

Agenda Item 7 CLERK'S REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 25.01.2021

1. Statements from the Government regarding COVID-19 continue to be monitored on a daily basis for relevance to the Parish Council and the Village Hall and the local COVID-19 case figures will be circulated as soon as they are available.
2. From 06.01.2021 the Liverpool City region is in Tier 5 national lockdown. This means that the Village Hall is currently closed to visitors. 2 of the businesses are required to close for the duration of the lockdown. The Caretakers and the Event Co-ordinator remain flexibly furloughed.
3. The Volunteer scheme has not been re-started, but the situation will be monitored closely and re-assessed regularly. To date, 2 phone calls have been received asking if the scheme had been revived and additionally an email from the CVCA asking for information to pass on to residents.
4. The cashflow document has been updated.
5. An application for a grant from the Liverpool City Region was successful. £6800 has been received.
6. £2000 has been received as a local restrictions support grant.
7. Other grants applied for are pending.
8. The Council Tax Base for 2021/22 has been set at 2886 (Band D equivalent) which is 42 less than the current financial year. The reason for the difference is additional discounts and resident's inability to pay due to the pandemic. Consequently, the precept will be £1092 less than anticipated. The budget has been adjusted accordingly.
9. The dates that the precept will be received are:
50% on 15.04.2021 and 50% on 17.06.2021
10. The application for a marquee in the Beer Garden at the Golden Lion will be considered by the planning committee of St Helens Council at the February 2021 meeting.
11. The shoes being stored for St Helens Rotary have been collected for distribution. Rainford was one of the largest collection in the North West.
12. Mass vaccination clinics opened in St Helens on 16.12.2020 and Rainford residents have begun to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
13. The change of use application for the house on Pilkington Street is still being considered.
14. NHS Blood & Transplant used the Village Hall for a Blood donor session on 29.12.2020.
15. Flooding on the linear park between Rookery Lane and the bridge caused by 2 overflowing manholes, was reported on 12.01.2021. The details were passed to St Helens Council. Councillor Reynolds was actively involved in getting the problem sorted. A drainage company attended on 14.01.2021.
16. Peter Hanlon, the Census Engagement Manager for Warrington and St Helens on behalf of the Office for National Statistics contacted the office about the Census that will take place across England and Wales on the 21st of March this year. It will be the first digital census and around 75% of the population is expected to complete it online. Paper copies will be available for those who need them. He wished to discuss how Rainford Parish Council could support the process and provide much needed local information and advice. Mr Hanlon will be attending the Council meeting on 25.01.2021.
17. Scribe, the accounting software used by the Parish Council is being upgraded and a booking system is being integrated into the accounting system. Rainford will be part of the pilot scheme.
18. A further payment from the Local Restrictions Support Grant of £3000 (for a 6-week period), was paid in to the Council's account on 14.01.2021.
19. A planning application has been received for a Change of use from C3 to C2 (Residential to Residential institution) with garage conversion, external alterations, creation of bin store

and landscaping works at Treetops, The Spinney. A planning statement from Achieve Together who made the application is attached as a separate document.

20. Councillor Collins was highlighted on the Parish Council Facebook page after receiving her first COVID-19 vaccination. So far the post has 40 'likes'.
21. Concerns were expressed at the height of the brook in Beech Gardens on 14.01.2021. The situation was monitored and the Flood officer from St Helens Council made a site visit. The level dropped, but given the current wet conditions, the state of the brook will continue to be observed.
22. Notification has been received that the Village Hall can again register for spoilt beer due to the COVID-19 restrictions.