

Rainford Parish Council

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2017 COMMENCING AT 7.00pm
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT RAINFORD VILLAGE HALL**

Present: **Councillors:** Aspinall, Brown, Collins, Grice, G Jones, P Jones, Lee, Long, Monk,
D Mussell, L Mussell, D Nichols (Chairman), Reynolds (arrived
7.06pm), Wesley

In attendance: Sally Powell (Clerk)
Victoria Swainbank (Administration Assistant)

Absent: **None**

538. APOLOGIES: Councillors R Nichols (Business), Jane Kennedy

539. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:
Councillor Brown declared a pecuniary interest in 548 Finance/Reception Room Carpet

540. FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman thanked all those who had attended the fundraising lunch for the War Memorial fund. She also expressed her gratitude to the Rainford Ladies' Choir for providing some wonderful entertainment for the afternoon. This along with other recent events and a donation of £100.00 from the Scouts had significantly added to the fund.

541. Jane Kennedy, the Police and Crime Commissioner had sent apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. However, she had asked to be informed of any feedback received by Councillors regarding the establishment of a Community Police Station in Rainford Village Hall. Councillors G Jones, Long and D Mussell all stated that they had received favourable reactions to the idea. Councillor Long also informed the meeting that residents had spoken to him about additional Police patrolling in the Village. Councillor D Mussell suggested that the WIFI in the Village Hall should be upgraded.

The Chairman made the meeting aware of an incident reported to her by a resident: a number of youths on scrambler bikes had forced the resident to stop his car on Old Lane and intimidated the driver and his children who were also in the car. The confrontation had been reported to the Police, but no action had been taken. Councillor L Mussell stated that incidents of this nature were a County wide problem and the Police did have a strategy for dealing with them.

Councillor Reynolds entered the meeting at 7.06pm

A discussion took place and the Chairman stated that a letter would be sent to the Police from the Parish Council regarding this matter as Councillors knew of at least 2 similar incidents. Councillor L Mussell would send the Clerk the email address of the new Police Sergeant for Rainford.

542. TO HEAR AND RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS/DEPUTATIONS BY COUNCILLORS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:
None.

543. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2017

527.517 'The Clerk informed the meeting that she had been advised that the current policy would cover the land if it was included in the lease, at no extra cost.' Was altered to, 'The Clerk informed the meeting that she had been advised that the current policy would cover the land if it were included in the lease, at no extra cost.'

527.519 Finance 'Councillor Aspinall informed the meeting that he had had several residents complementing the new external lighting.' Was altered to 'Councillor Aspinall informed the meeting that he had had several residents complimenting on the new external lighting.'

RESOLVED: With the above amendments, Councillor P Jones proposed that the minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Councillor Long and carried unanimously.

544. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

519 Borough Council Councillor L Mussell stated that the Co-op are disputing the ownership of the land outside the shop where the advertising board is. Planning permission had been sought sometime ago for the board, but it had not been granted. However, St Helens Council had not previously taken steps to get the board removed when it was erected without planning permission.

529.2 Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting that nothing further had been heard from the resident and Councillor L Mussell confirmed that the dog bins had been emptied.

529.4 The Clerk told the Council that classes of a similar nature were already available.

531 The Clerk informed the meeting that the Conservation Officer had agreed that signage was required on the Village Hall. However, she was of the opinion that the Stainless Steel letters were not in keeping with the architecture of the building and suggested black lettering as an alternative. The Conservation Officer also stated that the letters must be individually fixed to the building and not on a board.

535 Borough Council Councillor L Mussell informed the meeting that work would start on Pasture Lane on 13.03.17 and continue for approximately 6 weeks.

545. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: Councillor P Jones proposed that the Income and Expenditure Figures for January 2017 be accepted. This was seconded by Councillor Grice and carried unanimously. (See Appendix 1)

546. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk summarised the following correspondence:

1. Letter from All Saints Church inviting the Chairman elect and members of the Council to take part in the Walking Day procession on Saturday 17 June 2017
2. Email from Paul Nolan of Mersey Forest via Alice Bradley (CDC member) proposing the planting of 2 x Sorbus cimmoxta trees on the front lawn
3. Letter from Rainford Heritage Society requesting that the Parish Council become a Business member of the group at a cost of £20pa. *A discussion took place regarding the merits or otherwise of the Parish Council becoming a member of the Rainford*

Heritage Society. It was agreed that the RHS has the support of the Council but that it would be inappropriate for it to become a member. The Clerk was asked to write to the RHS accordingly.

4. Email from a resident asking for information regarding the George V playing field: who is maintaining it and is it still protected by the covenant? The resident has small children and would love to see the field restored to its former glory for everyone to enjoy. *Councillor L Mussell informed the meeting that the field is the responsibility of St Helens Council. She stated that the Council would be unlikely to put play equipment on the site due to the cost of insurance and Health and safety checks.*
5. Email from Matthew Catherall with an attached letter regarding the flood works at Beech Gardens
6. Letter from United Utilities regarding Water plus taking over as the water retail company from April 2017
7. Letter from Rainford Flower Club regarding their April Meeting which they have decided to cancel as it falls on Maundy Thursday
8. Email from Councillor Lee regarding the Art Exhibition: Eric has agreed that it would be a good idea to display Bernard Bibby's photographs
9. Letter from MPF re the end of year annual return (this is completed by Cathy O'Connor at St Helens Council)
10. Email from energy contract renewals regarding the renewal of the gas account. Could be fixed for 2 years at 3.970 p/kWh with no standing charge. Currently paying 4.633 p/kWh
11. Email from Councillor Reynolds regarding a new contact for the Community Cinema, much cheaper than the one previously used. *Councillor Long offered to assist with collecting the equipment. Councillor D Mussell & Councillor Reynolds will discuss the project further regarding the storing of equipment.*
12. Copy of Clerks and Councils magazine
13. Email from PWLB as a reminder that £959.40 will be paid on 27.03.17. Current balance outstanding is £5400
14. Email from MPF with the triennial Actuarial Valuation. The rates from 01.04.17 will be as follows:
Employers contributions for 2017/18 – 20.2% Future Service Rates and £2300
15. Email from Councillor D Nichols regarding contact from a resident following an encounter with a gang of youths in Old Lane.

RESOLVED: That the Correspondence be accepted

547. POSSIBLE USES FOR THE LAND AT THE REAR OF THE VILLAGE HALL

Councillor D Mussell gave an update. Preliminary talks have taken place between St Helens Council and parties interested in building a nursery and pre-school on the site.

A discussion took place with some Councillors of the firm opinion that the Parish Council should take over the responsibility of the land and put it to use. Various suggestions of how the land could be used were made. Councillor L Mussell will have an update from Mark Dickens (St Helens Council) before the next meeting.

548. COMMITTEE & COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- **Audit** – The committee had not met since the last full Council meeting, but a date for a meeting after the end of the financial year will be set before the next Full Council Meeting.
- **Community Development** – Councillor Lee reported the following:
 - The CDC had met on 01.02.17 (**See Appendix 2 for the minutes**)
 - Mersey Forest has offered 2 trees free of charge to be planted at the front of the Village Hall. The variety of tree and where they should be placed is still under discussion.
 - A selection of the late Bernard Bibby's photographs could be put on display at the same time as the Art Exhibition. A general discussion regarding the Art Exhibition took place.

RESOLVED: Councillor Lee proposed that an Art Exhibition should be held in the Village Hall from Thursday 5 – Sunday 8 October 2017, including a display of Bernard Bibby's photographs. Councillor Wesley seconded the motion which was carried unanimously

It was the feeling of the meeting that the advertising of the exhibition should begin immediately

- Rainford in Bloom will be taking over responsibility for the 'allotment' at the back of the Village Hall as the Scouts had not been able to keep up with the work required. Councillor D Nichols reminded Councillors of the fundraising quiz for RiB taking place on 10.03.17.
- Councillor L Mussell informed the meeting that she and Councillor Reynolds had met with a representative from Northern Rail at Rainford Junction Station who had told them that a grant may be available for fencing. Councillor Reynolds requested the support of the Parish Council for the project to tidy up the station. On a point of interest, it is 170 years since the first train stopped at Rainford. Councillor Grice asked if there was any further information about RiB taking over the Ground Maintenance contract for the Village Hall. Councillor Lee stated that more volunteers were required.
- **Health & Safety** - No meeting had taken place since the last Full Council Meeting. Councillor D Mussell stated that the correct certification had not yet been received from the electrician who installed the wiring for the external lighting. Councillor Grice assured the meeting that he would liaise with the electrician regarding this matter. Councillor D Mussell also stated that any contractor working at the Village Hall should provide the Clerk with a copy of their insurance document before the work commences.
- **Finance, Planning & Administration (See Appendix 1 for the minutes)**
PLANNING - 6 sets of plans were considered. No objections were raised

RESOLVED: Councillor Aspinall proposed that the plans be agreed en bloc. Councillor P Jones seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

FINANCE – Councillor P Jones highlighted the following from the FPA Minutes:

- There are a number of outstanding debts which are currently being pursued. The debt owed by a previous tenant will be placed with a debt collection agency. A discussion took place regarding the timing and payment of invoices and it was agreed that as far as possible payments should be made in full before events and that credit card details should be taken in advance.
- An additional cost for cleaning of £50.00 will be added for wedding receptions and this will be itemised separately on the invoice.
- The Insurance Policy renewal will include the War Memorial.
- The possible acquisition of a different photo-copier/printer, which will enable leaflets, newsletters and posters to be produced 'in house'. The Clerk had costed it against the current printer and the amounts paid for printing during the past financial year and it

would be much better value. An initial payment of £850.00 would be made for a reconditioned machine and then payments made each month depending on the number of copies printed (0.003p per sheet for black & white and 0.03p per sheet for colour. Maintenance of the machine and replacement ink is included in the cost per sheet payment.

RESOLVED: Councillor D Mussell proposed that the option of the photo-copier/printer detailed above was taken up. This was seconded by Councillor Long and carried unanimously.

- The carpet in the Reception Room has rucked up again, despite having been stretched out. Councillor Brown declared a pecuniary interest. The FPA committee had suggested that the room is decorated and a new carpet purchased. The Clerk was asked to get quotes for this.

➤ **Borough Council**

Councillor L Mussell gave an update regarding the St Helens Local Plan. She and Councillor Allan Jones had had a frustrating meeting with Mark Dickens and found his answers to their questions unsatisfactory. Councillor Allan Jones had prepared a summary of the meeting which Councillor L Mussell read out to the meeting. **(See Appendix 3)**. The responses to the consultation have not been split by ward, so it will not be possible to find out how many submissions were made from Rainford. A general discussion ensued.

549. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Councillor Aspinall asked what the new rateable value of the Village Hall was. The Clerk informed the meeting that the rateable value remained the same and no notification of a new rate had been received.
2. The Chairman reminded all Councillors that 23 April is St George's Day and there will be the usual service at All Saints Church. Further details will follow.
3. The next CDC meeting will commence at the earlier time of 6pm.
4. Councillor Brown gave her apologies as she is not able to attend the Civic Service at the URC on 12.03.17.
5. The Chairman asked for a volunteer to take the minutes at the next full Council Meeting as the Clerk and the Administration Assistant are unable to attend. Councillor L Mussell offered to take the minutes, but may not be able to attend herself. Councillor Reynolds stated he would take them in her absence.
6. The following Councillors gave apologies for the Council Meeting on 27.03.17: Councillor G Jones, Councillor Monk, Councillor Wesley. Councillors D & L Mussell stated that they may not be able to attend.

550. DIARY DATES

22.03.17	6.30pm	FPA Committee meeting
27.03.17	7pm	Full Council Meeting
01.04.17	11am – 11.30am	Borough Councillors' Surgery
01.04.17	10am – 4pm	Model Railway Exhibition – Café being run as a fundraiser for the Chairman's Fund for the War Memorial
07.04.17	5.45pm – 6.15pm	MP's Surgery (only attends if appointments booked in advance)
19.04.17	6.30pm	FPA Committee meeting
24.04.17	7pm	Full Council Meeting
03.05.17	7pm	CDC Meeting
04.05.17	7am – 10pm	Mayoral Elections
06.05.17	11am – 11.30am	Borough Councillors' Surgery

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Councillor Diane Nichols
Chairman 2016/17

APPENDIX 1
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE, PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
OF RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2017 at 6.30pm IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT RAINFORD VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Councillors: K Aspinall, L Mussell, P Jones (Chairman), D Nichols,

IN ATTENDANCE: Sally Powell – Clerk

ABSENT: None

1. APOLOGIES: Councillors: J Collins (Family Matters), J Long (Holiday)

2. PLANS:

6 sets of plans (see appendix 1 for details) were considered. No objections were raised.

3. INCOME & EXPENDITURE:

See Appendix 2 for Income & Expenditure figures for January 2017.

Councillor Nichols requested information regarding the debtors and whether any were doubtful debts which cannot be included as assets at the year end. The Clerk informed the meeting that at least £2,000 of the debt would probably not be recovered. (This was the rent owed by a former tenant). A short discussion followed and the Chairman recommended the use of a debt recovery agency to try and procure the monies owed. See Appendix 3 for list of debtors.

4. INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL

The renewal is due for the Insurance Policy. This will be year 2 of a 5 year term. The premium will include the War Memorial.

5. ST HELENS DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

Councillor L Mussell informed the meeting of the following:

- 6500 responses were received across the borough to the consultation. They have not been allocated to individual wards.
- The next step is to analyse the submissions
- Councillors L Mussell and Allan Jones had met with Mark Dickens (Head of Regeneration, St Helens Council)
- At present there is no willingness by the Council to take the Grade 1 agricultural land green belt land out of the plan
- St Helens Council do not have a register of all the Brown Field sites within the Borough
- A steering group regarding the local plan has been established which Councillors L Mussell and A Jones were unaware of. This group does not have cross party representation. It is mostly made up of cabinet members, but Mark Dickens would not give a list of members. Councillor L Mussell had been unable to find any minutes for the group's meetings.
- Councillors L Mussell and A Jones had requested a further meeting with Mark Dickens and Mike Palin (Chief Executive, St Helens Council)
- Rainford Action Group have organised a peaceful rally in Victoria Square on 01.03.17 for when Councillors arrive for the St Helens Full Council meeting and are requesting that as many people attend as possible. Some will be able to attend the meeting
- It is important that as many members of the public as possible attend the final Council meeting when any amendments to the Local Plan have been made.

The Clerk was asked to circulate an email from Councillor Allan Jones regarding the meeting with Mark Dickens

6. COST OF HIRING THE HALL/CLEANING COSTS

A discussion took place regarding the addition of cleaning costs to the charge for Wedding Receptions held in the Village Hall. It was agreed that an additional £50.00 charge should be levied.

7. PHOTOCOPIER/PRINTER

The current printer/photocopier intermittently fails to print and is limited in the documents it is able to produce. The cost of printing ink plus the cost of printing undertaken by outside printers is approximately £1340 for this financial year.

A reconditioned free-standing printer/photocopier could be purchased for £850.00. Each black & white sheet would cost £0.003 and each colour sheet £0.03 which would include an inclusive cost-per-copy maintenance and consumables agreement. This would enable newsletters etc. to be printed 'in-house' and for a much superior quality of posters and tickets to be produced. Following a discussion it was agreed that this option was a cheaper alternative with good benefits.

8. RECEPTION ROOM

Despite carpet fitters attempting to remove the rucks from the carpet, these had reappeared within a fortnight. The problem is exacerbated due to the carpet having been laid on top of another carpet. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotes for the redecoration of the room and the replacement of the carpet.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Councillor Aspinall asked what the new rateable value was for the Village Hall. The Clerk informed the meeting that notification had not yet been received. Councillor Aspinall informed the Clerk that the information should be available online.
2. Councillor L Mussell informed the meeting that the land outside the Co-op where the advertising hoarding is has been adopted by St Helens Council. The Co-op has been told to remove the hoarding. However, the Co-op is disputing the ownership of the land and is of the opinion that planning permission was obtained for the hoarding. The enforcement Officer from St Helens Council is keen to have the hoarding removed as soon as possible. The advertising cones around the bollards have been removed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Chairman 2016/17

APPENDIX 1

RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL - PLANS FOR February 2017				
NUMBER	APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	SITE ADDRESS	OBJECTIONS
P/2017/0060/HHFP	Mr & Mrs Wilson 106 St.Helens Road Rainford, WA11 7QN	Part two storey part single storey rear extension, first floor rear infill extension, pitched roof over existing flat roofs to either side along with raising of ridge height and 2no dormers to rear and detached outbuilding	106 St.Helens Road Rainford, WA11 7QN	
P/2017/0091/HHFP	Mr Len Mees 61 Rookery Drive Rainford WA11 8BA	Single storey rear extension	61 Rookery Drive Rainford WA11 8BA	
P/2017/0096/HHFP	Mr Henry News 78 Higher Lane Rainford WA11 8AL	Demolition of existing garage and erection of part two storey part single storey rear extension	78 Higher Lane Rainford WA11 8AL	
P/2017/0102/HHFP	Mr Mike Oliver 44 Eagle Crescent Rainford WA11 8BG	First floor side extension	44 Eagle Crescent Rainford WA11 8BG	
P/2017/0143/HHFP	31 Eagle Crescent Rainford WA11 8BG	Erection of single storey extension to rear and side.	31 Eagle Crescent Rainford WA11 8BG	
P/2017/0146/FUL	Sandwash Business Park Sandwash Close, Rainford WA11 8LY	Change of use of existing business park (b2) to an indoor activity centre with outdoor amenity space and associated parking.	Sandwash Business Park Sandwash Close, Rainford WA11 8LY	
Chairman				

APPENDIX 3
LIST OF DEBTORS AS AT 22.02.17

Opening Debtors 16/17 still outstanding

Linda Huyton	Flower Club	09.04.14	2828	£	64.50
Phil Jones	St Helens Karate Club	20.06.15	059/15.16	£	50.00
Gemma Drury	Venue Perfection	19.08.15	105/15.16	£	500.00
Gemma Drury	Venue Perfection	07.09.15	111/15.16	£	500.00
Gemma Drury	Venue Perfection	05.10.15	128/15.16	£	500.00
Noel Matthews	UKIP Meeting	16.10.15	146/15.16	£	20.00
Gemma Drury	Venue Perfection	02.11.15	152/15.16	£	500.00
Phil Jones	St Helens Karate Club	02.11.15	156/15.16	£	68.00
Stuart Saunders	Care Plan meeting	01.12.15	174/15.16	£	50.00
Phil Jones	Karate Classes	08.12.15	186/15.16	£	68.00
Phil Jones	Karate Classes	05.01.16	205/15.16	£	68.00

TOTAL £2388.50

2016/17 Debtors

Diane Collins	Tablecloths	22.04.16	021			£	75.00
Maritime Cadets		12.07.16	083			£	90.00
Kirsty Holden & Tom Jackson	Wedding Reception 20.08.16	01.08.16	095			£	701.00
Maritime Cadets		31.08.16	110			£	120.00
Lyndsey May	Well-being event 07.05.16	15.19.16	113	15.09.16		£	110.00
Jill Woods	Crank WI Committee Meeting	16.11.16	189			£	20.00
Maritime Cadets		16.11.16	190			£	120.00
John Twist	Tai Chi	14.12.16	224			£	51.00
Mr & Mrs Thornton	Wedding 30.12.16	30.12.16	235			£	230.00
Hannah Morris	Team Enterprises	11.01.17	243			£	60.00
Jill Woods	Crank WI Committee Meeting	11.01.17	244			£	40.00
Nick Mussell	Rockpool/NS Connections	11.01.17	246			£	500.00
Maritime Cadets		11.01.17	251			£	90.00
Andrea Watterson	Petit Pois French Classes	11.01.17	254			£	240.00
Jill O'Connor/Tim Littler	Dep 26.05.18 Wedding	15.01.17	259	15.01.17		£	40.00
Rachel Johns	Dempsey Dance School	09.02.17	274			£	102.00
Neil Lawrenson	Dep 9/10.06.17 RR	16.02.17	275			£	40.00
Martin Othick	24/7 Patient Ostomy Supplies	17.02.17	276			£	550.00
Jane Bloor	ACT Meters	17.02.17	277			£	243.25
Jen Hunter	Spectrum Makeup	17.02.17	278			£	400.00
Victoria Watkin	Yoga Classes	17.02.17	279			£	108.00
Mary Smith	Band Workshop	17.02.17	280			£	30.00
Linda Glittens	Exercise Class	17.02.17	281			£	120.00
Melanie Lee	Whist Club	17.02.17	282			£	80.00
Phil & Liz Thornton	Wedding 30.12.16	22.02.17	289			£	550.00
Nigel Powell	60th Birthday Party 18.02.17	22.02.17	290			£	275.00
Mike Heaps	Dep 07.07.18 Wedding Anniversary Party	22.02.17	291			£	40.00
Helen Deluce	Dep 27.08.17 Christening	22.02.17	292			£	40.00

TOTAL

£5266.25

APPENDIX 2

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
OF RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7pm
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT RAINFORD VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors: I Brown, D Grice, G Jones, M Lee (Chairman), D Nichols, R Reynolds
D Wesley
Other Members: A Bradley, M Olley
In Attendance: S Powell (Clerk)

Absent: None

1. APOLOGIES:

None.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 04.01.17:

‘There is currently £1726 in the Community account with approximately £460 to be banked. It is estimated that costs of circa £2500 would still be required.’

was altered to:

‘There is currently £1726 in the Community account with approximately £460 to be banked. It is estimated that funds of circa £2500 would still be required.’

‘RiB will be taking over the ground maintenance of the front of the Village Hall’

was altered to:

‘RiB is considering taking over the ground maintenance of the front of the Village Hall’

With the above amendments, the minutes of the meeting of 04 January 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record, proposed by DW and seconded by IB.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

3. Approximately 70 tickets have been sold for the quiz on 03.02.17

Tickets for the lunch are available from the Clerk’s office

After a detailed discussion it was decided to cancel the Fashion Show on 10.03.17 as it was not possible to arrange it within the timescale as a minimum number of 75 guests had to attend.

The Clerk clarified that at the Beer Festival a glass (Pint or Half-Pint) and 6 tokens would cost £10. Each of the tokens could then be swapped for half a pint of beer. The Bar will also be open and the Gin Table for the Chairman’s fund will also be run as a cash bar.

8/2 The following people offered to be involved in the running of the café during the Model Railway exhibition on 01.04.17: IB, DG, ML + 2, DN + her daughters.

The profit will go to the Chairman’s Fund.

AB offered to make cakes and scones.

The Menu will be exactly the same as what will be offered in the Parish Church Hall.

DN stated that a separate meeting would be arranged for those involved to make detailed arrangements.

8/5 DN informed the meeting that the Family Music Festival will be going ahead on 11.06.17. The issues with St Helens Council have been resolved and a Temporary Events Licence has been applied for. The event is being organised through the collaboration of the BB & GA, The Cricket Club and Rainford Rangers.

8/6 DG informed the meeting that signage for the front of the building had been discussed at the last Full Council meeting. RPC had not felt that aluminium lettering would be in keeping with the building. However, the font and materials can be changed and the company involved will send further suggestions. The Clerk was requested to contact the Conservation Officer at St Helens Council for advice on what would be suitable along with planning permission.

4. WAR MEMORIAL UPDATE:

- ML again questioned whether the War memorial was perpendicular. DG informed the meeting that Ormsbys have yet to make a site visit to check.
- AB circulated an email she had received from Paul Nolan at Mersey Forest (See Appendix 1) regarding the planting of trees on the main lawn outside the Village Hall. There would be no cost involved as the trees would be S106 funding. Paul Nolan had already made a site visit and suggested where the trees should be planted. This could be done as early as March. AB suggested that the local primary schools could be involved in the project and stated that Paul would coordinate this. DG agreed to liaise with Paul as AB will be away. There was a short discussion concerning the siting of the trees and the Clerk was asked to inform Peter Reddington to gain his input.
- DG was concerned that the up-lighting of the hall which is now in place, does not light up the front door. Another light could be installed at a cost of £150.00. Following a debate it was agreed to swivel one of the existing lights and cut back the brambles to the left of the front door.
- See Appendix 2 for the War Memorial Income & Expenditure. It was noted that the deposit for the War Memorial had been paid directly by 2 x £600 donations.

Councillor Nichols left the meeting at 7.40pm

5. RAILWAY SIGNS

RR informed the meeting that the project involved Heritage Boards and replica signs being erected at the sites of the former stations:

Old Mill Lane Holt

Rookery Lane

Rainford Village (now The Spinney)

Rainford Junction

The line originally ran between St Helens Central and Ormskirk. The cost of each board would be £1500 and St Helens Council will produce and install them. Ray Waring from Rainford Heritage Society has agreed to write the dialogue for the boards and some good photos have been found. The quote for the cost of the Railway signs has not yet been received. The grant to fund the project will be applied for by Rainford Parish Council.

Councillor Reynolds proposed that Rainford Parish Council apply for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to fund the Railway signs and Heritage Boards. This was seconded by Councillor Brown and carried unanimously

6. ART EXHIBITION

DG stated that the Art Exhibition had been a disaster in 2016, but he wanted the event to take place during his term of office as Chairman (i.e. October 2017) He felt that preparations should begin immediately. He stated that in previous years the Art Exhibition had been full of exhibits and visitors. IB opined that the Exhibition was a community event and should run from Monday to Thursday as it used to and that classes and organisations using the Hall on those days should be told it wasn't available. The Clerk advised that the hall was in use a great deal during the week and the Chairman expressed concern at the loss of revenue.

Councillor Brown left the meeting at 7.50pm

As an alternative, the Chairman suggested the Art Exhibition was held Thursday – Sunday, 5 – 8 October 2017. This would give the schools time to visit as well as those who had other commitments during the day. She also proposed that the Art Exhibition could be combined with a photographic exhibition in memory of Bernard Bibby who died recently.

It was noted that there were a lack of exhibits as well as a lack of visitors in 2016. DW requested that the Clerk provide the figures for the numbers who attended. (See Appendix 3). It was agreed that this matter should be discussed further at the next Full Council meeting.

7. Any Other Business

1. DG suggested that a Diary of Functions for the Village should be created, so that events for different organisations do not clash. It was noted that some dates are in the Church Magazine and that there is a Rainford Village fb page which also has information about events happening within the village.
2. MO informed the meeting that it is hoped a recruiter for First Responders will be in post shortly.
3. The Chairman stated that a Flower Festival would be held at the URC from 25 – 29 May 2017 to celebrate 150 years of the Church being in Rainford.
4. The Rainford Heritage Society had requested that the Parish Council become Business members of the society at a cost of £20.00 pa. This was referred to the next Full Council Meeting (under Correspondence)
5. RR indicated that Rainford in Bloom are focussing on the Railway Station. Funding may be available from Northern Rail to repair and paint the bridge and fences.
6. The date of the next meeting is 01.03.17. This will take place at the earlier time of 6pm.
7. RR offered his apologies for the next meeting as he will be at a Borough Council meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm

Councillor M Lee
Chairman of the Community Development Committee
Rainford Parish Council 2016/17

APPENDIX 1

Copy of email from Paul Nolan, Mersey Forest to Alice Bradley

Alice Bradley

From: paul.nolan@merseyforest.org.uk
Sent: 01 February 2017 09:15
To: alice.bradley@famline.com
Cc: jo.sayers@merseyforest.org.uk
Subject: Trees

Hi Alice

Our proposal is for 2 Sorbus commixta trees to be planted.

The trees do not grow to a huge size so will not cast lots of shade nor become a management burden in the future.

Great red autumn colour

"This small erect tree will grow to 6 x 4 metres in 20 years so is ideal for limited spaces. The mid-green, pinnate foliage turns vivid red in the autumn and orangey red berries are produced in large clusters. These berries are popular with birds throughout the winter and provide an additional element of seasonal interest. Corymbs of fluffy white flowers appear in May-June and are very popular with bees and other pollinating insects.

A very tough tree Japanese Rowan will grow in most soils and tolerates an exposed position, although it is happiest in a slightly acidic soil. One of the very best Mountain Ash trees for autumn colour.

- Common name: Japanese rowan tree
- Height and spread in 20 years: 6 x 4 metres
- Seasons of interest: Spring, Autumn, Winter
- Foliage: Dark-green, pinnate foliage turns fiery shades of red and orange in autumn
- Soil: Grows best in moist, free-draining sites and suits most soil types"

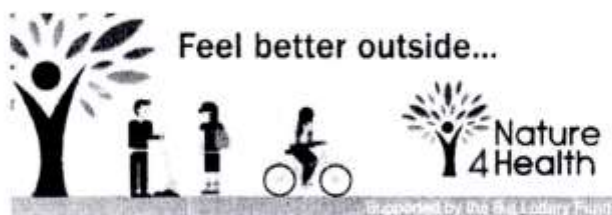
We can get this planted for you in early March if you are happy. Involving a local school would be great, we would be happy to liaise with one if you have a preference.

Best wishes

Paul

Paul
Director | The Mersey Forest Team
01925 816217 | 07788 438670
paul.nolan@merseyforest.org.uk

merseyforest.org.uk | @merseyforest | facebook.com/merseyforest



APPENDIX 2

War Memorial Income & Expenditure

War Memorial Income & Expenditure					
Income	Amount	Date	Expenditure	Amount	Prize Draw
Detail			Detail		
onation	£ 250.00	25.02.16	D Grice - Planning Application for War Memorial	£ 97.50	Sponsored Wa
g Raffle	£ 645.60	03.06.16	Tripriint - Draw Tickets	£ 186.00	Donations
oney	£ 112.00	03.06.16	D Grice - Planning Application/Plans	£ 472.50	Other Fund Rr
g donation	£ 55.00	14.10.16	G P Grice - Lancashire Top Soil - Landscaping	£ 4,000.00	Advances
ymment of overpayment	£ 97.50	18.10.16	Little Cottage Cakery - Cakes for Afternoon Tea	£ 120.00	
	£ 20.00	21.10.16	Afternoon Tea wages	£ 19.92	
War Memorial	£ 10.00	09.11.16	Ormsby Memorials - Balance for Obelisk	£ 2,537.60	
	£ 50.00	25.11.16	Entertainment for Lancashire Evening	£ 300.00	
War Memorial	£ 50.00	29.11.16	Darlington Outside Catering - Food for Lancashire Evening	£ 528.00	
oney	£ 485.00	29.11.16	Prize Draw Winnings	£ 200.00	
	£ 100.00	29.11.16	Prize Draw Winnings	£ 100.00	
	£ 100.00	29.11.16	Prize Draw Winnings	£ 50.00	
	£ 21.00	09.01.17	Lancaster - Plinths for outside lighting	£ 465.00	
	£ 258.00				
	£ 470.00				
	£ 477.50				
rice	£ 2,000.00				
	£ 1,000.00				
	£ 45.00				
ichols	£ 2,000.00				
ions	£ 145.00				
ickets£30	£ 80.00				
ions/Sponsor Money	£ 517.50				
or Money	£ 120.00				
or Money/Lancashire					
affle Money	£ 979.00				
ent of half of prize draw	£ 100.00				
	£ 75.00				
g tickets	£ 75.00				
nation	£ 75.00				
	£ 20.00				
	£ 5.00				
	£ 60.00				
	£ 20.00				
	£ 75.00				
	£ 42.00				
	£ 20.00				
	£ 10,655.10			£ 9,076.52	
	-£ 9,076.52				
	£ 1,578.58				

APPENDIX 3

Details of attendance at the Art Exhibition 2016

Friday 16.09.17	11am – 1pm	9		
	1pm – 3pm	2		
	3pm – 5pm	12		
	5pm – 7pm	4	Total	27
Saturday 17.09.16	11am – 1.30pm	10		
	1.30pm – 4pm	4	Total	14
Sunday 18.09.16	11am – 1.30pm	24		
	1.30pm – 4pm	32	Total	56
<hr/>				
Overall number of attendees				97

Comparison with previous years:

2015	298 adults	322 children	Total	620
2014	242 adults	361 children	Total	603
2013	302 Adults	223 children	Total	525

Number of adult exhibits

2016	25
2015	39
2014	59
2013	32

APPENDIX 3

From: **Cllr A Jones/MEMBERS/STHMBC** <CllrAJones@sthelens.gov.uk>

Date: 20 February 2017 at 11:02

Subject: Fw: Latest RAG post

To: Rainford Action Group <rainfordactiongroup@gmail.com>, David Henry <davidhenry81@hotmail.com>

Cc: Cllr L Mussell/MEMBERS/STHMBC <CllrLMussell@sthelens.gov.uk>, Cllr R Reynolds/MEMBERS/STHMBC <CllrRReynolds@sthelens.gov.uk>, Diane Nichols <diane@dianenichols.co.uk>, rhcnichols@gmail.com, diane.wesley@btinternet.com

Good Morning James,

Sorry I have not been in touch recently but I am quite poorly with a chest infection and bronchitis. Diane Nichols sent me the attached and it is quite clear reading what you say, that the Council is not listening. As you know Linda and I were arranging a meeting with Mark Dickens and this meeting took place last Thursday. I should have sent you this report last week but because of illness it was not possible. However this is what happened.

I started by making the point that the whole plan was in chaos because never before has a Council project been opposed by all sections of the Borough. This of course had been compounded by the disgraceful comments made to the press by Cllr Fulham. This was denied and we were told that the plan would go ahead as planned. I then asked about the next phase in the process and was told that when all the submissions had been considered it would be Officers who would draw up the draft plan and put it to the steering group for authorisation before it would go to Full Council and then to the Secretary of State. I was quite taken aback regarding the steering group as we were told it had already been formed and had met three times. The membership had been chosen by the Leader of the Council without cross party consultation which means there are no Councillors from Rainford or Ecclestone on that group. Linda brought up the point regarding the taking of Farming Land and how it could damage the local economy. Mark thought that this was an insignificant issue.

David Henry gave us a few questions to ask, which we did and the answers we got were vague to say the least. There were 6.5 thousand submissions sent in from across the Borough but there had not been a split by Ward so we could not get an answer to the question how many from Rainford? There is no register of Brown Field sites. In this respect the Council is using the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment list, and here Mark did say that more Brown Field sites had been identified. There is no register of all the Brown Field sites in the Borough. When the Draft Plan is produced it will include a plan to show how Rainford can cope with the expansion. I will believe this when I see it. The timing now is that it is expected that all reports will be completed by late summer and then if approved by Council there would be a further consultation period of 6 weeks before it was sent to the Secretary of State. We were told that Mark had a meeting with the Ecclestone Councillors along the same lines but there had been no request made from any other Ward Councillors. What a surprise! Linda did ask if the Council would meet with the action groups and we were told in no uncertain terms NO.

Following the meeting Linda and I had a short meeting and decided more or less what you have said in the attached post. There is still a long way to go and we will be having further meetings with Mark, if for no other reason than to keep up with progress (or lack of it). The Council may be able to refuse to see you but it cannot refuse to see us. I look forward to there being a massive turn out at the Town Hall but I would suggest you gather before 5-30 as most Councillors will be in the Town Hall by then. May I also suggest that sometime after Wednesday your Committee and we Councillors meet to discuss the best course of action throughout the summer. One thing I must mention however is that you say that invitations to attend meeting were extended to Councillors and these were declined, well, we both know that was not the case in Rainford, even if it was throughout the rest of the Borough. Assuring you once again of our total support. Let me know if you need anything further.

Kind Regards, ALLAN