

## Rainford Parish Council

### MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 7.00pm IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT RAINFORD VILLAGE HALL

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

**In attendance:** Councillor Allan Jones  
Mr Jeremy Spencer (Conservation Officer, St Helens Council)  
Sally Powell (Clerk)  
Vicky Nelson (Administration Assistant)

**Absent:** None

**360. APOLOGIES: Councillor:** Lee (Away)

**361. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Councillor Aspinall– Non-pecuniary interest 369i P2015/0824/HHFP

Councillor Brown – Non-pecuniary interest 369i P2015/0824/HHFP

Councillor Grice – Non-pecuniary interest 370i

**362. FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN:**

The Chairman invited Councillor Grice to speak. Councillor Grice put forward the suggestion that there should be an external War Memorial in the Village. He stated his keenness to be involved in the project should it go ahead, and his willingness to assist with fundraising. A discussion took place and it was noted that the memorial in All Saints Church is not universally accessible. Councillor Allan Jones stated that he would be in support of the initiative, but it would need planning permission. The memorial could be situated within the Conservation Area. Possible sites would be within the grounds of the Village Hall or at the top of Mossborough Road. Councillor Diane Nichols informed the meeting that she would be willing to raise funds for the project during her year as Chairman. She also suggested that poppy wreaths could be laid at the Memorial on Remembrance and/or Armistice Day. The Chairman gave his full support to the idea and indicated the importance of promoting it as additional and complimentary to the existing Memorial and Service of Remembrance in All Saints Church.

**RESOLVED: That a project to build an External War Memorial in Rainford should be initiated. This was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor L Mussell and carried unanimously**

**363. JEREMY SPENCER, CONSERVATION OFFICER, ST HELENS COUNCIL:**

Mr Spencer addressed the Council about a project in conjunction with Historic England (formally English Heritage). Rainford had not been chosen for a similar project earlier in the year as it did not fit the criteria. However, a representative of Historic England had recently visited the Village and was very impressed by the improvements to the centre. He indicated that a grant may be available to restore some of the shop fronts to their original appearance as Rainford is on the Historic England At Risk Register as it is in danger of losing its historic heritage. 5 shops (the Orthodontist, Houghtons, The Mens Room, The Carpet Shop and REDS) would be involved in the scheme and possibly a building on the other side of the road. Historic England would contribute between 60 and 70% of the funds required (approximately £120,000). The shop owners would also be asked to pay something towards the cost. Mr Spencer asked the Parish Council to consider contributing £8000 - £9000 to the project and answered the following questions and queries from Councillors:

1. Councillor D Mussell – What was the timescale?
  - A. The money could be available by the end of March 2016

Councillor P Jones indicated that funds would not be available in this financial year, but could be made available from 01.04.16

2. Councillor Long – What would happen if any of the Shop owners will not contribute?
  - A. The project could go ahead but would be less successful
3. Councillor Collins – Will the old Cobblers shop be included?
  - A. It is not presently included
4. Councillor D Mussell – What form does the refurbishment take?
  - A. Anything that is visible, so it would include the façade, roof, windows and pilasters. The original shop fronts would be recreated from photographs.
5. Councillor L Mussell – Is there money in the scheme for future maintenance?
  - A. No, but a similar scheme completed in the mid-1990s in Newton-le-Willows still looks good.

**RESOLVED: Councillor Reynolds proposed that Rainford Parish Council agreed in principle to a financial contribution in 2016/17 to a Historic England project to restore shop fronts in the Village Centre to their original appearance. Additionally, the Village Hall would be made available for meetings regarding this matter. Councillor L Mussell seconded the proposal and it was carried unanimously.**

**Councillor Allan Jones and Mr Jeremy Spencer left the meeting at 7.30pm**

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

None.

**365. POLICE REPORT**

Police reports will not be sent to the Parish Council in future as there is no longer a permanent Police presence in Rainford.

**RESOLVED: That 'Police Report' should be removed as a permanent item on the agenda**

**RESOLVED: That the Police be allowed to use the Village Hall free of charge for meetings**

**366. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2015**

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

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

356 1. - Councillor Brown asked if any members of staff had undergone Health & Safety training. The Clerk informed the meeting that this had not yet taken place.

**367. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

**368. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk summarised the following correspondence, reading in full the letter from Mr Andrew Rigby

1. Email from John Sheward re the planters in the centre of the Village
2. Email from Andrew Ashcroft thanking the Council for the donation to Rainford Rangers
3. Letter from Windle Parish Council inviting the Chairman to a Christmas Reception
4. Letter from Windle Parish Council inviting the Chairman to the Christmas Tree Lighting at Bleak Hill School
5. Copy of an article by Cllr Diane Nichols regarding the Rainford in Bloom award for the Parish Church Newsletter
6. Various emails and letters accepting the invitation to the Chairman's Christmas Reception
7. Email from Mike Berry, Community Liaison Officer for Jane Kennedy the Police & Crime Commissioner regarding a day of action on Social media on the 'Stop the Police Cuts' campaign
8. Copy of Email and photographs from Andrew Rigby sent to George Houghton regarding an RTA on the By-pass at the junction with Mill Lane

Following a discussion during which several suggestions were made for improving the section of road, the Clerk was requested to:

- ask for the accident records at this junction for the past 5 years
- write to Mr Rigby
- include a discussion about the issue as a separate agenda item for the next meeting

9. Copy of Countryside Voice and Field Work, the magazines of the CPRE
10. Renewal notice for subscription to SLCC
11. Copy of The Clerk magazine
12. SLCC Conference & Training programme for 2016
13. Copy of the War Memorials Trust Bulletin

Additionally, the office has dealt with approximately 2175 emails, 78 phone calls and 66 visitors 3273 reached through FB Page

**RESOLVED: That the Correspondence be accepted.**

### **369. COMMITTEE & COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

#### ➤ **Community Development (including Rainford in Bloom)**

- i. At Councillor D Nichols' request, Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting about the planned Food Festival in April 2016. Organisation is in the early stages and would be continued at the next CDC meeting scheduled for 24.11.15.
- ii. Rainford in Bloom won a Silver Award in its first year of entry in the North West in Bloom competition. This is a significant achievement and it is hoped that a gold award will be earned next year. The report from the Judges had been received just before the meeting began and was very complimentary, particularly regarding the cleanliness of the Village.
- iii. An in-depth discussion had taken place regarding the Art Exhibition in 2016 resulting in the proposal that the Exhibition takes place on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday in October and that the possibility of Sponsorship for the event is investigated. It was suggested that the bar should be open or tea and coffee served.

**RESOLVED: That the Art Exhibition is moved to a Friday, Saturday and Sunday in October. This was proposed by Councillor L Mussell, seconded by Councillor D Mussell and carried unanimously**

- iv. A preliminary discussion had also taken place regarding the proposed War Memorial.
- v. Councillor L Mussell informed the meeting that she had spoken to Jeremy Spencer about hanging banners on the wall outside the Village Hall. He will clarify the position.
- vi. Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting of his intention to hold a Beer Festival in the Village Hall on 13.02.16 as a fund-raising event for Rainford in Bloom

#### ➤ **Finance, Planning & Administration**

See Appendix 2 for the minutes of the meeting held on 18.11.15

- i. Councillor Aspinall informed the meeting that 3 sets of plans had been consideration. No objections were raised. Councillor P Jones stated that since the meeting 2 further sets of plans had been received. Councillor Aspinall and Councillor Brown both declared a non-pecuniary interest. In planning application P/2015/0824. After a short discussion it was agreed that a letter of objection should be sent to the Planning Department regarding this application as it would create a precedent for terracing and was inconsistent with the existing buildings.

**RESOLVED: That with the exception of P/2015/8024/HHFP, the plans be agreed en bloc**

- ii. There had been the suggestion by the office staff of promoting a Christmas Party Night at the Village Hall in 2016. This would be an income generating event where local businesses would be encouraged to book a table for a staff night out. It was generally agreed that this was a good idea and that the Clerk and Administration Assistant should go ahead with organising and promoting this.
- iii. Office 5 will be advertised to let.

#### ➤ **Borough Council**

Councillor R Nichols and L Mussell reported:

- i. The creation of the Liverpool City regions has been confirmed and mayoral elections will take place in 2017. St Helens will become one of 6 regions, but safeguards have been put in place to prevent St Helens becoming part of Liverpool.
- ii. A debate had taken place about cutting the Police Budget and this had been universally condemned.
- iii. Residents on the A580 were continuing with their formal complaint regarding the noise created by the new road surface and were currently following necessary procedures.
- iv. Traffic calming measures would be implemented on Kendal Drive and News Lane.

**370. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Councillor Nichols instigated a discussion regarding Rainford Band.

**RESOLVED: That Rainford Band should be booked to play on Civic Sunday on the understanding that the Parish Council will be charged £250.00. Also that Rainford Band would be booked for other events as needed. This was proposed by Councillor R Nichols and seconded by Councillor D Monk and carried unanimously**

2. Councillor Grice asked if the Council approved of flying the flag at half-mast in respect for the recent atrocities in France. It was agreed that it too late on this occasion but that in future the protocol for this should be concur with St Helens Council.
3. Councillor Aspinall informed the meeting that Adrian Houghton would be co-ordinating the distribution of poppies from his premises on Lords Fold next year.
4. Councillor Reynolds requested that the Reception Room was made available for a residents meeting. This was agreed.
5. The Chairman informed the meeting that leaders of local voluntary groups had been invited to join the Council for Festive Refreshments following the next meeting 16.12.15. (Please note this is a Wednesday)
6. The Chairman reported that he had attended the ceremony at the Crank War memorial on 11.11.15.
7. The Chairman expressed his thanks to all those who had organised and attended the Afternoon Tea.

**371. DIARY DATES**

|                               |                 |  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 27.11.15                      | Noon            | Lancashire Day Proclamation                          |
| 04.12.15                      | ?               | Christmas Lights switched on                         |
| 04 – 06.12.15                 |                 | Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church         |
| 05.12.15                      | 11am – 11.30am  | Borough Councillors' Surgery                         |
| 05.12.15                      |                 | Village Christmas Fayre                              |
| 16.12.15                      | 7pm             | Full Council Meeting including FPA                   |
| 24.12.15 – 02.01.16 inclusive |                 | Hall Closed  |
| 02.01.16                      | 11am – 11.30am  | Borough Councillors' surgery                         |
| 20.01.16                      | 6.30pm          | Finance, Planning & Administration Committee         |
| 22.01.16                      | 7pm             | Burns Night (Chairman's Fundraiser)                  |
| 25.01.16                      | 7pm             | Full Council Meeting                                 |
| 28.01.16                      |                 | Blood Donor Sessions                                 |
| 05.02.16                      | 7.30pm          | Quiz (Chairman's Fundraiser)                         |
| 06.02.16                      | 11am – 11.30am  | Borough Councillors' surgery                         |
| 12.02.16                      | 5.45pm – 6.15pm | MP's surgery   |
| 13.02.16                      |                 | Beer Festival (Chairman's Fundraiser)                |
| 17.02.16                      | 6.30pm          | Finance, Planning & Administration Committee Meeting |
| 22.02.16                      | 7pm             | Full Council Meeting                                 |

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

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Chairman

## APPENDIX 1

| RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL          |                                      |   |                   |                   |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income & Expenditure 2015 - 2016 |                                      |   |                   |                   |
| Oct-15                           |                                      |   |                   |                   |
| Expenditure                      |                                      |   |                   |                   |
| Date                             | Company                              | Detail  | Total             | VAT               |
| 05.10.15                         | Barclays Bank                        | Bank Charges  | £ 8.24            |                   |
| 08.10.15                         | Scottish Power                       | Final Bill for electricity                                | £ 842.99          | £ 140.50          |
| 13.10.15                         | Opus Energy                          | Electricity Bill  | £ 215.06          | £ 35.84           |
| 06.10.15                         | St Helens Council                    | Election Expenses   | £ 184.00          |                   |
| 06.10.15                         | Cleanse Cleaning Solutions Ltd       | Cleaning/Toilet rolls/Paper Towels                        | £ 198.52          |                   |
| 20.10.15                         | Greenhope Recycling & Waste Services | Glass Recycling   | £ 2.70            | £ 0.45            |
| 13.10.15                         | First Castors/S Powell               | Castors for Art Exhibition Boards                         | £ 58.74           | £ 9.79            |
| 13.10.15                         | Rainford Plumbing & Heating          | Re-seal of urinal waste                                   | £ 55.20           | £ 9.20            |
| 13.10.15                         | Golden Hygiene                       | Washroom & Hygiene Services                               | £ 118.80          | £ 19.80           |
| 12.10.15                         | Barclaycard                          | Merchant Charges  | £ 29.20           | £ 3.16            |
| 13.10.15                         | Wendys Flowers                       | Anniversary Flowers                                       | £ 100.00          | £ 20.00           |
| 19.10.15                         | St Helens Council                    | Salaries/Pension/NI/Fees                                  | £ 3,590.37        |                   |
| 19.10.15                         | B & Q/S Powell                       | light bulbs   | £ 76.00           | £ 12.67           |
| 19.10.15                         | All Saints Church                    | Sponsorship of Christmas tree at 'The Magic of Christmas' | £ 40.00           |                   |
| 27.10.15                         | Fresco Environmental                 | Waste Collection  | £ 17.82           | £ 2.97            |
| 27.10.15                         | B&M Waste Services                   | Waste Collection  | £ 36.00           | £ 6.00            |
| 27.10.15                         | B&M Waste Services                   | Waste Collection  | £ 36.00           | £ 6.00            |
| 23.10.15                         | Titan Telecom                        | Telephone & Broadband                                     | £ 72.71           | £ 12.12           |
| 28.10.15                         | St Helens Council                    | Rates   | £ 1,208.00        |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                     |                                      |   | <b>£ 6,890.35</b> | <b>£ 278.50</b>   |
| Income                           |                                      |   |                   |                   |
| (Invoiced)                       |                                      |   |                   |                   |
|                                  | Bar Sales                            |   |                   |                   |
|                                  | Main Hall                            | £ 1,595.50  |                   |                   |
|                                  | Reception Room                       | £ 313.00  |                   |                   |
|                                  | Rent                                 | £ 1,793.25  |                   |                   |
|                                  | Other                                |   |                   |                   |
|                                  | <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>£ 3,701.75</b>   |                   |                   |
|                                  | Current Account                      | Opening Balance   | Ledger            | Bank              |
|                                  |                                      |   |                   | £ 6,738.41        |
|                                  |                                      | Total Income  |                   | £ 2,676.25        |
|                                  |                                      | Expenses  |                   | -£ 6,890.35       |
|                                  |                                      | Transfers in  |                   |                   |
|                                  |                                      | Transfers Out   |                   |                   |
|                                  |                                      | <b>Closing Balance</b>                                    |                   | <b>£ 2,524.31</b> |
|                                  |                                      | Bank Balances @ 31.10.15                                  |                   |                   |
|                                  |                                      | Bar   | £15,352.34        |                   |
|                                  |                                      | Current   | £ 2,524.31        |                   |
|                                  |                                      | High Interest   | £36,099.40        |                   |
|                                  |                                      |   | <b>£53,976.05</b> |                   |
|                                  |                                      | Debtors @ 31.10.15  | £ 7,998.75        |                   |
|                                  |                                      | Bank Balances + Debtors                                   | <b>£61,974.80</b> |                   |
|                                  | Chairman                             |   |                   |                   |

## APPENDIX 2

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE, PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE  
OF RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2015 at 6.30pm IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT RAINFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: K Aspinall, I Brown, J Collins, P Jones (Chairman), D Wesley

Sally Powell – Clerk

**ABSENT:** Councillor R Reynolds

**1. APOLOGIES:** Councillor M Lee (holiday)

**2. PLANS:**

3 sets of plans were considered. Councillor Aspinall registered a non-pecuniary interest in planning application P/2015/0837/HHFP. No objections were raised.

Councillor Brown stated she had been contacted by a resident about planning application P2015/0824/HFP. As this application had not yet been received in the office, it will be considered at the Full Council Meeting on 23.11.15.

**3. INCOME & EXPENDITURE:**

Councillor Brown raised the following queries:

- i. What period the Golden Hygiene invoice covers. It is an annual fee for servicing the baby-changing unit and sanitary bins in the ladies toilets.
- ii. Why there were two payments to B & M Waste. B & M had not correctly invoiced the Council or the preceding month.
- iii. Why the Income figure for the Hall is not the same as the total income figure for the month in the bank. The Income figure for the Hall is the amount invoiced + the bar sales and the income figure for the bank is the amount that has been paid in during the month.

Councillor Wesley pointed out that the figure for the Bank Balance + Debtors is incorrect.

The Clerk was asked to rectify the mistake before the Full Council Meeting. (See attached figures).

**4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Another large Gas bill has been received. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask an expert to look at the Village Hall's gas consumption to try and reduce it. It was suggested that British Gas is contacted to see if there is any assistance it can give.
2. The idea of holding a Christmas Party at the Village Hall in 2016 was mooted. This would be an income generating event. It would be promoted to local businesses as the Christmas night out for their staff. It was agreed that this should be tried in 2016.
3. The tenant in Office 5 is still in arrears. The Clerk and Administration Assistant had visited the tenant's home and recovered the keys and informed her that the office would be re-advertised.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

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**Chairman**