

RETTENDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held remotely on Tuesday 5th October
2020.**

Councillors attended the meeting through digital link.

Present: Cllr Mark Fleming (Chairman)
Cllr Hazel Dale Evans
Cllr Denise Fleming
Cllr Roy Hart
Cllr James Knight
Cllr David Phillips
Cllr Ray Ride
Cllr Barbara Wright

There were nine members of the public in attendance.

88-20/21 To Receive Apologies and to approve Reasons for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Cottee and the reason for the absence approved.

89-20/21 Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

Cllr Ride declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 91-20/21 as a governor of Rettendon Primary School and said he withdrew from all further discussion on all items on this agenda.

Cllr Dale Evans declared an interest in Item 91-20/21 as she had attended meetings with the school in her capacity as a member of the Rettendon Horticultural Society.

Cllr Wright declared an interest in Item 91-20/21 due to her involvement with gardening at the school.

Cllr Ride left the meeting.

90-20/21 Public Forum – strictly 5 minutes only per speaker

The Headteacher of Rettendon Primary School said the school was at the heart of the village and that she would like to keep it there. She said they had looked for ways to enhance the curriculum and immerse the children in nature which this application would achieve. She said staff had been fully trained in Forest Schools and that all activities would be fully risk-assessed

Signed _____
Councillor M. Fleming, Chairman

with adult-child ratios maintained. She said this would teach children about risks outside the usual school environment.

A resident said he was aware of the Council's opposition to the previous application. He asked councillors to look at the evidence and referring to the concern about future development on the site he said councillors should look at this application itself. He said the application would involve restrictions which would prevent future development. He said the running of the site was a matter for the school and that the view of a current parent was that access to outdoor space would be beneficial to the children and their education.

A representative from Rettendon Primary School outlined the Forest School history and ethos and said there was a duty to educate children in all aspects in and out of school.

Cllr Wright said she had received a statement from the Chair of the Friends of Rettendon School. She said the statement said that the FRS supported the application, that parents had been kept fully informed, and that care had been taken to consider the positive impact for the school and the wider community.

The Chairman read for a letter from the Chair of Governors of Rettendon Primary School detailing the Governors' support for the application.

91-20/21 To agree the response to planning application 20/01137/FUL for submission to Chelmsford City Council.

Cllr Knight said he would support this application as an important project for the school and the parish.

Cllr Wright noted the application site was on Green Belt land. She noted redactions in the ecological report which appeared to be in relation to badgers. She said Highways should reconsider regarding safe access to the site and that road noise was a problem. She said if the site proved not to be viable it should revert to Green belt land. She noted that the reference to potential residential use not being considered at this time had been removed.

Cllr Dale Evans said she supported children having access to these types of activities. She said she had concerns about accessibility at the entrance.

Cllr Phillips said he had objected to the previous application but that following a site visit plus alterations giving protection from the A130 he would now support the application.

Cllr D Fleming said she would support this application.

Cllr Hart said there was an alternative site very close to the application site. He said that Green Belt land should be protected at all costs.

It was **agreed** that the Council would support this application, but ask Chelmsford City Council to consider requiring the school to return the land to how it stood prior to approval should the proposed use come to an end.

The meeting closed at 8.51pm.

Signed _____
Councillor M. Fleming, Chairman