

Rainford Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.00pm IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT RAINFORD VILLAGE HALL

Present: **Councillors:** Aspinall, Brown, Collins, Grice, G Jones, P Jones, Lee, Monk,
D Mussell, L Mussell, R Nichols, Reynolds (Chairman), Wesley

In attendance: Sally Powell (Clerk)
Victoria Nelson (Administration Assistant)
Jane Kennedy, Police & Crime Commissioner for Merseyside
Inspector Steve Lowe
Sergeant Chris Hilton
PC Laura Boyle
Mike Berry, Community Engagement Officer – Knowsley & St Helen

Absent: **None**

399. APOLOGIES: Councillor Long (on holiday), Councillor D Nichols (delayed in traffic but hoping to attend part of the Council Meeting)

400. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:
409 – Planning Application P/2016/0117/FUL – Councillor Aspinall
409 – Finance – Councillor D Mussell and Councillor L Mussell
410 – Councillor D Mussell

401. FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN:
None

402. JANE KENNEDY, POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR MERSEYSIDE
Jane Kennedy explained the background to the closure of many community Police stations in recent years. These are no longer required due to new technology. However, a base for the Police in Rainford is needed along with somewhere to hold Police surgeries. It is hoped that this space will be made available within the library in Rainford, so the Police will have a visible presence and the surgeries will be held when plenty of residents are out and about. Rainford has the lowest crime rate in St Helens and the Police work closely with the Lancashire and Knowsley Police on the borders between the areas.
At the end of March a Unified Messaging Service (UMS) will be introduced which will allow residents to communicate directly with the Police from their mobile phones and through social media. This should open up and improve communication with Police officers.
The library will provide a secure space for the officers and their equipment. Neighbourhood policing will continue. PC Laura Boyle is the designated officer for Rainford, along with a PCSO. This collaboration will also increase the viability of the library within Rainford. The library has been chosen over the Village Hall as the foot fall is higher at the library.
Councillors raised the following queries:

1. Councillor L Mussell pointed out that the fear of crime is high in Rainford, particularly among the elderly who do not always have access to computers and mobile phones. Using the library as a base will make the 2 dedicated Police officers visible within the Village.
2. Councillor Collins asked if the officers would only be there during library opening hours. The details have yet to be decided, but an early evening surgery may be a possibility.
3. Councillor Lee asked about privacy for residents wishing to report incidents. This will be arranged when necessary.
4. Councillor Reynolds asked if the level of cover for Rainford was the same as for Billinge.

The difference in Rainford is that the Police own the old Police house and station attached to it. This will be sold to help fund the new scheme.

5. Councillor R Nichols endorsed the scheme, stating that the amount of Police presence in Rainford is more or less the same as it was 30 years ago. He also reminded the meeting about the Rural Watch scheme in operation in the Village.

Jane Kennedy indicated that there is an intention to resuscitate the Home Watch scheme within Rainford.

6. Councillor L Mussell asked how residents would be informed about the new arrangements.

A variety of ways of communicating the new arrangements will be used when the plans have been finalised. The Chairman offered the Parish Council's assistance in disseminating the information to residents.

7. Councillor L Mussell requested that the Borough Councillors are kept informed of developments. Inspector Lowe assured her this would be the case.

Jane Kennedy gave a guarantee to the meeting that the Parish Council would be contacted when the plans are finalised.

**Jane Kennedy, Inspector Lowe, Sergeant Hilton, PC Boyle and Mike Berry left the meeting
Councillor Grice and Vicky Nelson left the meeting and returned after 2 minutes**

403. TO HEAR AND RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS/DEPUTATIONS BY COUNCILLORS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

None.

404. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record.

405. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

None.

406. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: Councillor P Jones proposed that the Income and Expenditure Figures be accepted. This was seconded by Councillor R Reynolds and carried unanimously. (See Appendix 1)

407. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR MAY 2016/17

The Chairman stated that as Councillor D Nichols had not yet arrived at the meeting, this item would be deferred. He informed the meeting that there was no statutory requirement to name the Chairman and Vice Chairman elect in advance of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

408. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk summarised the following correspondence:

1. Letter from Ralph Rigby inviting the Chairman Elect and all Councillors to take part in the Walking Day Procession on 18.06.16
2. Email enquiry asking about any planned traffic calming measures on Higher Lane due to the excessive speed that some cars travel at. Councillor L Mussell stated that she would request an assessment for Higher Lane in her capacity as a Borough Councillor.
3. Enquiry via email re Craik House and the Latham Family who used to live there. It was suggested that Ray Waring or Joan Dagnall may be able to assist with this.
4. Quote from Zurich insurance for the renewal of the Insurance policy
5. Letter from SLCC regarding proposed changes to the legal status of the society

6. Letter from St Helens Senior Voice Forum requesting advertising and support for their events and financial support. No financial help available
7. Letter from Barclays Bank re increase in bank charges and changes to the Business Current Account
8. Letter from St Helens Council with the Customer Request for Work Form for the Grounds Maintenance work for 2016/17 £924.65. The Clerk will be contacting the relevant department due to the plans for the War Memorial.
9. Email enquiry asking if the zig-zag lines outside Waterfields can be ignored. All road markings will be redrawn when the road has been resurfaced
10. Email from resident who attended the beer festival who is very interested in becoming a Parish Councillor
11. A copy of a book by Merseyside Archaeological Society entitled 'The Pottery and Clay Tobacco Pipe Industries of Rainford, St Helens New Research' which contains an photograph of the late Councillor Bill Highcock

+ Responses to 478 emails 137 telephone Calls and 126 Visitors 726 reached through FB pages

RESOLVED: That the Correspondence be accepted

409. COMMITTEE & COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- **Audit** – No meeting had taken place since the last Full Council Meeting
- **Finance, Planning & Administration**

PLANNING - 4 sets of plans were considered.

No objections were raised to 3 sets but Councillors wished an endorsement of the comments made by the Conservation Officer to be lodged for P/2016/0058/ADC.

An additional set of plans – P/2016/0117/FUL had been received since the meeting. Councillor Aspinall declared an interest. No objections were raised.

RESOLVED: That the plans with the above proviso be agreed en bloc

FINANCE – Councillor P Jones reported:

- i. The build-up of funds in the Bar Account is earmarked for the Village Centre Improvement Scheme
- ii. Some slight adjustments will be made to the Bar Tariff from 01.04.16
- iii. The Clerk is researching other quotes for the Insurance Policy which is due for renewal on 01.04.16
- iv. Repairs need to be made to the roof. A roofing contractor had accessed as much of the roof as possible without scaffolding. Valleys need repairing and the chimney stack and the ridge tiles need repointing. There may be other work which is not visible at present. The flat roof above the Bar area also needs repairing and the parapet wall needs repointing and supporting.
Councillors D & L Mussell declared an interest.
It was agreed that the Health & Safety issue regarding the parapet wall and the difficulties in accessing the roof, made the situation a special case and there was a need to agree funds straightaway for the project.

RESOLVED: Councillor Reynolds proposed the authorisation of an amount of £7,500.00 in the first instance to be spent on repairing the roof. This amount to be increased to a maximum of £10,000.00 at the discretion of the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairman of the Finance committee without reference to the Full Council. This motion was seconded by Councillor Brown and carried unanimously by those members eligible to vote.

See Appendix 2 for the minutes of the FPA meeting held on 17.02.16

- **Community Development (including Rainford in Bloom)**
Councillor Reynolds thanked everyone who had attended and helped with the Beer Festival. The event had been well attended and enjoyed and it had brought new people into the Village

Hall. A vote of thanks was given to Vicky Nelson, the Bar Manager who had worked extremely hard to ensure that the occasion was a success. Lessons had been learnt for improvements for next year, particularly in the areas of sponsorship.

Councillor Reynolds spoke about the proposed Food Festival, which he is very keen should go ahead. He also encouraged Councillors to attend the Spring Ball on 12.03.16 which is also a fundraiser for Rainford in Bloom.

Councillor Grice gave an update on the proposed War Memorial. The outline plans are ready for submission. Councillor L Mussell stated that she would speak to Melanie Hale regarding the application on 23.02.16

➤ **Health & Safety**

Nothing to report

➤ **Borough Council**

Councillor L Mussell reported:

- i. Complaints had been received regarding the new lighting in the Village which has LED bulbs. These give a whiter more focussed light. Discussions are underway for an additional lamppost
- ii. John Sheward would be addressing the Council when the plans for the alterations to the road junction at Windle Island are finalised.

Councillor D Nichols joined the meeting at 8.19pm

- iii. A meeting had been held to discuss the current state of St Helens Town Centre and how it might be improved. There is heritage and culture within the town that could be built on.

410. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Councillor Wesley asked for an update on the road closure in Pasture Lane. Councillor L Mussell informed the meeting that the road would remain closed for some months.
2. Councillor Lee asked about the noticeboard in Kings Moss. The Clerk was asked to check if it had been agreed to remove this board and to implement the decision if necessary.
3. Councillor Collins commented that dropped chewing gum is spoiling the look of the Village Centre Improvements. It was acknowledged that it is difficult and expensive to remove.
4. Councillor Grice asked if the Spring Ball could be moved as it clashed with another engagement. The Chairman informed him that this was not possible.

411. DIARY DATES

12.03.16	7.30pm	Spring Ball - Chairman's Fundraiser
16.03.16	6.30pm	Finance Planning & Administration Committee Meeting
21.03.16	7.00pm	Full Council Meeting
08.04.16	5.45pm – 6.15pm	MP's surgery
20.04.16	6.30pm	Finance Planning & Administration Committee Meeting
23.04.16	7pm for 7.30pm	St George's Night – Chairman's Fundraiser
25.04.16	7.00pm	Full Council Meeting
18.05.16	6.30pm	Finance Planning & Administration Committee Meeting
20.05.16	6.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by Full Parish Council meeting and The Chairman's Evening

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman

APPENDIX 1

RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL					
Income & Expenditure 2015 - 2016					
				Jan-16	
Expenditure					
Date	Company	Detail	Total	VAT	
04.01.16	United Utilities	Water Bill - Pavilion	£ 21.72		
04.01.16	Cleanse cleaning Solutions Ltd	Cleaning	£ 175.00		
04.01.16	United Utilities	Water Bill	£ 366.69		
07.01.16	Barclays Bank	Bank Charges	£ 41.37		
11.01.16	Barclaycard	Merchant Charges	£ 40.96		
13.01.16	Opus Energy	Electricity Bill	£ 416.14	£	69.36
15.01.16	St Helens Council	Grounds Maintenance 2015/16	£ 1,082.52	£	180.42
20.01.16	Greenhope Recycling & Waste Services	Glass Recycling	£ 5.40	£	0.90
21.01.16	Booker/S Powell	Lightbulbs	£ 23.40	£	3.90
21.01.16	Ryman/S Powell	Stationery	£ 32.94	£	5.49
21.01.16	B & M Waste Services	Waste Removal	£ 36.00	£	6.00
21.01.16	P.B. Electrical	Fire Alarm Control Panel	£ 80.00		
21.01.16	St Helens Council	Salaries/Pensions/NI/Fees	£ 3,550.17		
25.01.16	Titan Telecom	Telephone & Broadband	£ 90.58	£	15.10
28.01.16	St Helens Council	Rates	£ 1,208.00		
Total			£ 7,170.89	£	281.17
Income					
	Bar Sales	£	1,783.54		
	Main Hall	£	941.00		
	Reception Room	£	334.00		
	Rent	£	1,293.95		
	Other				
	Total	£	4,352.49		
Current Account					
	December		Ledger	Bank	
				£ 2,876.31	
			Total Income	£ 1,370.40	
			Expenses	-£ 7,170.89	
			Transfers in	£ 5,000.00	
			Transfers Out	£ -	
			Closing Balance	£ 2,075.82	
Bank Balances @ 31.01.16					
	Bar		£ 16,173.34		
	Current		£ 2,075.82		
	High Interest		£ 15,103.81		
			£ 33,352.97		
Debtors @ 31.01.16					
			£ 11,364.75		
Bank Balances + Debtors			£ 44,717.72		
Chairman					

APPENDIX 2
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE, PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
OF RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016 at 6.30pm IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT RAINFORD VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Councillors: K Aspinall, I Brown, P Jones (Chairman), R Reynolds, D Wesley
Sally Powell – Clerk

ABSENT: None

1. APOLOGIES: Councillor M Lee (previous engagement), J Collins (family commitments)

2. PLANS:

4 sets of plans were considered. The Clerk was requested to endorse the comments made by St Helens Council regarding application P/2016/0058/ADC. No other objections were raised.

3. INCOME & EXPENDITURE:

Councillor Brown wished to know why so much money was being held in the bar account. The Clerk explained that the funds were earmarked for the Village Centre Improvement Scheme.

4. RENEWAL OF INSURANCE POLICY

The current policy with Zurich is due for renewal on 01.04.16. 3 options have been offered for 1, 3 & 5 years. The Clerk was asked to research other quotes, but if a cheaper price was not available, then the policy should be fixed with Zurich for a further 5 years.

5. BUILDING REPAIRS

Following a recent problem with the roof leaking, the Clerk had met with the roofer. An estimated £7500 worth of work is required to properly maintain the Village Hall roof. It is not possible to be definitive regarding the exact works that need to be carried out as certain parts of the roof are inaccessible without scaffolding. Many of the roof valleys need attention and the flat roof above the bar area also needs extensive work, along with the parapet wall in this area. This work needs to be done and is time critical. It was agreed that these works should be carried out as soon as possible in order to maintain the integrity of the Village Hall.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i. Councillor Aspinall had looked at the Bar Tariff and was of the opinion that most prices were at the right level. It was agreed that the bar prices should remain competitive. However, as the breweries have recently increased their prices, it was decided that all bar prices with the exception of soft drinks should rise by 10p on 01.04.16.
- ii. The Beer Festival was a great success and will be repeated next year. Observations have been noted on how to make improvements next time. A rough estimate is that around £600 profit was made. A very nice atmosphere was maintained in the Hall throughout the weekend. The profits will not go to the Chairman's charity next year, but the event will be for the benefit of the Parish Council. It was acknowledged that the Clerk and in particular, the Bar Manager, had worked very hard to make the event a success. It was agreed that overtime should be paid to both members of staff for the extra hours worked during the event.

- iii. Councillor Brown asked the cost of the tickets for the Spring Ball. Tickets are £25.00 for a 3 course served meal + coffee with entertainment and dancing.

- iv. Councillor Reynolds asked for the Parish Council to make an initial payment so that marble for the War Memorial could be ordered in advance of specific fund-raising for this initiative. (There is a time constraint to get the Memorial in place by November). A similar situation had arisen with Rainford in Bloom as the Chairman of the Parish Council was raising money for a new enterprise, rather than funds for existing organisations. Councillor P Jones pointed out that a precedent should not be set and requested that the matter was discussed at the Full Council Meeting on 22.02.16.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Chairman