

RETTENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 27th March 2018 at the Rettendon Memorial Hall, Main Road, Rettendon, CM3 8DP at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Mark Fleming (Chair)
 Cllr Thomas Chapman
 Cllr D Fleming
 Cllr Roy Hart
 Cllr Glenys Jones
 Cllr Lance Millane
 Cllr Ray Ride

The Clerk

There were 26 members of the public present.

248-17/18 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Cheater.

Cllr Chapman said he would like to give notice he would propose amendments to Items 261, 262 and 268 on this agenda.

249-17/18 Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

Cllr Ride declared a non-pecuniary interest in Items 263 and 264 as a Governor of Rettendon Primary School.

250-17/18 Public Forum – strictly 5 minutes only per speaker

A resident referred to the minutes of the previous meeting, specifically Item 246, and asked about their accuracy. The Chairman asked the Clerk to provide a written response.

A resident thanked the Clerk for collating the minutes of the Parish Council. He asked about a letter recently sent to residents regarding the Bell Fields. The Chairman said the Clerk would provide a written response.

A resident raised various issues around the parish, including the footpath sign at the bottom of Meadow Road, the fence along Main Road, the chicanes, the village sign, the speed limit signs into Meadow Road, the road surface in South View Road, the kerbstones in Meadow Road and the speed sign on Rettendon Hill. He said it was good to see football being played on the Bell Fields on Sunday.

A resident referred to Item 265-17/18 and asked if there were prices for this. The Chairman said the Clerk would provide a written response.

Signed _____
 Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

A resident referred to Item 260-17/18. He said the residents of Hayes had requested the support of the Council as residents of the parish. He said the community centre was still under threat although this had lessened, and thanked the Council for their support.

He referred to Item 266-17/18 and said this would need evidence of sustained support from residents.

A resident referred to Item 261-17/18 and said the Parish Council had no right to control content. He asked which part of Cllr Hart's comments in the February edition of the newsletter had been racist or sexist. The Chairman said the Clerk would provide a written response.

251-17/18 To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th March 2018.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th March 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Chapman Seconded: Cllr Millane (Unanimous)

252-17/18 To receive the Essex County Councillor and Ward Councillors' reports.

Cllr Ride said he and Cllr Millane had been dealing with a number of issues within the parish since the last meeting including major planning enforcement action, one of which was on tonight's agenda.

253-17/18 To receive the Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting she had been concentrating on the end of year accounts.

254-17/18 Finance

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

It was agreed to authorise invoices for payment and to receive details of expenditure to date.

Payee	Reason for Payment	Amount
Katherine Kane	March 2018 salary/expenses	£630.56
Rettendon Village Hall	Meeting	£20.00
Battlesbridge Free Church Hall	Meeting	£10.00
HMRC	Quarter 4 PAYE	£497.88
Total		£1,158.44

Proposed: Cllr Jones

Seconded: Cllr D Fleming

(Unanimous)

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

The Chairman read from Standing Orders regarding rules for conduct at meetings. He asked residents to be aware of these rules.

255-17/18 To agree the response to the following planning applications (all applications are available to view at www.chelmsford.gov.uk)

18/00353/FUL - Land At Runwell Hall Farm Hoe Lane Rettendon Chelmsford Essex - Change of use of land for siting of agricultural workers caravan and ancillary utilities container outside of period occupied by seasonal agricultural workers (October to March) - **Object**

18/00356/FUL - Land At Runwell Hall Farm Hoe Lane Rettendon Chelmsford Essex - Construction of farm workshop, urea mixing plant, container storage and associated yard area used for agricultural purposes - **Object**

18/00376/FUL - Barn At Koenigsfeld Farm Hoe Lane Rettendon Chelmsford Essex - Conversion of an existing building to a dwelling and groom's accommodation in association with the equestrian use and business and erection of stable block building – **No Objection**

18/00405/FUL - Toad Hall Chalk Street Rettendon Common Chelmsford Essex CM3 8DB - Construction of a single storey log cabin in rear garden - **Support**

18/00375/FUL - 4 The Old Nursery Rettendon Wickford Essex SS11 7HH - Removal of Existing Garages and Polytunnel to Construct New Dwelling - **Support**

18/00446/FUL - Planthome Ltd Woodham Road Battlesbridge Wickford Essex SS11 7QR - Variation of Condition 4 of the planning reference 14/01602/FUL (Redevelopment of Planthome Garden Centre to provide four new detached dwellings, detached garages and associated landscaping works.) to allow changes in size and reposition of the garage for Plot 4. - **Support**

18/00239/CUPAQ - Pondlands Farm Runwell Road Runwell Wickford Essex SS11 7QJ - Determination as to whether the prior approval of the local planning authority is required for the proposed change of use from agricultural buildings to three dwellinghouses (class C3) and for associated operational development - **No comment**

Proposed: Cllr D Fleming Seconded: Cllr Jones (Unanimous)

256-17/18 To agree to set up a Working Party to review the Parish Council's policies and to recommend any changes and additional policies to the Council

It was **agreed** to set up a Working Party to review the Parish Council's policies and to recommend any changes and additional policies to the Council.

Proposed: Cllr Chapman Seconded: Cllr M Fleming (Unanimous)

257-17/18 To consider the financial reserves held by the Parish Council and to agree any necessary earmarking of those reserves

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

After discussion of the amounts and potential expenditure the following were agreed for earmarking from unallocated reserves:

£20,000 Highways – South View Road and other highways issues

£20,000 New streetlights – potential sites Hawk Hill and Hayes

£5,000 Sonters Down

£30,000 Bell Fields – match-funding for issues arising including parking and park

£15,000 Flooding – potential work on Eats Hanningfield Road and Coal Hill

Proposed: Cllr Millane Seconded: Cllr D Fleming (6 For; 1 Abstention)

258-17/18 To receive a report from Cllr Ride on flooding issues within the parish

Cllr Ride reported on the following issues:

East Hanningfield Road – severe flooding due to a conduit being unable to cope with flow of water. It was suggested the Parish Council might fund with money from a grant following behind once the work was in the programme. He suggested investigating full costings to see whether the work could be done, followed by a grant application.

Coal Hill – water ran down the hill flooding property. He said he would bring a scheme back to the Council as soon as possible.

Cllr Hart reported flooding in Battlesbridge and said although some ditches had been cleared the problem was worse than ever.

Cllr Ride suggested regular maintenance of ditches.

Cllrs Ride and Hart said they would provide information for consideration for action.

259-17/18 To agree a date of either Tuesday May 8th or Tuesday May 15th 2018 for the Annual Parish Meeting and to discuss format of the evening.

It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 8th May 2018 and to ask local groups to contribute.

Proposed: Cllr D Fleming Seconded: Cllr Jones (Unanimous)

260-17/18 To receive an explanation for the PC support of the Hayes Country Park Community Centre

The explanation for the Parish Council's support of the Hayes Country Park Community Centre had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

261-17/18 To agree to continue to fund the Rettendon and Battlesbridge newsletter on condition a third party edits the newsletter prior to publication at the Parish Council's expense

An amendment to the motion was proposed and agreed as follows:

To agree to continue to fund the Rettendon and Battlesbridge newsletter on condition an independent third party edits the newsletter prior to publication at the Parish Council's expense

Proposed: Cllr Chapman Seconded: Cllr D Fleming (Unanimous)

After discussion it was **agreed** to continue to fund the Rettendon and Battlesbridge newsletter on condition an independent third party edits the newsletter prior to publication at the Parish Council's expense.

Councillors were prepared to accept the Clerk as the third party and the Clerk said she was happy to undertake this role. The Clerk said she would discuss this with the editor of the newsletter at a time to be agreed.

Proposed: Cllr Millane Seconded: Cllr Hart (Unanimous)

262-17/18 To agree that a meeting is arranged to answer/explain any specific queries to the Parish Council's answers to the questions asked at the Parish Meeting only.

An amendment to the motion was proposed and agreed as follows:

To agree that a meeting is arranged to answer/explain any specific queries to the Parish Council's answers to the questions asked at the Parish Meeting only with all specific queries to be put in writing to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Chapman Seconded: Cllr M Fleming (Unanimous)

The motion was defeated. (1 For; 6 Against)

263-17/18 To agree a grant of £428 to Rettendon Primary School for a water-saving project (details circulated prior to the meeting)

Cllr Ride said he would like to contribute but reminded the Council of his declaration of a non-pecuniary interest. He said procedure within the school should be followed before the Council considered this request.

The motion was deferred.

264-17/18 To consider a request from the Headteacher of Rettendon Primary School for a donation towards the upkeep of the school swimming pool and to agree an amount.

Cllr Ride said as Governor of Rettendon Primary School he had discussed this with the Headteacher, and that the letter had been sent in error.

The motion was withdrawn.

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

265-17/18 To agree to instruct Tees Law to instruct a barrister to advise and to draft proceedings for a declaration from the court, as proposed in their correspondence of 21st November 2017.

It was **agreed** to instruct Tees Law to instruct a barrister to advise and to draft proceedings for a declaration from the court, as proposed in their correspondence of 21st November 2017.

Proposed: Cllr Chapman Seconded: Cllr D Fleming (6 For, 1 Against)

266-17/18 To agree to investigate a separate Parish Council for Hayes Country Park.

The motion was withdrawn.

267-17/18 To agree to appoint Mr Gerry Allen as Internal Auditor for 2017/18

It was **agreed** to appoint Mr Gerry Allen as Internal Auditor for 2017/18.

Proposed: Cllr D Fleming Seconded: Cllr Jones (Unanimous)

268-17/18 To agree a statement to be added to the website confirming the Parish Council's position that how the Bell Fields are used should be determined by the Trustees of the relevant charities , and not by the Parish Council.

An amendment to the motion was proposed as follows:

To agree a statement to be added to the website confirming the Parish Council's position that how the Bell Fields are used should be determined by the Trustees of the relevant charities elected as per Section 300 (3) and (4) and section 302 (1) and (3) of the Charities Act 2011, and not by the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr Chapman Seconded: Cllr Jones (6 For, 1 Against)

The Chairman said it was the objective of the Parish Council to appoint the trustees of the Bell Fields' charities. He said it was the role of the trustees to determine how those assets were used. He said there was no written statement against football being played on the Bell Fields.

It was **agreed** to add a statement to the website confirming the Parish Council's position that how the Bell Fields are used should be determined by the Trustees of the relevant charities, and not by the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr D Fleming Seconded: Cllr Millane (6 For; 1 Against)

269-17/18 Highways and Footpaths – to note Essex Highways Notices and receive reports from Councillors.

Cllr Hart said he was investigating an overseer for work on the gateways.

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

CLlr Jones said a footpath had been reported by a resident.

CLlr D Fleming said bollards had been removed on Sonters Down. The Clerk confirmed that Skippers Ground Maintenance had been approached for a quote for the work.

270-17/18 Street Lighting

CLlr Hart said the light in Maltings Road was an ongoing matter and he hoped it would be fixed soon.

271-17/18 Items from Councillors

CLlr Jones said a postbox for Hayes Farm would be provided within the month at no cost to the Parish Council.

CLlr Hart reported that the buses on route 3 were working to capacity. he said Dart Services were very pleased and had added two more stops on the route.

The Chairman said all Councillors would join him in sending condolences to CLlr Cheater following a family bereavement.

272-17/18 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 24th April 2018, 7.30pm at the Rettendon Memorial Hall, Main Road, Rettendon, CM3 8DP

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.