



**Minutes of a meeting of
RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL
held on 25 October 2021 at 7pm in the Reception Room at Rainford Village Hall**

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence:

Councillors: Councillor Lamb (Away), Councillor Newton (Shielding)

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

None.

3. Formal announcements from the Chairman:

Councillor Long thanked everyone for attending the Chairman's evening. The raffle had raised £735.10, which showed great generosity from those present.

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Lamb in his absence on receiving the British Empire Medal for charitable services

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 27 September 2021:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27 September 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Grice, seconded by Councillor Dodson and carried unanimously.

6. Co-option of Councillors for Muncaster, Mossborough & Junction Wards:

Tracey Denton gave a short presentation about why she wished to become a Councillor. A secret ballot was held. Councillor Denton was co-opted unanimously. She signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her place with other members.

7. Receipts and Payments for September 2021:

Income for September 2021 £6574

Expenditure for September 2021 £6518

Amount invoiced in September 2021 £5381

Bank Balances @ 30.09.2021: Current A/C £7751 Business A/C £93271

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

Provision for this expenditure £25000

Funds available £76022

8. 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 has taken place. The repairs to the front chimney have been completed. Work on the rear chimney has been started.
3. A site meeting with the stone mason has been arranged for 10am 27.10.2021 for him to explain the works required.
4. Friday night quizzes continue to go well and will continue to take place whenever the hall is not booked.
5. 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. Additionally, to ask permission to replace the windows in the Clerk's office. An auto reply stated she was on leave until 08.10.2021. This request has been re-issued through the Contact Centre at St Helens Council.
6. Despite numerous requests, the payroll information for June, July and August has not yet been received. I have been informed that this is being looked into. This will be re-issued through the Contact Centre if no information is provided. *Payroll officers have asked for further information which has been provided*
7. 40 of the 44 stalls available for the Christmas Fayre have been sold.
8. A new weekly class has been booked.
9. Bookings have been taken for 3 Wedding Receptions in the last month. Enquiries for hiring the hall have increased for both regular classes and events and functions in recent weeks.
10. The Bar Supervisor has had the initiative for the bar to start stocking a good range of non-alcoholic beers and spirits, which will be priced below the alcoholic alternative. The range will be displayed together and used as a marketing tool.
11. The Planning application for the mast in the centre of the village has been refused. The applicant does not have a right of appeal, but may make a further application to erect the mast in an alternative position.
12. The speed watch team will be out for the first time on 22.10.2021.
13. Invitations for Remembrance Day have been issued.
14. A further meeting on speeding in the village was held at the Village Hall attended by the Borough Councillors, Councillors Lee and Long, Officers from St Helens Council and invited residents.
15. The Chairman's evening took place on 15.10.2021. It was well attended and an enjoyable evening.
16. The mobile COVID-19 testing unit has been outside the Village Hall regularly over the past month. *It will be at the Village Hall again on 27.10.2021*
17. Items for the next newsletter will be submitted on 20.10.2021.
18. The next B A R meeting will take place on 20.10.2021
19. *The Christmas Tree Festival will be taking place at All Saints Church from 03 – 05.12.2021. A tree will be decorated for the Parish Council*

Action: The Clerk

9. Committee Reports:

➤ **Borough Council:**

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

The main issue that has been taking up our time over recent weeks is of course the MAST.

We have also been carrying on with our quest to reduce speeding in the Village.

The murder of Sir David Amess has upset us all.

THE MAST

You all know the outcome of this issue..... it has been rejected, there was no right of appeal. Following this rejection which was made public on 15th October a similar mast was erected on Sandwash Close on 18th October.

Allan queried this with planning and after some deliberation it was decided that this was an updated replacement for one which was already in situ. It was therefore described as "permitted development." It therefore looks as though the applicant having had the original application rejected already had this site as a contingency. If the applicant had taken up our request for a site visit, we could have perhaps agreed that this would be a more suitable site and therefore saved a lot of time and effort. It is, however, good to know that the Borough Council agreed with us on the Village Centre site rejection.

SPEEDING.

There have been meetings with both Borough Council Officers and the Police. These were attended by Parish Councillors so they will have the news about those. One thing that has been followed up is the Borough wide scarecrow competition and there are now two such beings (made up as Police Officers) being moved around the Village; one is called ALLAN and the other YOUNG JOHN. We hope that these will slow traffic down on the various roads as they did when one was placed on Higher Lane Crank a few years ago.

John has also arranged for the roadside speed signs to be cleaned.

There is another meeting (to further discuss speeding in Crank) planned for this Thursday and a Teams meeting to discuss the By Pass planned for early November.

CHRISTMAS TREE (and surrounding trees)

The Christmas Tree for the Centre of the village is now on order and will be erected in the usual location. This year a 30 feet tree has been ordered. The switch on is being co-ordinated with the Borough Council, the Christmas Fair and Yourselves.

The lights on the surrounding living trees are subject to routine maintenance and are redressed as required, with ties being replaced as deemed necessary by the Borough Council's specialist team.

These lights have come to the attention of Councillors from other Wards, so much so, they are looking at ways to replicate similar tree lighting in their own Wards including the Town Centre.

"Where Rainford leads others follow"

TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

As you will all know there have been plans to redevelop St Helens Town Centre for some time. The first set of plans were kicked into the long grass but now there are more plans being suggested. It is envisaged that the whole project will take about 20 years and the aims of the Council have been put forward in an email from the Leader of the Council. The issue is out for public consultation and at this stage we would not wish to comment further. We enclose a copy of the Leader's email as an appendix to this report, so that you can all see just what is intended.

STREET POPPIES

John has collected 20 such poppies last week and will arrange for them to be placed on lamp posts around the village this week.

As a celebration of HM The Queen's 70th Jubilee and as part of Her Majesty's Green Canopy Initiative, two pairs of oak trees will be planted in each Ward. It was suggested that Rainford's trees should be planted, one pair by the playing fields at the old bus turning circle and the other on the Nursery Playing field at Crank. We were happy to approve these suggestions.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Ken Duffy (Captain) and all members of the Rainford Pensioners B Bowling Team on winning their division of the St Helens Pensioners Bowling League.

Linda has met with a Senior Officer from the Borough Council and members of the Heritage Society (Lead by Ray Waring) to discuss the next steps for planning and funding the new Heritage Centre. This meeting was very helpful especially when looking at the availability of grants.

COVID FIGURES

The latest figures I have are for w/e 15th. Borough wide the number of cases was 946 which showed a massive increase on the previous weeks total which was 653. The figure for Rainford remained static at 35 for both weeks.

FINALY

SIR DAVID AMESS MP (a man of exceeding quality)

We were all shocked and saddened by the horrific attack on Sir David, Allan has sent a message of sympathy to his parliamentary office. This attack shows just how vulnerable we, who hold positions of responsibility, really are. We ALL have to be very careful when going about our business To this end we have decided not to visit people, we do not know, on our own and we will only conduct surgeries if there are at least two of us in attendance. We will also keep two tables width between us and the public during these surgeries. We would also urge YOU to take extra care when going about Parish Council business. RIP David.

ALLAN
2021

LINDA

JOHN

25TH OCTOBER

➤ **Community Liaison Committee:**

As Councillor Lamb was unable to attend the meeting, the Chairman asked Councillor Reynolds to give the report:

Councillor Dodson has been working with the schools.

Councillor Grice asked if there were currently any litter-picking initiatives. Councillor Reynolds explained that the CLC had decided to support the Rainford in Bloom's 'Tidy Up Thursdays' rather than initiate other collections. Councillor Grice informed the meeting that he would be undertaking yet another litter pick on Dairy Farm Road on Saturday 30.10.2021. He has advertised this on social media and asked for volunteers to join him.

The Chairman asked Councillor Reynolds to give an update on the Christmas Fayre Working Party. Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting that the organisation was going well and that all the major requirements (road closures etc) were in place. He outlined the what would be taking place on the day. Local businesses have been very generous in donating prizes for the raffle. An appeal was made for bottles and bottle bags for the bottle tombola.

Action: All Members

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

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 13.10.2021 were circulated with the agenda

Councillor Sterry went through the minutes of the meeting.

- Works will be undertaken to the bar and caretaker's store rooms to counteract the damp
- The Pavilion requires a major overhaul. The bowling club have been asked to look into grant funding
- Despite all the repair work to the Village Hall the half-year figures are relatively healthy

Health & Safety Committee:

Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting that the Health & Safety committee had not met since the last Council meeting.

10. Speeding & Parking in Rainford Village:

Councillor Sterry gave an overview of her concerns and disappointment regarding the Speed watch initiative. The first outing with the PCSO and the speed gun had caught only 3 drivers speeding. Councillor Dodson spoke about the difficulties students have going to and from the High School because of all the traffic. There was a fervent discussion during which the following was agreed:

- the Clerk would contact the Road Safety Team for advice
- Paul Mountford would be encouraged to attend a meeting in Rainford so that the Speed Watch initiative could be properly mobilised
- Speeding and Parking in the Rainford would be a permanent agenda item
- It is important to inform residents why the scheme was not progressing as anticipated
- Crowd funding may be an option to purchase speed detecting devices
- The idea of putting a body camera on a student to show the difficulties involved would be pursued

Action: Councillor Dodson/The Clerk

11. Decarbonising Public Buildings:

Councillor Reynolds outlined the scheme. The Chairman referred this item to the Community Liaison Committee.

Action: The Clerk

12. Art Exhibition:

There was a short discussion during which opposed views were expressed. The Chairman referred this item to the Community Liaison Committee.

Action: The Clerk

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Councillor John Long
Chairman, Rainford Parish Council 2021/22