford City Council regarding their first cut so that the final cut with Skippers could be coordinated.

190-19/20 To receive a report from the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Cottee said the Rettendon Oak was due to be inspected that week.

She said bookings continued including a quiz night and the Rettendon Horticultural Society Spring Show.

She said a coffee morning and evening entertainment was planned as a celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

She said general maintenance was continuing and the hole in the car park had been repaired.

She said a cinema night would be trialled in a quarterly basis.

The Chairman asked when the Village Hall's Annual General Meeting would take place.

Cllr Cottee said this would be arranged at the April committee meeting.

191-19/20 Finance

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

Invoices were **agreed** as listed below, copies of bank statements and details of expenditure to date were received.

Payee	Reason for Payment	Amount
Staff costs	December salary/expenses	£716.31
EALC	Training – Cllr Phillips	£65.00
S-Type Security	Security Patrols	£630.00
Cllr D Fleming	Expenses – postage	£13.00
Cllr B Wright	Expenses – printing	£71.46
Rettendon Parish Hall	Meetings/First Aid course	£193.00
W & H Romac Ltd	Streetlight repair	£131.49
Barclays Bank	Commission charge Dec/Jan	£4.00
EALC	Training – Cllr Phillips	£13.00
Cllr Cottee	Expenses – bus shelter cleaning	£19.26
Total		£1,869.52

192-19/20 To agree the response to planning applications notified to the Parish Council as statutory consultee since the meeting held on 28th January 2020

20/00172/FUL - 34 East Hanningfield Road Rettendon Chelmsford Essex - Single storey front and rear extensions, garage conversion and elevational refurbishment.

It was **agreed** to support this application.

20/00089/FUL - Land North East Of 17 Old Bell Lane Rettendon Chelmsford - Erection of four semidetached two storey dwellings with private drive access and associated covered and open car parking.

It was **agreed** to object to this application on the following grounds:

- concern over the adequacy of the access;
- application site outside Defined Settlement Boundary;
- over-development of the site;
- concern over access for emergency vehicles.

20/00230/FUL - Rawlings Barn Rawlings Farm Buildings Main Road Rettendon Common Chelmsford Essex CM3 8DY.

It was **agreed** to support this application. It was noted that the change of use to offices could provide additional employment in the village.

Signed _____
Councillor M. Fleming, Chairman

193-19/20 To receive an update on mediation between the two parties in the Bell Fields dispute

The Chairman explained the background to the dispute.

He said a second mediation session was planned for Friday 28th February 2020, for which the Council was prepared.

He said he, Cllr Cottee and Cllr Phillips would be attending the session as the Parish Council representatives.

194-19/20 To consider and possibly agree a policy for the nomination and appointment of trustees to the Richard Cannon charity

The Chairman explained the background to the need for this policy.

He said nominations would be considered at a Council meeting with press and public excluded due to the personal nature of the information to be discussed.

Cllr Hart asked who would be on the selection committee.

The Chairman said the decision would be made by the full Council.

Cllr Wright asked when the four-year term for Council appointed trustees had elapsed.

The Chairman said at the Annual Meeting of the Council held in 2014 Cllr Hart and Mr Ron Fallows had been appointed. He said it therefore appeared that the last valid appointments had expired in 2018.

Cllr Hart asked why this was being brought up now.

The Chairman said he had been seeking information on the charity from Cllr Hart since July 2016. He said he had received relevant information from Mr Fallows in 2019.

Cllr Knight referred to the proposed procedure for appointment and said he was concerned this would delay matters.

The Clerk confirmed that the entire procedure for appointment of both trustees would take place under one agenda item.

The Chairman invited the Reverend Canon Richard Jordan to contribute to the discussion.

Reverend Jordan said the trust had very broad criteria for the relief of anyone in hardship. He said it was a privilege to have this money.

He said the trust was looking for applicants with:

- a basic understanding and compassion towards hardship;
- full understanding of the need for confidentiality;

He said the trust had been set up very carefully in 1987 but that in his opinion the Constitution was out-of-date. He said therefore anyone with experience in changing charity constitutions would be welcomed, as would those with experience in minute-taking and accounts.

The Chairman thanked Reverend Jordan for attending the meeting and for the information.

It was **agreed** that trustees would be appointed by the Parish Council according to the procedure laid out in the document circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

195-19/20 To agree to renew RPC's contract with S-Type for 12 months from the date of expiry, for either:

- a) 2 hours of patrol time each week for a total annual fee of £3,640, or
b) 3 hours of patrol time each week for a total annual fee of £5,460.**

It was **agreed** to renew the Parish Council's contract with S-Type Security for 12 months from the date of expiry of the current contract for 3 hours of patrol time each week for a total annual fee of £5,460.

196-19/20 To agree to form a working group comprising members of the Parish Council representing the main residential areas in the parish to liaise with S-Type regarding logistics and reporting

It was **agreed** to form a working group comprising members of the Parish Council representing the main residential areas in the parish to liaise with S-Type regarding logistics and reporting.

197-19/20 Highways and Footpaths – to note Essex Highways Notices and receive reports from Councillors.

Cllr Dale Evans reported with the footpath opposite Hoe Lane, the hole near Le Benaix, and potholes and the lighting in East Hanningfield Road.

She said she had received confirmation that the hole near Le Benaix would be dealt with by Essex Highways.

Cllr Cottee said she would report in due course on the width restriction from the turnpike.

Cllr D Fleming said she had been involved with the footpath facing the car park on Woodham Road. She said she had had correspondence with ECC Councillor Kevin Bentley regarding the path from the turnpike to the car

wash. She said resurfacing had taken place in South View Road the previous week and should be completed by Friday 28th February 2020.

Cllr Phillips said he was campaigning on Hayes Country Park for the Burnham Road to be reduced to a speed limit of 40mph plus a pavement.

Cllr Knight said he had attended a workshop on a new development of between 1000-1500 new homes. He said this would have a funnel effect of additional traffic onto Burnham Road. He said the view was the junctions were causing delay rather than the amount of traffic. He said solutions to this would include community transport, walking and cycling. He said stakeholders had attended including the developers and architects. He said Essex Highways would test traffic flow through capacity models and had taken on board concerns. He said a report would be submitted to Chelmsford City Council and this would be followed by consultation.

198-19/20 Street Lighting

Cllr D Fleming referred to the light in Battlesbridge opposite the church and said this had been repaired.

She said she had written to Cllr Kevin Bentley about the inoperative lights in East Hanningfield Road.

The Clerk said she would check the status of the light in Church Close.

The Chairman asked councillors to vote on suspending Standing Order 3(x). It was **agreed** to suspend this Standing Order for the duration of the meeting.

199-19/20 Reports from Councillors on Council activities since the last meeting

Cllr D Fleming said efforts to recruit a PCSO were ongoing and that a notice had gone out on Facebook.

Cllr Hart said he had spent two nights floodwatching in Battlesbridge and that litterpicks had taken place.

Cllr Cottee said three meetings would be held about the Village Survey, at Hayes, the Memorial Hall and in Battlesbridge. She said residents could come along and share ideas.

Cllr Wright said following these meetings information would be brought back to full Council for any necessary decision.

200-19/20 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 31st March 2020, 7.30pm at the Rettendon Memorial Hall, Main Road, Rettendon, CM3 8DP