



**Minutes of a meeting of
RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

held on 22 November 2021 commencing at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Rainford Village Hall

Present: Councillors: Bardsley (arrived 7.20pm), Collins, Dodson, Lamb, Long (Chairman), Monk, Newton, Reynolds

Absent: Councillors: Grice, Sterry

1. Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Brown (Unwell), Councillor Denton (Prior arrangement), Councillor Lee (Away),

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

None

3. Formal announcements from the Chairman:

The Chairman thanked all those who had attended on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. Both were well attended.

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

None

5. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Rainford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25 October 2021:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25 October 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Dodson, seconded by Councillor Monk and carried unanimously.

6. Co-option of Councillor for Muncaster Ward:

Andy Griffiths gave a short presentation about why he wished to become a Councillor. A secret ballot was held. Councillor Griffiths was co-opted unanimously. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place with other members.

7. Receipts and Payments for October 2021:

Income for October 2021 £6511.02

Expenditure for October 2021 £7654.45

Amount invoiced in October 2021 £ 4314.52

Bank Balances @ 31.10.2021: Current A/C £ 4724.24 Business A/C £93269.01

Expenditure does not include salaries for June, July, August, September or October 2021

Provision for this expense £32,000

Funds available £64154

8. Clerk's Report:

The following report was circulated as part of 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, particularly as the number of COVID infections continues to increase.
2. The work on the rear chimney has now been completed.

3. A site meeting with the stonemason and Councillor Long took place on 29.10.2021. It was agreed that scaffolding would be erected across the front of the building and in the first instance, any delaminating stone work would be made safe. A report will then be submitted to the Parish Council detailing other repair work required, visible from the scaffolding, so the Council can decide at that time which works to commission.
4. The Head of the Estates Department at St Helens Council has been contacted on 22.06.2021, 30.06.2021, 16.07.2021, 29.07.2021, 06.08.2021, 01.09.2021 and 05.10.2021 in an attempt to start a dialogue with St Helens Council about the Village Hall and arrange a meeting with members of the FPA committee. Additionally, to ask permission to replace the windows in the Clerk's office. An auto reply stated she is on leave until 08.10.2021. An additional request was sent through the contact centre on 19.10.2021. As a reply had not been received, a request for a timescale in which a reply could be expected was submitted through the contact centre on 04.11.2021. A reply was received from Sean Traynor, Director of Strategic growth on 12.11.2021 stating the matter will be looked into as the lack of contact was unacceptable. The Assistant Director of Property and Economy will make arrangements to meet with the FPA committee to discuss the lease and the repairs to the Village Hall.
5. Despite numerous requests, the payroll information for June, July, August, September and October has not yet been received. There is now some contact with a payroll officer but quoted deadlines for receiving information have not been met.
6. All available stalls for the Christmas Fayre have been sold.
7. Bookings continue to be made with several in January and February 2022, which are usually quieter months for the hall. There is currently a lot going on in the hall, which is pleasing, but there is a lot less activity during the day than before the pandemic.
8. The new range of low and non-alcoholic drinks are selling well. Councillor Bardsley questioned the pricing structure for these and it has been reviewed.
9. The Government has announced £710m funding for 'Active Travel'. It is hoped that funding for 'Red Rose Way' may be obtained through this. The scheme has been sent to St Helens Council and to LCR Active Travel. Councillor Allan Jones has been asked for assistance with this as he sits on the travel group and a response has been difficult to obtain. The next LCR Active Travel Forum meeting will take place on 22.11.2021 and a question has been submitted to see if LCR Active Travel will assist with the project.
10. A resident reported a problem with the drain on the driveway of the Village Hall. Following a discussion with officers at St Helens Council, a firm was called out to investigate at the Parish Council's expense. The blockage has been cleared and the Environmental Health Officer informed that the work has been completed.
11. Research is being carried out regarding grants for installing on-street residential car charging points.
12. The CLC have projects requiring funding in the budget for 2022/23.
13. Quiz nights continue to be well supported. There will be a special Christmas Quiz on 03.12.2021.
14. The electricity meter is being upgraded to a smart meter in January 2022.
15. There was a further meeting about traffic in Crank on 28.10.2021, where there was a discussion about community action. One thing that has been shown to be effective are wheelie bin stickers which show the speed limit. Additionally, the Borough Councillors have suggested that a speed gun is purchased between them and the Parish Council. This would mean that volunteers could monitor the speed of traffic without a PCSO or Police Officer with them. TelRam monitors, which could be moved around are also a possibility. The Police have found a site where the mobile speed camera can be located on the A570 near the Mill Lane junction, but there are no plans at present to alter the junction itself. There may be changes to the current strategy when the new Road Safety Policy is implemented.
16. Members of the Speed Watch Team have now been out on several occasions.
17. The mobile COVID-19 testing unit will be outside the Village Hall again on 18.11.2021.
18. The next B A R meeting will take place on 24.11.2021.

19. The review of Polling stations has been completed. Polling stations for Rainford for the May 2022 elections will be at the following locations:
 - 41 Rainford RFA 832 Rainford X Sports & Social Club, Bushey Lane, Rainford WA11 7LN
 - 42 Rainford RFB & RFD 1438 Rainford High School, Higher Lane, Rainford, St Helens WA11 8NY
 - 43 Rainford RFC 1228 Corpus Christi Parish Hall, Alfred Street, Rainford, St Helens WA11 8BY
 - 44 Rainford RFE & RFF 2358 Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford, St Helens WA11 8HB
 - 45 Rainford RFG 379 Mobile at Red Cat Pub, 8 Red Cat Lane Rainford, St Helens WA11 8RU
 - 46 Rainford RFH & RFK 283 The Stables, St Helens Road, Rainford, St Helens WA11 7Q
 - 47 Rainford RFJ 141 Mobile at Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Road, Rainford WA11 8RG
20. Due to the Borough Councillors wishing to have a 30' Christmas Tree in the Village Centre, the Rib planters (paid for by the Parish Council) have been emptied and moved behind the Village Hall. They will be replaced in January.
21. The next LCR Active Travel Forum meeting is due to take place on 22.11.2021 at 4.30pm
22. The next meeting with Kath O'Dwyer and members of the senior management team is due to take place on 15.12.2021.
23. The budget for 2022/23 is currently being prepared and will be presented at the December 2021 meeting.

9. **Committee Reports:**

➤ **Borough Council:**

Borough Councillor Allan Jones *requested that the following email exchange be included as part of his report:*

15.11.2021 6.49am

Good Morning Sally,

Will you please pass this email onto the Chairman of the Parish Council and would you please include it in the minutes of the next meeting of Full Council so there is a proper formal record of why we did not attend the event.

Dear John,

Following your conversation with my Colleague John Case, in Church on Sunday, I feel I must, as leader of the group of Borough Councillors representing Rainford, register formally my disappointment that the three of us did not receive an invitation to the Act of Remembrance at the Village Hall Cenotaph on Thursday 11th November 2021.

I and my Colleagues knew nothing about this event until a conversation with Vicky after the Councillors' Surgery on November 6th, even then, the subject came out only in general conversation about a range of other issues. As John said to you in Church on Sunday, I did try to get a wreath but was unable to do so. If I had been able to get one, then one of us would have turned up (even without an invitation) but Linda and John had been invited to the service at Crank and I was required to attend a LCR Transport Committee Meeting.

John said that when he explained why we were not there you were OK about it but it would have been nice to have received an invitation.

Kind Regards,

ALLAN

15.11.2021 8.42am

Good Morning Allan

I will forward your email as requested and include it as part of the Borough Councillors' report at the next Parish Council meeting.

For clarity, the situation was as follows:

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor John Long, stated his intention to place a wreath at the War memorial at the Village Hall on Armistice Day. This fact was advertised to allow residents to attend if they wished to do so, but no invitations were issued. The fact that the advert was shared by the Borough Councillors Facebook page, gave the impression that the Borough Councillors were aware of the event.

Kind regards

Sally

15.11.2021 10.18am

Hi Sally,

Thanks for your email, It was a very worthwhile thing to do. Crank hold a similar event at their War Memorial and do send us an invitation every year. I have checked with Linda M who tells me that all Parish Council posts are posted on our site and this one was on the 10th October along with others at the time.

It is therefore clear that, this being the first time this event has taken place, there has been a misunderstanding. Not using Facebook I was unaware of the post. It would still have been nice to have received an invitation. That being said, it is good that a formal record of why we did not attend will be made just in case our political opponents try to make capital out of the issue, which may very well happen.

Kind Regards

ALALN

Borough Councillors Report

November 2021

There has been very little to report in the previous weeks since last meeting. Cllr Case is a member of the place Scrutiny Panel where Libraries would be discussed but to date a report or plans hasn't been presented. Cllr Mussell as member of Adult Health and Social Care panel has been discussing the proposed changes to Cancer Care Provision and has been asked to join the Merseyside review group. More information will follow in the New Year

SPEEDING.

A follow up meeting with Crank residents, Parish Council Representatives, Council officers and Police.

The agreed improved road marking, signage has commenced. The Council undertook a review of traffic along Crank Rd, these figures will be shared in due course

A meeting of the Rainford Bypass working group recently met and Cllr Long joined the discussion who will I am sure will provide feedback.

PARKING

We have had numerous complaints regarding parking particularly on Rufford Rd, Linear Bank Close and Scarisbrick Rd. Headteachers have been approached to include in the schools' newsletters that when collecting children to consider the residents, not to block drives and to be polite which the anti-social behaviour is a major worry.

We have approached the parking teams regarding contravention of yellow line markings and the police in relation to the obstruction of pavements, drives and the anti-social behaviour

TRAFFIC

Linked to the above issue but drivers are not observing the one-way access on Alfred and Victoria Street, again the police have been informed.

In relation to the above issues, we have agreed to consider part funding of a speed gun for the Parish Councils use, however, we do need to know the cost and the protocols of its use, how does the Parish Council intend to inform speeding drivers, will recordings be processed via the police access to DVLA database?

CHRISTMAS TREE

Although a 30ft Tree was ordered an engineer review advised that we stay with a 25ft tree which is the maximum the slot will allow. The site is now prepared for installation

TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

The consultation for the above regeneration is now open for 6 weeks. We would encourage that these plans are widely promoted. All the information can be found following this link

<https://sthelenstowncentre.co.uk>

STREET POPPIES

John with help installed the 20 poppies around the village. Although it may seem a little spread out, it was decided that all areas of the ward have at least 2 poppies and the majority were placed in the village centre.

Local Plan

Although Allan and Linda were interviewed at length by the Planning Inspectorate earlier in the summer. Where we strongly explained the reasons behind our objections. All of which are well documented. It seems that the inspector has taken the view that only minor amendments are made.

This is however now due for consultation, can we again encourage Councillors and residents to respond, I can assure everyone that we certainly will be doing so. The consultation starts on Thursday 18 November 2021 and closes at 5pm on Thursday 13 January 2022.

[Local Plan Main Modifications Consultation - St Helens Council](#)

Children's services in St Helens are promoting the joy of reading and are asking that we promote their work can we ask that the enclosed posters are included on Rainford notice boards

Cllrs Allan Jones, Linda Mussell, John Case

➤ **Community Liaison Committee:**

Councillor Lamb highlighted the following from the last CLC meeting:

- There was a discussion about speeding and it was agreed that wheelie bin stickers should be purchased for residents. There was also a suggestion that a camera is purchased
- New members are needed for the committee

RESOLVED: *Councillor Lamb proposed that Councillor Denton be made a member of the Community Liaison Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Dodson and carried unanimously*

Action: The Clerk

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

In Councillor Sterry's absence, Councillor Monk informed the meeting of the following:

- the FPA Committee had discussed most of the issues already mentioned. It had also agreed that the Parish Council could not effectively sign a 'blank cheque' for repairs to the Village Hall. It would need to be sure what the liability would be before a new lease is signed.
- A discussion regarding the budget for 2022/23 had also taken place. Additionally, it had been agreed that one of the licensees would not be allowed to sublet part of their office.
- A discussion regarding the Pavilion had also taken place and research is on-going to find out how the Parish Council came to have financial responsibility for the building.

Councillor Griffiths suggested that grants may be available for the repairs required to the building. Councillor Reynolds agreed to look in to this.

Action: Councillor Reynolds/The Clerk

➤ **Health & Safety Committee:**

Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting that the committee had not formerly met since the last full Council meeting as the meeting scheduled for 05.11.2021 was not quorate. An informal discussion had taken place about the current COVID-19 restrictions and situation, which are not impacting on the Village Hall at present. However, the situation is being closely monitored.

The Chairman gave the meeting the latest Covid figures for the borough:

791 new cases

438 per 100k an increase of 44 over previous week 0 – 17 years 40% a further 42% in the 29 – 49 years.

9. Rainford Christmas Fayre Working Party Report:

The Event Co-ordinator informed the meeting that all the stalls were now booked and that all plans were in place. Local businesses have been incredibly supportive and provided some fantastic raffle prizes.

The Plan B is in place for if the Fayre has to be held inside the Village Hall due to adverse weather.

The Clerk gave the details of the running order for the day.

10. Road Safety in Rainford:

The Chairman had attended a meeting regarding speeding and road safety around Mill Lane. He informed the meeting that things are on hold at present waiting for funds from the Liverpool City Region. There has been some updating of signage and the Police have found space to park the speed detector van on the bypass.

At present the Speed watch volunteers are only able to go out with the PCSO or Police officer.

They have recently been out on Higher Lane and detected many speeding vehicles, including the same driver twice, and a bus.

It was agreed that the results should be posted on social media and the website.

Councillor Dodson informed the meeting that the students at Rainford High would be producing a video to go on the school website to show the difficulties students have getting to and from school. Councillor Griffiths suggested that the speed watch volunteers spend some time in Old Lane, particularly targeting cars parked on the pavement.

11. Art Exhibition 2022:

Councillor Lamb informed the meeting that the possibility of the Parish Council hosting another Art Exhibition had been discussed at the last CLC meeting. Research has shown that other Art Exhibitions nowadays have different types of art such as photography.

There was a discussion which included whether there was going to be a Rainford Show in 2022 and, if not, whether there could be a hybrid of the two events.

Councillor Monk informed the meeting that there had been a very successful Art Exhibition in St Helens.

Councillor Griffiths told the meeting about a photographic exhibition where the photographs have to be taken on one day, of a particular subject.

The Chairman had spoken to High School pupils who felt that the Art Exhibition was for GCSE students and below, not for the 6th Form.

It was felt that the scope needed to be widened, if the Art Exhibition were to be reinstated.

12. The Queen's Green Canopy Project:

Councillor Reynolds explained where planting could possibly take place in Springfield. St Helens council would have to give permission. St George's playing field as a site had been rejected by St Helens Council in the past.

Councillor Griffiths informed the meeting that Brook Lodge Primary school had planted trees last year. It was agreed that Councillor Dodson would contact the schools to see if they would be interested in applying. Additionally, the Clerk would contact St Helens Council to ask for permission to apply for trees in Springfield and St George's playing field.

Action: Councillor Dodson/The Clerk

13. The Bowling Pavilion:

Councillor Reynolds had been contacted by a member of the bowling club for assistance with applying for grants to improve the building. He had agreed to do this. The Clerk stated that this was at odds with the opinion of the FPA committee which had agreed that the bowling club should be acting on its own behalf without help from the Parish Council. Councillor Griffiths who has experience in this area, thought that it was unlikely that a grant would be available to a club which only has 42 members.

The Chairman reminded members that the next meeting would be on 13.12.2021 and would be followed by his Festive Reception.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.08pm

Councillor John Long
Chairman, Rainford Parish Council 2021/22