

RETTENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th March 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 Roy Hart
Cllr Glenys Jones
Cllr Lance Millane
Cllr Ray Ride

The Clerk

There were 27 members of the public present.

219-16/17 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Chapman and Copsey.

220-16/17 Chairman's Comments

There were no comments.

221-16/17 Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

The Chairman to remind Councillors to declare any interests now and as they become evident to them during the progress of the meeting.

Cllr Hart declared an interest in Item 238-16/17 due to his position as trustee of the Bell Fields charities.

222-16/17 Public Forum – strictly 5 minutes only per speaker

A resident said the flooding problem in Meadow Road was being worked on. He said he had said six years ago that the flooding was caused by tree roots and this has now turned out to be the case.

He asked if the Parish Council could consider buying two benches for the village, possibly to be situated by the Bell and near the Play Area.

Cllr Hart said Sailability on Hanningfield Reservoir was beginning and he was looking for volunteer helpers. He said if anybody knew of anyone who would benefit from this initiative could they please let him know.

Cllr Cheater said he had written questions from a resident which would require a written response. He passed the questions to the Clerk to respond.

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

223/16-17 To receive the Essex County Councillor and Ward Councillors' reports.

CLlr Ride said he and Cllr Millane had been engaged on numerous issues, for example planning and enforcement matters affecting the community.

He said he would report on flooding later in the meeting.

He said the Development Policy Committee had taken options on the LDF and the news for Rettendon was good at this stage. He said the options were out for consultation but were unlikely to change.

He said he had held a surgery the previous week.

He said he had met with officers and owners at Hayes Country Park about enforcement matters regarding the proposed plots. He said enforcement action was ongoing.

He said he had discussed the crossing survey and the bus transport survey with Cllr Chapman. He said ECC Cllr Ian Grundy was engaged and they expected support from him. He said ward councillors were continuing to push matters for the residents of Hayes and he would provide further reports in due course.

224-16/17 Clerk's Report

The Clerk said the defibrillator had been order and paid for, and should be delivered soon.

225-16/17 To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th March 2017.

With the amendment under Item 203-16/17 as follows:

"Cllr Jones referred to the report on the kerbstones at Pound Farm, Main Road, Rettendon and said that kerbstones did not require immediate attention and the situation would be monitored."

the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th March 2017 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

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

226-16/17 Update on progress of resolutions made at previous meetings

There were no updates.

227-16/17 To agree the response to the following planning applications (all applications are available to view at www.chelmsford.gov.uk)

17/00428/FUL – 8 Crouch View Cottages, Main Road, Rettendon Common, Chelmsford – Proposed single storey rear extension

Councillors agreed to support this application.

17/00395/FUL – 2 Hawk Lane, Battlesbridge, Wickford, Essex – Single storey rear extension to garage/outbuilding

Councillors agreed to support this application.

228-16/17 To agree to accept one of the three quotations provided by Came & Company for renewal of the Parish Council's insurance due for renewal on 1st April 2017

It was **agreed** to accept the quotation from Ecclesiastical for renewal of the Parish Council's insurance due for renewal on 1st April 2017. The option of the Long Term Agreement was not taken up.

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

229-16/17 To agree to book the RoSPA inspection of the Sonters Down Play Area, Teen Shelter, due in May, at a cost of £66.50 plus VAT

It was agreed to book the RoSPA inspection of the Sonters Down Play Area, Teen Shelter, due in May, at a cost of £66.50 plus VAT

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

230-16/17 To agree to make a contribution of £50.00 towards the cost of the production of the Crouch Coast leaflet including details of Battlesbridge

It was **agreed** to make a contribution of £50.00 towards the cost of the production of the Crouch Coast leaflet including details of Battlesbridge

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

231-16/17 To note progress on the procurement of services for the Parish Council's maintenance of the Sonters Down Play Area with effect from 1st April 2017

Progress on the procurement of services for the Parish Council's maintenance of the Sonters Down Play Area with effect from 1st April 2017 was noted.

232-16/17 To discuss breaches of Standing Orders

Cllr Cheater said he had concern about breaches of Standing Orders. He asked if all breaches of Standing Orders should be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman said if a log of breaches of Standing Orders could be provided this could be considered at the next meeting.

233-16/17 To clarify the relationship between the Parish Council and the Speedwatch Group

Cllr Cheater said this had been raised by residents. He said 'Parish Council Speedwatch' had been mentioned in the Rettendon and Battlesbridge newsletter. He asked for the position to be clarified.

Cllr Jones said she was a member of Speedwatch and had completed training.

Cllr M Fleming said Speedwatch was coordinated by Sally-Ann Judd. He said it was an external body. He said the Council and Speedwatch collaborated on addressing concerns. He said articles in the newsletter were contributed by Speedwatch and not the Parish Council. He said Cllr Jones was a member of both bodies and it was incumbent on her to be clear in what capacity she was acting.

Cllr Ride said all supported Speedwatch in the village. He said the Council had taken action to reduce speed with the Vehicle Activated Signs. He said the Parish Council would make sure this was clear in the newsletter.

Cllr Cheater asked which other members of the Council were members of Speedwatch.

No other members of the Council were members of Speedwatch.

Cllr Cheater left the meeting.

234-16/17 To discuss Declarations of Interest

This item was deferred.

235-16/17 To confirm the level of the precept for 2017/18 compared to the level for 2016/17

The level of the precept for 2017/18 compared to the level for 2016/17 was **confirmed**.

236-16/17 To discuss Parish Council contributions to the Rettendon and Battlesbridge Newsletter

This item was deferred.

Cllr Ride said he would like the Parish Council to discuss issuing a newsletter on their work since the last elections.

The Chairman said he would call an extraordinary meeting to discuss this.

237-16/17 To discuss progress on arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting

Progress on arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting was discussed.

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

238-16/17 To discuss the current position on the Bell Field Charities

Cllr Hart had declared an interest in this item as a trustee of the charities.

The Chairman said he had the following concerns:

- Other interested parties in the Bell Fields reported minimal agreement
- The decision-making process
- The Parish Council was the freeholder but there had been no discussion about the use of the field
- The alignment between the use of the fields as a football field and for the benefit of the parish.

He referred to the discussion at the meeting held on 7th March 2017. He said that signs had been put up on the field with no approval from the Parish Council as freeholder. He said it was possible legal advice would have to be sought.

Cllr Ride said we were now two years into the current Parish Council during which most councillors had not been allowed to participate in the administration of the Bell Fields. He said it been resolved in July 2016 for councillors to become trustees of both charities. he said at the last meeting some councillors had signed a Declaration of Eligibility to become trustees and would like to proceed. He said he would like to set up a meeting with the current trustees.

Cllr Millane said the position did need to be clarified.

The Chairman said UKPN equipment had been used on the field. He said as freeholder the Council should receive wayleave for the telegraph pole. He said he would like clarification on paying for power and water and public liability insurance. He said he had had no sight of the licence issued to the football club now using the field but he had concerns as freeholder.

239/16-17 Finance

- a) RPC Financial Statements ending February 2017 were **received**.
- b) Balances against bank statements were **checked**.
- c) The payment of the February salary to the Clerk was **recorded**.
- d) The payment of £79.95 for production of the flyer for the Annual Parish Meeting was **recorded**.
- e) The payment of £40.00 to EALC for the Clerk's attendance at the Understanding the Annual Meeting Workshop held on 22nd February 2017 (Invoice 7807) was **recorded**.

To agree all payments, the monthly financial statements, transfers, cash received, instructions and the countersigning of cheques for the above

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

All payments, the monthly financial statements, transfers, cash received, instructions and the countersigning of cheques for the above were **agreed**.

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

240-16/17 Highways and Footpaths – to note Essex Highways Notices and receive reports from Councillors.

Cllr Jones said Bridleway 1 was impassable and this had been reported to Paul van Damme at Chelmsford City Council.

Cllr Hart said the Clerk reported the broken pavement on South View Road but that ECC were not prepared to repair it at present. He asked if the Parish Council could repair the pavement.

Cllr Ride said pressure could be applied to ECC to get the repairs done quickly.

Cllr Hart said he would like to see Maltings Road reduced to 20mph and Main Road through Hawk Hill to 30mph.

Cllr M Fleming said a link would be circulated about the petition.

241-16/17 Street Lighting

Cllr Hart said the light opposite the church in Battlesbridge was still broken. The Clerk said she would chase this.

242-16/17 To receive update on flooding problems within the parish including Meadow Road

Cllr Ride said Tim Savage was investigating flooding in Little Croft and would report in due course.

He said he was pushing the Environment Agency and CCC with the help of Tim Savage to investigate the possibility of ditch/culvert clearing in the area of Hawk Lane, Battlesbridge.

He said it might be possible to use some Parish Council money and that he would speak to the contractor to get an estimate and bring to the next Parish Council meeting.

He said Tim Savage was investigating Coal Hill and that a report would be provided at the next Parish Council meeting.

He said as previously mentioned at this meeting that after six years' work would be completed on Meadow Road.

Cllr Hart said he could get the work done in Little Croft in ten days at no cost to the Parish Council. He said he would contact ECC.

Signed _____
Cllr Mark Fleming, Chairman

Cllr Ride said highways and drainage issues should be dealt with by the correct agencies.

243-16/17 Items from Councillors

Cllr Jones referred to a letter she had received about the Rettendon Horticultural Show.

Councillors decided they would not have table space although they would be attending the Show.

The Clerk will respond to the letter.

244-16/17 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – 25th April 2017, 7.30pm at the Rettendon Memorial Hall, Main Road, Rettendon, CM3 8DP

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.