

Rainford Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 7.00pm IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT RAINFORD VILLAGE HALL

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

In attendance: S Powell (Clerk)
V Nelson (Administration Assistant)
2 Residents

Absent: None

334. APOLOGIES: Councillor: Collins (family commitments)

335. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:
Councillor Reynolds – non-pecuniary 344.1.P/2015/0612/S73
Councillor L Mussell – non-pecuniary 337
Councillor Grice – non-pecuniary 344.3

336. FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman reminded members of the forthcoming Art Exhibition and the need to fill the rota for supervising the hall.

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

Mr & Mrs Willis of Lakeside Gardens re the displacement of traffic that will be caused by the redevelopment of the Ex-servicemen's club on Cross Pit Lane

Mrs Willis raised a complaint because Lakeside Gardens was not included in the letter drop from St Helens Council of the Statement of Community Involvement concerning the Ex-Servicemen's Club. Residents of Lakeside Gardens were first informed on 25.07.15 by letter from St Helens Traffic Department, which was after the letter drop. Mr & Mrs Willis do not believe that Lakeside Gardens is a safe place for parents to drop off and pick up children attending Rainford CE Primary.

Mr & Mrs Willis were informed that the Parish Council had raised concerns with the Borough Council and that Lakeside Gardens will not be promoted as a drop off zone. Also, that the Landlord of the Derby Arm has offered the car park there as an alternative.

Mr & Mrs Willis were informed that the land behind the Village Hall is owned by St Helens Council and the Parish Council has no jurisdiction over it.

Mr & Mrs Willis left the meeting at 7.25pm

Councillor Dennis Mussell re the area of land at the front of the Village Hall

Councillor Mussell informed the meeting that he had met with Peter Reddington about the flowerbed being overshadowed and the alternative placements of plants. A short discussion ensued and Councillor D Nichols stated she would take the issue to the Rainford in Bloom Steering Group. Councillor Wesley suggested that Mr Reddington be asked to produce a plan for the area. Councillor Lee requested that the bushes near the steps are trimmed and that the white lines are repainted.

338. POLICE REPORT

The Clerk read out a summary of the report which had been circulated with the agenda. (See Appendix 1)

324. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON

FRIDAY 15 MAY 2015 AND 10 JUNE 2015

Page 2 313 Community Development – RR not RN stated that Rainford in Bloom was the focus of his fund-raising this year.

RESOLVED: That with the above amendment, the minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record.

325. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

317 v. - Councillor Brown stated that this should not be included in the minutes. The Chairman agreed and indicated that it would be removed.

318 - Councillor Wesley asked if the date for the Chairman's fund raiser was correct as 17.09.15 falls on a Thursday. The correct date is 19.09.15.

Page 7 – 8 Health & Safety - Councillor D Mussell asked why no progress had been made with the issue of the Fire Service Report. The Chairman informed Councillor Mussell that the issue would be discussed at the FPA meeting on 19.08.15 and requested that he be present. The Chairman assured Councillor D Mussell and the rest of the meeting that the Council wish to get the matter sorted as soon as possible. Councillor Mussell agreed to attend the meeting. The Clerk was asked to circulate the quotes for the works required before the meeting on 19.08.15. **Councillor R Nichols proposed and Councillor Collins seconded the motion that as there is no meeting of the Full Council in August, the FPA committee had a delegated responsibility to decide how to proceed. This was carried unanimously.**

326. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Councillor Wesley proposed that the Income and Expenditure Figures be accepted. This was seconded by Councillor R Nichols and carried unanimously.

327. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk summarised the following correspondence, reading the entire document where requested:

1. Letter from the Pension Regulator re automatic enrolment of staff in a Pension scheme.
2. Email from judges of Rainford in Bloom with the schedule for the judging. On 09.07.15.
3. Email from J Williams re the amount of rubbish left on the field after Walking Day asking that whoever is in charge of the site cleans up properly afterwards. (This matter was resolved with the involvement of Councillor L Mussell).
4. Email from Mrs I Welding asking when the overgrown hedges on Reeds Brow & Crawford Road will be cut back. (Councillor L Mussell informed the meeting that Borough Councillor A Jones had dealt with this matter).
5. Email from Peter Reddington following the judge's visit for Rainford in Bloom, suggesting the photos could be displayed in the Library. (The photographs were subsequently displayed in the Village Hall).
6. Letter from Norma Cunliffe thanking RiB for the opportunity to decorate the entrance hall for the judge's visit.
7. Email from Jane Holgate re Reservoir Safety campaign being run by United Utilities. (This was advertised on the Parish Council's Facebook page and Noticeboard).
8. Email from Helen Miller –Village Improvements are good but High School should be educating children re litter. She also asked if the train station carpark is an area that could be looked at as it is always full of litter and very unattractive. (Councillor Reynolds said he would contact the resident concerned).
9. Email from Jessica Birch re Walrus cards – read out – Councillor Long informed the meeting that Houghtons no longer sell these travel cards.
10. Email from Jon & Lauren Emmett thanking the staff for everything done at the hall in the run up to and on their wedding day. They had written a review for use on the Parish Council website and in marketing materials. This was read out.
11. Email from Graham Jones (read out) re the work National Grid is undertaking in the Village and the timescale involved.
12. Email from John Sheward with attached sketches drawn by the Conservation Officer as suggested siting of benches and flower troughs – There was a short discussion about the

proposals ensued and about other issues with regard to the Village Centre Improvement Scheme and Councillor L Mussell gathered the opinions of her fellow Councillors.

13. Letter from Opus Energy re changeover of energy supplier for cheaper electricity.
14. Email from Lorraine Simpson with St Helens Council's Statement of Licensing Policy review with regard to premises licensed for gambling. The Main changes are:
The introduction of Risk Assessments to accompany Premises Licence applications, and the onus of support expected from LA's and partners; and The introduction of Local Area Profiles to assist with more effective planning when considering applications for licensed premises.
Both are part of a formal consultation by the Gambling Commission (which has only just reached its consultation period end). Both have been included in our draft statement as it is considered likely that these will come into effect.
There is a consultation period from today until 13.09.15 (Full document available from the Clerk).
15. Letter from Barclaycard stating that we are not PCI DSS compliant. We are as we had an email on 14.07.15 with our compliance certificate!
16. Letter from Scottish Power stating that the monthly DD will be increasing. (This is not the case as the Parish Council is changing its supplier to Opus Energy – see Correspondence 13).
17. Letter from Wigan Council re the employment Land Review Update they have done and details of where the report can be viewed.
18. Letter and membership card from CPRE.
Additionally, the office has dealt with approximately 1250 emails, 102 phone calls and 126 visitors since the last Full Council Meeting
1163 'Likes' on FB Page (815)
Reached 3582 on page (1646)
475 engaged (180) Figures in brackets are for the previous month

RESOLVED: That the Correspondence be accepted.

328. COMMITTEE & COUNCILLOR REPORTS

➤ **Community Development – Rainford in Bloom**

Councillor R Reynolds reported that the Judges had visited for Rainford in Bloom on 09.07.15 and appeared impressed with the efforts made by the Steering Group and other volunteers. They had given the Steering group some fantastic ideas for moving forwards and plans were already underway for expanding the number of containers and for bulb-planting etc. Councillor L Mussell informed the meeting that she had discovered that the brewery which owns the Eagle and Child Pub owns the land where the public toilets used to be. She would like to see this land turned into an eco-garden.

Councillor Grice left the meeting at 7.55pm

➤ **Finance, Planning & Administration**

FINANCE

Councillor Jones summarised the meeting of the FPA committee which had taken place on Wednesday 22 July 2015. (See Appendix 2 for minutes and details of the Income & Expenditure for June 2015)

It was agreed that the provider for electricity for the Village Hall should be switched to Opus Energy.

Councillor Mussell asked why the Parish Council pay for the utilities for the Pavilion and Councillor Jones explained that historically the Parish Council own it. There was a discussion about the sums of money that it had been necessary to spend on the Pavilion over the last couple of years and it was agreed that the situation would need to be monitored, as it was only a small number of residents who benefitted from the use of the Pavilion.

The quarterly report shows that the Parish Council is more or less on budget.

There were no amendments to the Financial Regulations and these were adopted having been proposed by Councillor Reynolds and seconded by Councillor Aspinall.

There was dialogue about the Wedding packages with comments regarding the font colour. However, it was noted that the documents look very professional and the contents represent excellent value, while still generating income for the Parish Council. The Administration Assistant had sourced a fridge/freezer for £187 + VAT and all agreed that this should be purchased directly.

PLANNING

5 sets of plans were considered.

P/2015/0525 – Councillor Aspinall declared an interest.

No objections were raised.

Councillor Aspinall moved that all plans be agreed, Councillor Nichols seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the plans be agreed en bloc

➤ **Borough Council**

Councillor L Mussell reported that the Borough Councillors had been approached by the organisers of the Rainford 10k to pay for the removal and re-installation of the barriers in The Spinney leading into the park for the day of the run. The Borough Councillors had refused the request.

The work to clear the Cubs and Scouts allotment had been approved and would commence shortly.

Concern had been expressed that Giant Hogweed was growing on the Linear Park near Old Lane. Following investigation it was found to be Wild Parsley.

Rainford CE Primary School had held a meeting for parents of children attending the school regarding the proposal to develop the site of the Ex-Servicemen's Club which is currently used for parking at the beginning and end of the school day. It has been suggested by St Helens Council that a pedestrian gateway could be opened up from Lakeside Gardens on to the School grounds. Many of the residents in Lakeside Gardens are not in agreement with this as the road is narrow and it is felt unsuitable for large numbers of vehicles that would be attempting to park and drop children off. A possible solution has apparently been put forward by the manager at the Derby Arms who has offered the use of the carpark at the pub. Points raised during the discussion regarding this matter included the fact that schools are never built with parking for parents and that the other schools in the Village do not have this facility. Also that using Lakeside Gardens as an alternative was not an option. There was general agreement that a solution which is acceptable to all concerned is unlikely.

329. HEALTH & SAFETY

This discussion was deferred to the Finance, Planning & Administration committee meeting on 19.18.15.

330. HERITAGE DAY ROTA

The rota for being in attendance when the Council Chamber is opened up as part of the Heritage Day on Sunday 13.09.15 had been circulated and completed. The Chairman thanked the Councillors who had agreed to do this.

331. PRIVATE AGENDA

The staff and members of the public were asked to leave the chamber while the members of the Council discussed an item under a private agenda.

332. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

333. DIARY DATES

29.07.15	3pm - Crime Awareness Forum
01.08.15	11am – 11.30am Borough Councillors' surgery
19.08.15	6.30pm – FPA Committee meeting
05.09.15	Rainford Show

12.09.15	5.45pm – 6.15pm – MP’s surgery
13.09.15	Heritage Day (Hall & Chamber open to the public in association with Rainford Heritage Society)
17.09.15	Chairman’s Fund-raising Event
23.09.15	Finance, Planning & Administration Committee Meeting
28.09.15	Full Council Meeting

Councillor Long asked the nature of the fund- raising event and was informed that it is still under discussion!

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

Chairman

APPENDIX 1

POLICE REPORT SUMMARY

The Police Report covers the period from 01.06.15 to 30.06.15

1. Apologies for non-attendance from Constable (4250) Laura Boyle and PCSO (0211) Keith Howard and PCSO (0165) Neil Draper.
2. Routine Speeding and Traffic Operations continue in the area.
3. Crime figures for this period:
 - ASB = 5
 - Criminal Damage = 0
 - Burglary/Attempted Burglary = 3
 - Theft other = 4
 - Theft of/from a Motor vehicle = 5
4. Operation Handle continues to help prevent burglaries, provide a visible presence and identify unlocked premises (particularly garages).
5. Residents are being encouraged to report suspicious activity by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency. Additionally, information about a crime can also directed to Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111
6. HV Patrols were increased at the locations of reported crimes and relevant Crime reduction advice given to victims. Unfortunately, there are currently no solvability factors for most of these incidents.

7. The next Rainford Priority Meeting (Have Your Say Meeting) will be held on 18.09.15 at Rainford Police Station between 18.00 and 19.00. The local policing team will be on hand to offer advice and help.

APPENDIX 2

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE, PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2015 at 6.30pm IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT RAINFORD VILLAGE HALL

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

ABSENT: None

1. APOLOGIES: None

2. PLANS:

5 sets of plans were considered.

P/2015/0525 – Councillor Aspinall declared an interest.

It was noted that Planning Application P/2015/0115 ‘Outline application with some matters reserved for erection of 1no dwelling. Land adjacent to 1 Berringtons Lane, Mill Lane, and Rainford Road’, had been refused.

The details for P/2015/0558 were not yet available, but will be brought to the Full Council meeting on 27.07.15

3. INCOME & EXPENDITURE:

Councillor Brown commented on the amount of the gas bill and queried whether the increased use of the Hall was actually creating additional income for the Parish Council.

Councillor Wesley asked if some of the monies paid out for Rainford in Bloom would be reimbursed from the Chairman’s account and the Clerk confirmed the transfer would be made in due course.

4. END OF FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

There was general agreement that this was a very useful document and the Clerk was thanked for producing it. Councillor Jones requested that it should be placed on the website following approval at the Full Council meeting on 27.07.15. There was some discussion regarding individual budget heads and it was recognised that dividing the yearly budget figure by 4 to obtain a quarterly budget figure, does not always reflect the spending pattern throughout the financial year.

5. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The draft regulations were considered. They have been tailored for use for Rainford Parish Council.

There was a discussion about 'Accounts for Payment'. It was noted that this description is an anomaly as all items on the expenditure summary have already been paid. However, it was agreed that this should remain a separate item on the agenda for Full Council Meetings.

6. AUTOMATIC PENSION ENROLMENT

The document circulated with the agenda was considered and it was acknowledged that all employees of the Parish Council are entitled to automatic enrolment or to opt in to the pension scheme. The date for implantation for the Parish Council is July 2016.

7. NEW NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE RATES

The national minimum wage will increase on 01.10.15. This will only effect bar staff over the age of 25 who are currently paid £6.50 per hour. The rate will increase to £6.70 per hour. It was noted that the budget for 2016/17 must take account of the implementation of the living wage and that bar prices may have to be increased to accommodate the rise in wages.

8. WEDDING PACKAGES

The drafts for these were considered and it was agreed that they were a good idea and well presented. The Clerk was asked to produce figures showing the unit cost and profit for the Parish Council from each package for the next Full Council meeting. Councillor Reynolds suggested that additionally a list of ideas for accessories could be provided. It was the feeling of the meeting that the packages should be advertised on the website as soon as they were finalised.

9. BAR STOCKTAKE RESULTS

The result for the last quarter was an overall gross profit margin of 52%. During this quarter a new glass washing machine had been purchased and stock was being held for a wedding.

10. AOB

1. The cost of electricity can be reduced by switching to an alternate supplier, Opus Energy. It was agreed this should be implemented.
2. The fridge in the kitchen has broken and needs replacing. The Clerk requested that a larger fridge with an additional small freezer section be purchased to give more chiller capacity for regular and outside users of the kitchen and to give freezer space for ice for the bar. The Chairman asked the Clerk to provide quotes (up to £500) for the Full Council meeting on 27.07.15 and also stated that payment should be made from the Bar account.
3. Councillor Linda Mussell had obtained quotes for a Christmas Tree outside the Village Hall. The Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda for the Full Council meeting on 27.07.15.
4. An email had been received from John Sheward with drawings of the suggested layout for the area outside Houghtons from the Conservation Officer. Councillor Reynolds asked the Clerk to add this to the agenda for the Full Council meeting on 27.07.15.
5. An item was raised which needed to be discussed under a Private Agenda and the Clerk was asked to add this to the agenda for the Full Council meeting on 27.07.15.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Chairman

RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL - PLANS FOR July 2015

NUMBER	APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	SITE ADDRESS	OBJECTIONS
P/2015/0525	Mr J Dickson Springvale, Reeds Brow Rainford, WA11 8PB	Raising of ridge height, erection of two storey rear extension along with 3no dormer windows to fron elevation	Springvale, Reeds Brow Rainford, WA11 8PB	
P/2015/0115	Mrs Valerie Wilson-Steer 14 Brooklands Road Eccleston, WA10 5HF	Erection of 1no Dwelling ** Please note this is an appeal as planning refused on the grounds of the site being within the green belt area. Highways also raised objections. RPC raised no objections to the original application.	Land Adjacent to 1 Berringtons Lane, Mill Lane Rainford	
P/2015/0545	Mr Steven Smith 113 Higher Lane Rainford WA11 8BQ	Single storey rear extension with flat roof and glass lantern light.	113 Higher Lane Rainford WA11 8BQ	
P/2015/0558	Mr Jon Grigg 87 Higher Lane Rainford	Single storey side and rear extension along with conversion of existing garage to a habitable room.	87 Higher Lane Rainford	
P/2015/0570	Mr Brian Peet The Bungalow 18 Pasture Lane Rainford WA11 8PU	Retention of building works to existing storage/garage buildings to extend and increase roof height along with new window and door openings to front and side elevations.	Land to Rear of 2 to 16 Pasture Lane, Rainford	* New Plan
Chairman				

RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Income & Expenditure 2015 - 2016

RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL				
Income & Expenditure 2015 - 2016				
Jun-15				
Expenditure				
Date	Company	Detail	Total	VAT
01.06.15	British gas	Gas	£ 2,101.80	£ 350.30
01.06.15	St Helens Council	Salaries	£ 3,267.25	
01.06.16	St Helens Council	Pensions	£ 272.61	
01.06.17	St Helens Council	National Insurance	£ 93.00	
01.06.18	St Helens Council	Fees	£ 36.00	
01.06.15	Booker/S Powell	Cleaning Materials/Lightbulbs	£ 23.15	£ 3.86
01.06.15	Tesco/S Powell	Waste Bin/replacement kettle	£ 31.50	£ 5.25
01.06.15	Booker/S Powell	Banqueting roll etc	£ 46.09	£ 7.68
01.06.15	Boundary Car Care	Rainford in Bloom banner	£ 180.00	£ 30.00
05.06.15	Barclays Bank	Bank Charges	£ 12.13	
10.06.15	Barclaycard	Merchant Charges	£ 29.05	£ 3.16
10.06.15	Tesco/S Powell	Refreshments for Civic Sunday	£ 16.22	£ 2.70
10.06.15	Costco/S Powell	Guillotine/drawing Pins etc	£ 27.58	£ 4.60
10.06.15	Booker/S Powell	Toilet Paper/Soap	£ 32.25	£ 5.39
10.06.15	Cleanse Cleaning Solutions Ltd	Cleaning	£ 260.00	
10.06.15	COCREATE	Website support and email hosting	£ 288.00	£ 48.00
10.06.15	Lyreco UK Ltd	Printer Ink/Toilet Roll/Vacuum bags	£ 354.16	£ 59.03
10.06.15	Acorn Venture Farm	Plants for Rainford in Bloom	£ 600.00	
15.06.15	Scottish Power	Electricity	£ 232.00	£ 38.67
17.06.15	Booker/S Powell	Envelopes	£ 4.19	£ 0.70
17.06.15	D Bennett	Planters for Rainford in Bloom	£ 300.00	
19.06.15	Greenhope Recycling & Waste	Glass Recycling	£ 8.10	£ 1.35
23.06.15	Titan Telecom	Telephone & Broadband	£ 65.46	£ 10.91
24.06.15	Acorn Venture Farm	Plants for Rainford in Bloom	£ 80.00	
24.06.15	B&Q/S Powell	Paint/Lightbulbs	£ 114.35	£ 19.06
24.06.15	J Wilburn	Internal Auditor	£ 192.50	
24.06.15	St Helens Council	Salaries/Pension/NI/Fees	£ 3,367.67	
29.06.15	St Helens Council	Rates	£ 1,208.00	
			£ 13,243.06	£ 590.66
Income	Bar Sales	£	3,413.70	
	Main Hall	£	1,477.00	
	Reception Room	£	345.00	
	Rent	£	1,293.25	
	Other	£	766.50	
		£	7,295.45	
	Current Account	June Opening Balance	Bank	
			£ 5,792.01	
		Total Income	£ 4,473.80	
		Expenses	-£ 13,243.06	
		Transfers	£ 5,000.00	
		Closing Balance	£ 2,022.75	
		Bank Balances @ 30.04.15		
		Bar	£ 11,669.24	
		Current	£ 2,022.75	
		High Interest	£ 61,093.56	
			£ 74,785.55	
		Debtors @ 30.06.15	£ 5,854.25	
		Bank Balances + Debtors	£ 80,639.80	
Chairman				



Press release

New National Minimum Wage rates announced

From: Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-innovation-skills>), The Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable (<https://www.gov.uk/government/people/vince-cable>) and Low Pay Commission (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/low-pay-commission>)

First published: 17 March 2015

Part of: National Minimum Wage (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-minimum-wage>) and Labour market reform (<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/labour-market-reform>)

This news article was published under the 2010 to 2015 Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government

From Thursday 1 October 2015, the adult rate of the National Minimum Wage (NMW) will rise by 20p.



From Thursday 1 October 2015, the adult rate of the National Minimum Wage (<https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage>) (NMW) will rise by 20 pence from £6.50 to £6.70 per hour, as recommended by the Low Pay Commission (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-minimum-wage-low-pay-commission-report-2015>) (LPC) in March 2015 this year.

The government has rejected the LPC's recommendation for the apprentice rate. The new apprenticeship rate will be set at £3.30 and represents a rise of 57 pence, the largest ever increase in the National Minimum Wage for apprentices. By implementing a rate higher than the LPC's recommendation, the government intends that apprenticeships will deliver a wage that is comparable to other

choices for work.

Business Secretary Vince Cable is also planning to launch the National Minimum Wage Accelerator - an online tool which will make it easier to compare rates of pay across regions, sectors and occupations. It will take data from the annual survey of hours and earnings and display information about pay so that people are able to compare wages with others in their sector and region

From 1 October 2015:

- the adult rate will increase by 20 pence to £6.70 per hour – *Only this increase will have an effect on low wages.*
- the rate for 18 to 20 year olds will increase by 17 pence to £5.30 per hour
- the rate for 16 to 17 year olds will increase by 8 pence to £3.87 per hour
- the apprentice rate will increase by 57 pence to £3.30 per hour
- the accommodation offset increases from the current £5.08 to £5.35

This is the largest real-terms increase in the National Minimum Wage since 2007, and more than 1.4 million of Britain's lowest-paid workers are set to benefit.