

RETTENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 27th June 2017 at the Rettendon Memorial Hall, Main Road, Rettendon CM3 8DP at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Mark Fleming (Chair)

Cllr Chris Cheater

Cllr Denise Fleming

Cllr Glenys Jones

Cllr Roy Hart

Cllr Lance Millane

Cllr Ray Ride

The Clerk

There were 16 members of the public present.

73-17/18 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Chapman.

74-17/18 Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

Cllr Hart declared an interest in Items 83-17/18 and 84-17/18 as a trustee of the Bell Fields charities.

75-17/18 Public Forum – strictly 5 minutes only per speaker

A resident said he hoped that what he had said at the Annual Parish Meeting regarding moving forward would be remembered. He said he would like some clarification on planning issues. He referred to Item 83-17/18 and asked why a solicitor specialising in litigation had been proposed instead of one specialising in charity law.

The Chairman said that the proposed solicitor was a Parish Councillor which would be of assistance. He said he had issued a request for assistance through the EALC newsletter and Mr Perry had responded.

The resident asked if the play equipment on Sonters Down was to be moved.

The Chairman said there was no move planned.

The resident referred to monies allocated for the playing fields and the village hall and asked if money could be spent on hedges and cyclepaths.

A resident asked who owned the Bell Fields.

The Chairman said the Land Registry entry lists the Parish Council care of Ron Fallows as the owner.

The resident asked who was the custodian.

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

The Chairman said there was no custodian as the charities were set up differently to the Village Hall. He said the Parish Council was the freeholder. He said councillors were trying to sort the position out but it was time-consuming.

The resident said that the footpath at the top of Meadow Road was impassable.

The Clerk said she was happy to write to residents asking them to look at the hedges if someone could provide the exact location.

A resident said he could not understand why the Bell Fields could not just be left.

The Chairman said the Council was advocating two sets of trustees to run the two charities. He said the Council was not the custodian trustee nor the sole trustee. He said the Parish Council in the past had appointed the trustees.

A resident asked if the Parish Council recognised the current trustees.

The Chairman said the Council had appointed trustees in 2016. He said there was a list of trustees on the Charity Commission website. He said there was a dispute between the Council and the listed trustees.

A resident asked why the Council was against football on the Bell Fields.

The Chairman said the issue was clarifying the structure and procedures of the charities.

A resident asked if the Council was aware that the football team had another field in the parish.

The Chairman thanked the resident for this information.

A resident referred to the new contractors maintaining the Sonters Down Play Area. He said rubbish was being mown over.

The Chairman said the Council had control over the situation and the specification could be increased if it was felt to be necessary.

CLlr Hart asked if questions raised by residents during this part of the meeting would be addressed.

The Clerk said if a specific question was asked that required an answer it would be addressed.

CLlr Hart said the 11A service on a Sunday had been cancelled. He suggested a subsidised taxi service could be offered. He said it was a shame that people were isolated when they had paid their council tax.

A resident said there was a community taxi service and she would provide details.

76-17/18 To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2017.

Signed _____
CLlr Mark Fleming, Chairman

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2017 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Millane

Seconded: Cllr Jones

(Unanimous)

77-17/18 Update on progress of resolutions made at previous meetings

The Clerk said the new website was now available for view.

She said the two extra grass cuts for 2017 had been arranged with Chelmsford City Council.

She said the Horticultural Society had sent a letter of thanks for the donation of refreshments from the Council left over from the Annual Parish Meeting.

78-17/18 Chairman's Report

The Chairman said he had no further comments.

79-17/18 Clerk's Report

The Clerk said that since the last meeting she had been working mainly on the new website and on finances.

80-17/18 To receive the Essex County Councillor and Ward Councillors' reports.

Cllr Millane said the issue of the blue mini discussed at the last meeting had been resolved. He said officers would continue to monitor the problem regarding parked vans.

Cllr Cheater thanked Cllr Millane for this information.

Cllr Ride said he had been notified that six further properties on the St Luke's development would be advertised for rent and would be exclusively reserved for applications from Runwell and Rettendon.

Cllr Ride said he had held a surgery on Saturday morning and the bus service had been discussed. He said he had made representations and if Cllr Hart received any feedback it would be helpful to know.

He said anti-flooding measures in East Hanningfield Road had been investigated. He said ECC had quoted for a topographical survey. He said the Parish Council would consider action.

He said residents were concerned about traffic on boot sale days. He said Essex Highways would be asked to look at this.

81-17/18 Finance

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

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

It was **agreed** to authorise invoices for payment, receive copy Bank statements and details of expenditure to date.

Proposed: Cllr Millane

Seconded: Cllr D Fleming

Payee	Reason for Payment	Amount
Katherine Kane	June salary	£356.15
HMRC	PAYE – June	£89.00
Battlesbridge Free Church	Donation	£750.00
All Saints Church	Donation	£750.00
Rettendon Primary School	Donation	£1,200.00
Total		£3,145.15

82-17/18 To agree the response to the following planning applications (all applications are available to view at www.chelmsford.gov.uk)

17/00946/FUL – Chestnuts, South Hanningfield Road, Rettendon, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 8HE – Single storey rear extension

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

To note response provided to Chelmsford City Council for the following application:

17/00760/FUL - 15 Old Bell Lane Rettendon Common Chelmsford Essex CM3 8EH - Proposed single storey front extension and new front porch canopy. First floor side extension and replacement of the existing first floor. Single storey rear extension incorporating cellar. – **No objection**

The response to CCC for this application was **noted**.

83-17/18 To agree to engage David Perry of Tees Law of Chelmsford to provide the Parish Council with guidance in the matter of the Bell Field Charities

It was **agreed** to engage David Perry of Tees Law of Chelmsford to provide the Parish Council with guidance in the matter of the Bell Field Charities

Proposed: Cllr Ride

Seconded: Cllr Millane

(5 For; 1 Abstention; 1 Against)

84-17/18 To discuss any reservations the Parish Council has regarding the referendum which voted in favour of building a pavilion on the Upper Bell Field, for which plans were passed and monies set aside in the precept.

This Item was deferred.

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

85-17/18 To discuss the use of the Parish Council's financial reserves

Cllr Cheater said that money was raised through the precept for the Village Hall and the Bell Fields. He asked what the Parish Council was doing with these reserves. He said if the money was not to be spent, why was it being collected.

Cllr Ride said this was not an issue in terms of the precept. He said in both cases there were still major issues to be resolved. He said there was no reason not to collect money for either the Hall or the Bell Fields as there was still major work that might need to be done in both cases.

He said he would seek a ruling from the director of finance in Chelmsford.

The Chairman said the Council had stopped paying for the insurance for the Village Hall because of a lack of transparency from the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Jones said a working party had worked on finance in previous years.

The Clerk said setting up a Working Party to look at Finance would be added to the agenda for July.

86-17/18 To discuss any issues arising from maintenance of the Sonters Down Play Area

Cllr Ride said the Play Area was inspected weekly. He said loose grass had been left at first as the grass had been long. He suggested we could ask for extra cuts to clear the loose grass.

Cllr Hart asked if there was a break clause if the contractors were unsatisfactory.

The Clerk said that Chelmsford had advised that as with any other contractor, if the Council were not satisfied they could end the contract and seek alternatives.

87-17/18 Highways and Footpaths – to note Essex Highways Notices and receive reports from Councillors.

Cllr Jones said that the obelisk she had mentioned at the previous meeting had been repaired but that the obelisk at the other end of the road had now been knocked down.

She said the Meadow Road footpath had now been sorted out.

She said the derelict telephone kiosk was on the list for removal but this might still take a while.

Cllr Hart said a three week experiment with traffic lights on the bridge at Battlesbridge would be useful. He said there was no grass cutting in Battlesbridge and pavements had weeds. He said he had been seeking a 20mph speed limit in Maltings Road without success.

Cllr Cheater said this was something Cllr Ian Grundy could address.

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

88-17/18 Street Lighting

There were no issues.

89-17/18 Items from Councillors

Cllr Ride – Finance and Planning

Cllr Hart said the Parish Council could consider contributing to replacements for the cancelled bus service.

The Chairman said this could be taken forward with more information.

90-17/18 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – 25th July 2017, 7.30pm at the Rettendon Memorial Hall, Main Road, Rettendon, CM3 8DP

The meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman