



**Minutes of a meeting of
RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL
on 28 June 2021 commencing at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Rainford Village Hall**

Present: Councillors: Bardsley, Collins, Dodson, Grice, Lamb (arrived 7.03pm), Lee, Long (Chairman), Monk, Newton, Reynolds

Absent: Councillor Travis

In Attendance: Sally Powell (Clerk)
Victoria Swainbank (Event Co-ordinator)
2 residents

1. Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Brown (Unwell), Councillor Jones (Away), Councillor Sterry (Away), Councillor Wesley (Unwell)

2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office, of Interest, and Updating of the Register:

None.

3. Formal announcements from the Chairman:

- The Chairman expressed his annoyance that the June Meeting of the Community Liaison Committee had been cancelled without him or the Clerk being informed. He stated it was extremely discourteous and hoped that it would not happen again.
- The Chairman informed the meeting that he had attended a virtual Civic Service at All Saints Church.
- The Chairman informed the meeting that he had the honour of giving a speech at the dedication of the bench for Mike Olley on 29.06.2021. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, attendance is by invitation only.

4. To hear and respond to any questions/deputations by members of the public:

Lynda Shave on behalf of Rainford in Bloom:

Councillor Lamb joined the meeting

Lynda explained how difficult the access was to the area at Crank where RiB do a lot of their work and asked if instead Bloom could use the land at the rear of the Village Hall which borders on to Pilkington Street, which is part of the Village Hall lease. This would mean Bloom's working space would be within the Village.

The Chairman declared his intention to discuss item 9 on the agenda at this point:

9. Land in the Village Hall Lease bordering on Pilkington Street:

There was a discussion, during which the following points were made:

- the Bloomers intended to include local youth groups
- it would not be a nuisance to local residents as the bloomers did not work at unsocial hours
- cars being parked would be kept to a minimum.
- a gate would be erected where the fence currently is
- electricity would not be required, but access to water was essential and discussions had taken place with United Utilities about getting a supply on site
- there would be no financial implications for the Parish Council

RESOLVED:

Councillor Lee proposed that the piece of land that is part of the Village Hall lease that borders on to Pilkington Street can be used by Rainford in Bloom. This was seconded by Councillor Reynolds and carried unanimously

The Chairman informed Lynda that the Clerk would draw up a lease, but in the meantime, Rainford in Bloom could arrange for the area to be sprayed and cleared.

Action: The Clerk

5. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Rainford Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 26 May 2021:

RESOLVED: ***The minutes of the meeting held on 26.05.2021 were proposed as a true and accurate record by Councillor Lamb. This was seconded by Councillor Grice and carried unanimously.***

Action: The Clerk

6. Receipts and Payments for May 2021:

See draft FPA minutes for June 2021 for full details

Income (without precept) for May 2021 £2844.90

Expenditure for May 2021 £18828.22

Amount invoiced in May 2021 £ 3707.00

Bank Balances @ 30.05.2021: Current A/C £ 867.67 Business A/C £ 60,749.48

Expenditure includes salaries for May 2021 and March 2020

Business Account balance includes £15,000 transfer to the current account

RESOLVED: ***Councillor Bardsley proposed the figures for May 2021 were accepted. This was seconded by Councillor Lamb and carried unanimously.***

7. Clerk's Report:

The report was circulated with the agenda. Additions are in italics.

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.
2. The government announcement on 14.06.2021 delaying the end of COVID-19 restrictions meant that some classes were unable to restart as planned. Additionally, the Event Co-ordinator has been working closely with a bride and groom whose Wedding Reception is on 26.06.2021. The details of the event have had to be significantly altered. A separate risk assessment has been produced.
3. Some bookings have unfortunately cancelled following the extension of the COVID-19 restrictions to 19.07.2021. Others have moved dates.
4. The floodlights at the front of the Village Hall have been replaced with LED versions, which stay cool, so they are no longer a health and safety hazard. The electrical problems in the kitchen have also been resolved. *Councillor Grice informed the meeting that one of the lights is not working.*
Action: The Clerk
5. The quote for extending the CCTV down the bar side of the building have been approved and accepted and the work is scheduled for 06.07.2021.
6. The Bar Supervisor's job has been filled. The successful applicant will commence on 25.06.2021.
7. A VAT expert has been contacted. Further correspondence is awaiting a reply.
8. The alterations to the gent's toilets have been completed.
9. The Internal Auditor attended on 08.06.2021, but was not satisfied with the way the figures were presented. They were restated and sent for approval. This is a separate agenda item.

10. Friday night quizzes continue to go well.
11. A builder has looked at the roof and the chimney needs to be repointing, along with some other repairs. There is still an old cast iron hopper and downspout on the side of the building that needs to be replaced. Additionally, the repairs required to offices 5 & 6 are being attended to.
12. The memorial bench for Mike Olley will be dedicated on 29.06.2021 at 2pm.
13. Some Councillors have still not returned a Councillor profile for the Parish Council website. Please make this a priority as it is important that the website is kept up to date
14. Minster cleaning have been engaged for the cleaning at the Village Hall. This will commence shortly.
15. Rainford in Bloom have asked to use the land that is part of the Village Hall lease that borders on to Pilkington Street. This is a separate agenda item.
16. The Chairman took part in a publicity event for Refugee Week at the request of Gordon Pennington of 'Our Warm Welcome'.
17. It has been necessary to cordon off parts of the Village Hall due to unsafe brickwork on the parapet above the entrance to the bar and delineating sandstone around some of the windows. The brick parapet above the bar needs to be taken down and St Helens planning department has been consulted, along with the Estates Dept. The structural engineer has also highlighted several other areas of the building requiring attention. The possibility of securing funding from grants and lottery funding has been looked in to. This is a separate agenda item.
18. There has been a lot of social media activity from residents following the fatal accident at the Mill Lane/A570 junction on 20.06.21. This is a separate agenda item.
19. *A lot of correspondence had been received from residents about speeding traffic on the A570.*
20. *Additionally, there has been an email correspondence with Dr Muller about speeding vehicles on Higher Lane. The Clerk gave some further background information for clarification and read out the following at Dr Muller's request:*

Please note in writing in the minutes my correspondence below.

This matter has now been raised by myself on several occasions and noted formally in the minutes of the Parish Council.

From the feedback provided, someone, or some entity, has risked assessed the concerns raised by myself. Subsequently decisions were made as below noted.

Conclusion seems speeding is not a concern. No measures implemented to safeguard pedestrians.

The message to the community is that St Helens Council condones speeding in a highly populated residential area.

Can it kindly be clearly documented and noted in the formal minutes of the Parish Council, and be linked to my personal appearance at the Council meeting in September 2019:

1. **Who, or what entity, has conducted these risk assessments.**
 2. **What were the risk assessments**
 3. **What method or standards were applied to reach the subsequent decisions.**
 4. **Who is the responsible person/entity that authorised and endorsed the decisions as noted below, and subsequently take ultimate responsibility (and is held liable) if there is loss of life or injury resulting from the decision NOT to implement appropriate safeguards against speeding to protect pedestrians, despite pleas from the community**
21. *Correspondence has been exchanged with the Borough Councillors about the collisions on the A570*
 22. *The Speed Watch Volunteers have been asked to attend at the Police station to receive their passes, so they should be out and about in the Village within the next few weeks. Areas of particular concern will be prioritised.*
 23. *The Councillor Improvement Fund has been reduced rather than discontinued, so the Borough Councillors should still be able meet their commitment for the School Crossing Patrol.*
 24. *The Clerk read out an email from Councillor Hawley of Bold Parish Council asking for a donation towards defibrillators for a group in Sutton. The Clerk had replied to the email suggesting that local businesses are contacted for sponsorship. There was a discussion and*

Councillor Grice agreed to speak to Councillor Hawley about fund-raising for defibrillators. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate to make a donation, but that information and advice could be offered as Councillors had a lot of experience of obtaining sponsorship for defibrillators.

Action: The Clerk

The Chairman informed the meeting that the defibrillator from Central Garage had not been stolen, as had been rumoured, but had been used to assist a resident having a cardiac arrest. It has now been returned to the garage.

8. Committee Reports:

➤ **Borough Council:**

The Clerk read out the following report from Councillor Allan Jones:

Following the serious RTC on the By Pass on Sunday 20th June in which sadly one lady lost her life everything else seems to pale into insignificance.

However there are a number of items which have been taking place and these are listed below.

Allan and Linda are following up on the above and meetings with the Police have already taken place. Meetings with Senior Council Officers will follow, with the purpose of ultimately taking action to make the Mill Lane/Bypass/ St Helens Road junction a safer place. A site meeting with Council Officials, Police and Ourselves is already being mooted and we will keep you informed as to when this is. We would like the Parish Council to be represented, if possible, by no more than two of you.

It would appear that the cause of the RTC was that the Car in which the lady who was killed was traveling in, turned right off the bypass towards St Helens Road straight into a car travelling along the bypass from Windle. The gentleman who was seriously injured was in the same car.

The accident that took place on 23rd June involved a car turning right from St Helens Road onto the ByPass. The car got to the central reservation but as it turned out onto the By Pass it hit another car travelling from Rainford.

The police are continuing their investigations into both incidents.

The police have said that they are planning speed checks in several areas all over Rainford, Higher Lane and Crank Road are two areas which were mentioned.

Covid 19; Although the weekly infection rate in Rainford remains relatively low the Borough wide rate is going up and has doubled in the past week. Your Councillors have questioned the logic of returning to "face to face" meetings in the Town Hall while this increase persists.

One good thing is the take up rates for vaccine in our care homes with the levels being; Staff 88% and patients 95%. These figures are well above the national average

Our new Councillor John has hit the ground running and is already doing sterling work. One item in particular he has been looking at is restoring some footpaths which have been damaged by farm implements.

The Local Plan has now reached the inspection stage and our fight on this subject is being led by Linda backed up by Allan. Linda addressed the Inspector on the day Rainford was discussed, with Allan adding bits and pieces. Rainford Action Group was also represented at this meeting and between us we felt that we gave the Inspector something to think about.

Fly Tipping remains a problem all over the Borough. There is very little anyone can do about this unless it is seen, or some form of identification is found on the rubbish. Action to remove such tipping, once it is reported, is usually very swift.

Dog bins on the Linear seem to be always overflowing but are quickly emptied when reported in. Allan has made representations to have them emptied more often. John has followed this up after seeing overflowing bins on Beech Gardens and Parsons Brow.

the overgrown footpath between the Tennis Club and the football fields is due to be cut soon.

Potholes are reported into the Council by us as soon as residents make a complaint (or we see them ourselves) and are inspected within 48 hours.

We now have a new Police Sergeant covering Rainford and we have met with him once (on Teams) to discuss the Bypass incident. We look forward to meeting with him face to face on a regular basis when the lockdown is eased and the Village Hall is open again.

Throughout the pandemic we have cancelled the monthly Councillors Surgeries but we will start them again as soon as we can. Meanwhile the three of us are available by phone or email at any time for any questions or queries.

Hope this report is of some help

ALLAN
June 2021

LINDA

JOHN

25th

Just to add to the report.

I have just had a phone call from Dael (police) who tells me that the Police were out all day yesterday (Saturday) patrolling the By pass. and will be out again tonight (Sunday) also into next week. So far, several tickets and warnings have been issues for a variety of motoring offences, so this has got to be a good thing. The actions are being posted on Facebook, so people have been warned.

The meeting is likely to be 2-30pm on Wednesday. Take that as read unless you hear any different and please let me have your two names after the PC meeting on Monday.

ALLAN

➤ **Community Liaison Committee:**

Councillor Lamb informed the meeting that the committee had not met since the last full Council meeting and he apologised for not letting the Clerk know that the meeting had been cancelled.

On-going initiatives are:

B A R – the next meeting will take place on 21.07.2021

Safer Road Watch scheme

Litter

School Liaison Officer

Rainford Christmas Fayre – 2 meetings have taken place so far

RESOLVED:

Councillor Lamb proposed that a Rainford Christmas Fayre Working Party is formed with the Terms of Reference circulated with the agenda. This was seconded by Councillor Dodson and was carried unanimously

➤ **Finance, Planning & Administration Committee:**

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 09.06.2021 were circulated with the agenda

In Councillor Jones' absence, Councillor Monk reported the following:

- 6 planning applications were approved at the June 2021 meeting
- The Bar Supervisor's position has been filled. The Clerk gave details to the meeting and answered Councillor's questions. She had started work at the Wedding Reception at the weekend
- The committee had discussed at length whether the Parish Council is liable for VAT
- Councillor Sterry is pursuing the issue of the car park at the Golden Lion being closed
- St Helens Council is currently consulting on the future of libraries and one suggestion is that some libraries could be run by Parish Councils or community led
- The Parish Council would continue to fund 50% of the School Crossing Patrol on Cross Pit Lane

- The title of the land off Sandwash Close is now with English Estates. Councillor Monk had contacted the company and it had confirmed that if there was development on the land, a road would not be created on to Pasture Lane. The agents for the company had been informed of the recent collisions at the Mill Lane/A570 junction and a request made that they also put pressure on St Helens Council to make alterations to the junction. Nothing further will be done with the land until the St Helens Local Plan has been approved

➤ **Health & Safety Committee:**

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 04.06.2021 were circulated with the agenda

Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting that the committee had met to review the situation following the extension of COVID-19 restrictions. The Wedding Reception that took place at the weekend had gone smoothly and guests had observed the measures put in place.

10. Annual Governance Statement 2020/21:

See Appendix 1

The Chairman read out the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21. There was a short discussion and the Clerk clarified some procedures.

RESOLVED:

Councillor Reynolds proposed that Rainford Parish Council (RPC) has complied with the following during the financial year 2020/21:

- a) Rainford Parish Council has put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements***
- b) RPC maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness***
- c) RPC took reasonable steps to be assured that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the authority to conduct its business or manage its finances***
- d) RPC provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit regulations***
- e) RPC carried out an assessment of the risks facing the authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required***
- f) RPC maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems***
- g) RPC took action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit***
- h) RPC considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year end, have a financial impact on the authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statement***

This was seconded by Councillor Dodson and carried unanimously

The Chairman and the Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31.03.2021.

Action: The Clerk

11. Annual Accounting Statement

See Appendix 2

The Chairman read out the figures on the Annual Accounting Statement.

RESOLVED:

Councillor Lamb proposed that Rainford Parish Council approve the Annual Accounting Statement for the financial year ending 31.03.2021 which was prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis and presents fairly the financial position of Rainford Parish Council as at 31.03.2021. This was seconded by Councillor Lee and carried unanimously

The Chairman signed the Annual Accounting Statement for the financial year ending 31.03.2021

Action: The Clerk

12. Emergency Repairs to the Village Hall:

The Chairman and the Clerk gave up to date details regarding the building. The scaffolding has been erected along with temporary fencing. Planning permission is being sought to remove the brick work and stone lintels. This will be done carefully so the lintels and the bricks can be reused. There was a discussion and it was agreed that the priority is to ensure the building is made safe and then costings obtained for the repairs required. The Clerk was asked to speak to the planning department at St Helens Council to ascertain how long it would take to get planning permission. A further discussion will take place at the next FPA committee meeting.

Action: The Clerk

13. The Mill Lane/A570 Junction:

This was opened up to include all road safety issues in the Village. There was a discussion and it was agreed that the Parish Council should work with the Borough Councillors, the Police and the leaders of local organisations to lobby St Helens Council to get alterations to the junction. Pressure would need to be maintained until changes were made as there was a groundswell of local opinion for improvements to be made. Various options were put forward and discussed.

Councillor Lee informed the meeting that warning signs had been put up before the staggered junction. Councillors Long & Grice would be attending a meeting via Teams on 30.06.2021 with Highways officers from St Helens Council. It was agreed that plans for any alterations to the junction would need to be made by experts.

Action: Councillors Lamb, Long & Grice

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Councillor John Long

Chairman, Rainford Parish Council 2021/22

Appendix 1

Item 10 Annual Governance Statement 2020/21:



Section 1 Annual
Governance Statement

Appendix 2

Item 11 Annual Accounting Statement 2020/21:



Section 2
Accounting Statement