



**Minutes of a meeting of
RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL
held on 27 September 2021 at 7pm in the Reception Room at Rainford Village Hall**

**Present: Councillors: Bardsley, Brown, Collins, Grice, Lee, Long (Chairman), Monk,
Newton, Reynolds, Sterry**

Absent: Councillor Travis

In Attendance: Sally Powell (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Councillors: Dodson (Away), Lamb (Away)

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

None.

3. Formal announcements from the Chairman:

- i. The Chairman informed the meeting that resignations had been received from Peter Jones and Diane Wesley. He thanked them both for their service to the Parish Council and stated they would both be sorely missed.
- ii. The Chairman informed the meeting that Jo Travis had failed to attend a Parish Council meeting for the last 6 months and has therefore forfeited her place on the Council as no reason for her absence had been given or approved by the Parish Council. The vacancy will be advertised in due course.

RESOLVED: *Councillor Long proposed that Councillor Sterry is appointed as the Chairman for the Finance, Planning & Administration committee. This was seconded by Councillor Bardsley and carried unanimously*

Action: The Clerk

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 26 July 2021:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26 July 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Grice and carried unanimously.

6. Receipts and Payments for July & August 2021:

Income for July 2021	£8041	
Expenditure for July 2021	£6963	
Amount invoiced in July 2021	£5143	
Bank Balances @ 31.07.2021: Current A/C	£5513	Business A/C £93269

Expenditure does not include salaries for June or July 2021

Income for August 2021	£ 14,606	
Expenditure for August 2021	£ 12,425	
Amount invoiced in August 2021	£ 5666	
Bank Balances @ 31.08.2021: Current A/C	£7695	Business A/C £93,269

Expenditure does not include salaries for June, July or August 2021 or furlough monies owed
Councillor Monk suggested that a provision is made in the accounts when a liability is known,
so that a more accurate picture is shown. This was agreed.

Action: The Clerk

7. Clerk's Report:

The following 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 work to extend the CCTV down the bar side of the building is scheduled to take place on 28.09.2021
3. The Bar Supervisor has gained her Personal Licence.
4. Friday night quizzes continue to go well and will continue to take place whenever the hall is not booked.
5. The repairs to the front chimney have been completed. Work on the rear chimney will commence in the near future.
6. The brick parapet above the bar has been removed. Planning permission will be required before any rebuilding.
7. The stonemason has completed the repairs to the steps and around the entrance to the Village Hall. A comprehensive report of all the repairs necessary has been received. Further work to the front of the building will commence shortly, so that the temporary fencing can be removed.
8. The next meeting of Business Around Rainford will take place at the Village Hall on 22.09.2021 when Gary Maddock will give his presentation about the plans for the future of St Helens Town Centre. *The meeting was well attended and received. The next meeting will be 20.10.2022 when an accountant will be speaking about digitising tax. All Councillors are welcome to attend.*
9. Further correspondence has been received about inconsiderate parking and speeding vehicles within the Village from several residents. *Following the death of her cat, a resident started a campaign on social media about speeding in the village. A meeting with the Police, Borough Councillors and residents will take place on 01.10.2021 in the Reception Room. There was a discussion and it was agreed that an article will be put on the Parish Council social media outlets explaining the position regarding the Community Speed Watch initiative and asking for additional volunteers.*
10. Rainford in Bloom has decided not to use the land at the rear of the village hall due to the uncertainty with the village hall lease and the costs involved.
11. 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 and 01.09.2021 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. A holding response to this request was received on 06.08.2021.
12. A meeting with Borough Councillors, residents and officers from St Helens Council took place on 24.08.2021 regarding speeding traffic. Councillors Bardsley and Lee attended. The notes from the meeting were circulated to all Parish Council members. *A subsequent meeting had taken place, but the Parish Council had not been invited. This will be followed up.*
13. Kathryn Boothroyd, Library services Manager and Dave Boocock attended a meeting with Councillors Long and Sterry about the recent library consultation, particularly in relation to the idea of Parish Councils being involved in working with St Helens Council to take over the

management of libraries in the community. The notes from this meeting were circulated to all members. Information regarding this was included in the newsletter and there has been a good response to the request for resident's opinions. *All residents who had replied, wanted a library service to remain in Rainford, but opinions were mixed about whether a community led library would work.*

14. The 2 Casual Vacancies have been advertised. *Due to Jo Travis's non- attendance at the meeting, there is now another vacancy on the Parish Council. One interested resident had been informed by his employer that he could not become a Parish Councillor, but 2 other residents had expressed an interest.*
15. Despite numerous requests, the payroll information for June, July and August has not yet been received.
16. 35 of the 44 stalls available for the Christmas Fayre have been sold. Additionally, a Craft Fayre was held in the Village Hall on 12.09.2021.
17. A new weekly class has booked at the hall.
18. Record bar takings for a function were achieved in August.
19. The Borough Councillors have asked for a contribution to works in the car park opposite the Village Hall. Following the FPA committee meeting, further clarification had been sought.
20. The Saturday Night Christmas Party is sold out.
21. A new firm of cleaners has been engaged.
22. There is a great deal of disquiet and opposition regarding the planning application for the monopole in the Village Centre. The Borough Councillors wish to work with the Parish Council to do everything possible to prevent this application being passed. A site meeting with the planning officer was been requested and took place on 08.09.2021 and an objection to the application was lodged on 16.10.2021.
23. The report from the External auditors has been received with no matters of concern. The notice of conclusion of audit has been published.
24. The latest newsletter has been published in Local Life.
25. The invitations for the Chairman's evening on 15.10.2021 have been issued.
26. The Archivist at St Helens Archives has been contacted with a view to moving some of the historical Parish and Urban Council material to the St Helens Archive.
27. Councillor Bardsley has been enrolled for a Chairmanship workshop on 07.10.2021.
28. The mobile COVID-19 testing unit has been outside the Village Hall 3 times in the last fortnight as there has been a surge in cases in Rainford. *The mobile unit will be visiting again on 30.09.2021. This will be advertised. Councillor Collins informed the meeting that she was having a booster jab next week. Councillor Reynolds suggested that an article about this is put on the Facebook and website pages.*
29. The Lottery heritage grant has been approved and Councillor Reynolds is working on the logistics and practicalities of the project.
30. The next Parish Council briefing with Kath O'Dwyer will take place on 28.09.2021. Councillor Long will be raising the issues of communication with St Helens Council and whether there is an intention to pass on financial responsibilities to Parish Councils in the next financial year.
31. Thank you cards and letters have been received from residents who were given anniversary flowers.

Action: The Clerk

8. Committee Reports:

➤ Borough Council:

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

With the three of us being very much involved with the "mast" and the ongoing issue of Road Safety not a lot has been happening but there will always be something on which to report.

BY PASS

We thought it a bit strange when we read the comments of your Chairman in the minutes of your last meeting regarding the meeting with the Police and Officers following the tragic accidents. There was quite a lot that came out of that meeting and short-term measures such as resurfacing, white lining and a mobile speed awareness system was placed on the bypass. Also hedges and grass verges were cut. Cllr David Grice took the lead on behalf of the PC and may be if he had been at your meeting he could have put more "meat on the bones". After the first meeting with Police and Council Officers a follow up meeting was organised to explain what the Council was doing but unfortunately neither Cllr Long nor Cllr Grice attended that meeting, so the PC was not represented. A further meeting will take place towards the end of October, so that the Council Officers can inform us all what permanent steps will be taken to improve safety at the Junction.

It is true that funding will be tight but we cannot recall the Officers saying that there were other roads which will take priority over the Bypass. We will be listening to the proposals and insisting that the Rainford Bypass be given every priority possible, therefore it is essential that the PC is represented at this next meeting to back us up with this insistence. If Cllr Long and/or Cllr Grice are unable to attend it will be perfectly acceptable for the PC to send substitutes.

The Chairman stated that at the meeting, the officers from St Helens Council had specified that there were nearly 500 miles of road in the borough apart from the bypass and very limited resources meant that they could not all be prioritised

SPEEDING

As we all know, this is a problem all over the village and we are getting more and more complaints from residents, there has also been an article in the Star with a quote from Allan.

We are liaising with the police who will be doing more speed cheques around the village and surrounding area once the camera has been recalibrated. Allan is also trying to get the speed table in the area of the Derby Arms raised because it is too shallow and is ineffective. We do need more Community Involvement and this is where the PC can take the lead. It is hoped to arrange a meeting with the Council's Traffic Department in the near future to discuss this very important issue

ROAD RESURFACING

We have, over recent years been negotiating with our Highways section to have a number of roads in the Ward resurfaced. This was going well (with us contributing from CIF) until the pandemic hit us.

The whole thing was then put on hold. We are pleased to see now that the Council has started again based on information we provided before the pandemic and information they have gained for themselves. This means that two stretches of road will be resurfaced shortly. First there will be Church Road from Mossboro' to Thickwood (it was hoped that this could be extended to Rookery but there is apparently a problem with levels around the junction with Festival). The other road is Kendal Drive/Close. This carriageway has been "shabby" for some time and so resurfacing is welcome. The problem here is that Windermere was done a couple of years ago and now Kendal, so we may be getting complaints from residents of Buttermere and the two short roads, Keswick and Coniston. We shall see but they will be done in turn.

THE MAST

Allan spoke with Alex Ball (Planning Officer) on Thursday and the position then was:-

There were over 400 objections, The Highways Officer objected, The Trees and Woodland Officer objected and the Conservation Officer objected. The last day for objections is 29th September. Alex has asked the applicant if they wish to withdraw the application but they said no. They prefer to wait until a decision is formally made (which will be October 18th). That decision, now, will probably be that the application be rejected. I have told Alex that our offer

to sit down with the applicant and the PC and discuss the situation in a sensible way still remains. We shall see what happens.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Linda usually takes the lead on this and this year is no exception. Linda writes:-

Due to an ordering error last year with the village Christmas Tree, resulting in a 20ft one being installed rather than the normal 30ft, this year I decided to double check with the Officers at the Town Hall. I am happy to confirm that "normal service has been resumed" and a 30ft tree is on order.

The switching on of the Christmas Tree Lights is being co-ordinated to be at the same time as the commencement of the Rainford Village Fair. *The Borough Councillors had been informed that the switch on will be at the end of the Christmas fayre, not at the beginning*

As you are aware, there is a plan to make the exit from Rainford Rangers car park safer for those exiting from the Scout hut. We have asked if the PC will fund 50% of this (£500 max), We will then fund the other 50% from CIF. We notice that it is on tonight's agenda and so we would ask for an early answer so that the work can go ahead. The Organisations have said that if the PC refused, they would pay the difference. We do not believe that it would be fair for these organisations to foot the bill. So, if your answer is no, then we will fund the whole project from CIF. That being the case other projects in the village may suffer but the safety of our young people and indeed older ones, is paramount. We would ask that you are sympathetic in your deliberations.

ALLAN
SEPTEMBER 2021

LINDA

JOHN 27th

Action: The Clerk

➤ **Community Liaison Committee:**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 01.09.2021 were circulated with the agenda

As Councillor Lamb was unable to attend the meeting, Councillor Reynolds reported the following:

- Councillor Dodson had been in contact with schools
- Representatives from Rainford in Bloom had joined the meeting. The Parish Council will promote 'Tidy Up Thursdays' as part of the on-going litter campaign. Bloom no longer wishes to use the land behind the Village Hall due to logistical and technical difficulties.
- The Parish Council had been awarded a grant of £6190 from the Heritage Lottery for replica railway signs, heritage boards and a memorial for those who lost their lives in industrial accidents in Rainford. Councillor Reynolds was congratulated for securing the grant.

RESOLVED: *Councillor Reynolds proposed delegated authority and responsibility to the Community Liaison committee for the disbursement of the Heritage Lottery Grant of £9160 awarded to Rainford Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Lee and carried unanimously*

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

The draft minutes of the meetings held on 11.08.2021 & 08.09.2021 were circulated with the agenda

Councillor Sterry thanked the meeting for appointing her as the Chairman of the FPA committee and reported the following:

- There had been discussions about the planning applications received. Comments had been submitted expressing reservations about the parking spaces allocated for the Table Tennis Clubhouse
- The new signage for the disabled parking bay will probably not be in place until the end of the year
- Provisions will be made for liabilities in the accounts in future

- The repair work to the Village Hall has been prioritised and included the replacement of the windows in the Clerk's office
- The Borough Councillors had asked for a 50% contribution to works in the car park opposite the Village Hall which it was hoped would slow the traffic down. (The Borough Councillors had been requested not to suggest that groups/organisations approach the Parish council for funding at meetings to which Parish Councillors had not been invited). A speed cushion would be installed and the white lines and signs refreshed. One of the youth leaders informed the Parish Council that the organisations had been prepared to create and fund a speed bump, but had been told by St Helens Council that this would not be possible. There was a discussion.

RESOLVED: *Councillor Reynolds proposed that 50% (up to £500) is contributed to works to improve safety on the car park on Church Road opposite the Village Hall. This was seconded by Councillor Sterry and carried unanimously*

It was agreed that the Parish Council would contact the Youth organisations directly to inform them of the decision

➤ **Health & Safety Committee:**

Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting that the Health & Safety committee had not met since the last Council meeting. It was agreed that the next committee meeting would take place on 08.10.2021 at 11.45am

9. Polling Station Review:

Following the final recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission review for the St Helens Borough, the Council has undertaken a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations.

There was a discussion and it was agreed that no alterations were necessary, but that Residents should be made aware of the review.

Action: The Clerk

Councillor Reynolds reminded the meeting that all Parish Councillors term of office would end in May 2022 when Borough wide elections would take place.

10. Queen's Green Canopy Project:

Applications for spring planting can be made until 4th January 2022 and delivery will be in time for March planting.

There was a discussion about possible sites for trees in the Village. The George V playing fields and the fields at Rainford Junction were mooted as a possible site, particularly as Rainford in Bloom had been interested in trees at this location. The permission of the land owner must be obtained before an application is made. The Clerk was asked to establish if the Parish Council could apply for trees to give out to residents. The idea of applying for fruit trees was also suggested.

Action: The Clerk

11. Gambling Act 2005 Review of Statement of Licensing Policy:

Under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 the Council are legally obliged to review its Statement of Licensing Policy every 3 years.

There was a short discussion and there were no comments regarding the document.

Action: The Clerk

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

Councillor John Long
Chairman, Rainford Parish Council 2021/22