



**Minutes of a meeting of RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on 28 February 2022
commencing at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Rainford Village Hall**

Present: Councillors: Bardsley, Denton, Grice, Lamb, Lee, Long (Chairman), Monk, Newton, Reynolds
In Attendance: Sally Powell (Clerk)
Victoria Swainbank (Event Co-ordinator)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Councillors: Brown (unwell), Collins (unwell), Dodson (unwell), Griffiths (family), Sterry (unwell)

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

None

3. Formal announcements from the Chairman:

The Chairman thanked everyone who had been involved in the Beer Festival and the Councillors who had contributed to the Councillor's barrel. A profit of over £3000 was made, plus in excess of £600 from the Gin Table for the Chairman's fund for Rainford Heritage Society.

The Chairman reminded everyone that an Afternoon Tea would be held on 13.03.2022 and a band concert on 26.03.2022 and requested that Councillors support these events by selling tickets and attending.

Councillor Long also congratulated Councillor Grice on the very successful coffee morning he had organised to raise funds for the Parkinson's society.

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

No members of the public were in attendance.

The Chairman read out an email that had been received from a resident regarding a child on an e-scooter.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the PCSO and the Community Sergeant for Rainford had been contacted to establish the law regarding e-scooters. The PCSO had replied stating that he was unable to approach someone riding on an e-scooter. It was established that e-scooters are illegal on the highway, regardless of the age of the rider. It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact Paul Mountford (Merseyside Police) for further information.

Action: The Clerk

5. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Rainford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 24 January 2022:

8. Councillor Lee questioned which way round the 40mph and 50mph should be in the Borough Councillor's report. The Clerk informed the meeting that the report had been copied as it had been sent.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24 January 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Monk, seconded by Councillor Lee and carried unanimously.

6. Receipts and Payments for January 2022:

See February 2022 FPA Minutes for full details

Income for January 2022	£ 14216
Expenditure for January 2022	£ 9056
Amount invoiced in January 2022	£ 10763
Bank Balances @ 31.01.2022: Current A/C £10793	Business A/C £ 38274
Christmas Fayre A/C £2552	
Expenditure does not include salaries for January 2022	
Provision for liabilities £24264	
Debtors £ 4453	
Funds available £ 29256	

Councillor Monk queried the way that the expenditure had been presented, and suggested that it should include the figure for liabilities. Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting that as the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis and not on an accruals basis, amounts which have not actually been spent, should not be shown as expenditure.

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. The Government has announced that all remaining restrictions will be lifted from 24.02.2022, including the need to self-isolate following a positive COVID-19 test. (See separate document.) The antibacterial hand gel dispensers will remain in place for people to use when entering and leaving the building.
2. The high-level delaminating stone work on the Village Hall has been made safe. A report has been submitted detailing other repair work required visible from the scaffolding. The stonemasons have now also completed the repair work required to the lower-level delaminating stone work. Costings for completing the pointing which will stop further water ingress are awaited. *The latest report has now been received. The next work that needs to be undertaken is pointing and repairing the stone window surrounds. This will cost an estimated £12,000 - £15,000, plus a contingency for scaffolding. It may be possible to apply for grant funding for this work, as it has not been started yet. Councillor Newton suggested that alternative quotes are sought.*

Action: The Clerk

3. 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. No further information is available at present, but the next forum will take place 28.02.2022 before the full Council meeting. Additionally, a survey about the cycling and walking network in St Helens has been forwarded to all members and they are encouraged to complete it.
4. The research being carried out regarding grants for installing on-street residential car charging points is on-going. A local firm which installs the charging points has also been contacted.
5. Quiz nights are continuing, with additional marketing to encourage more teams. The Quiz on 18.02.2022 was cancelled due to the adverse weather.
6. The next Parish Council newsletter will be in the March 2022 issue of Local Life. The distribution list for Rainford has been obtained from Local Life so that households that are not currently included can be reached. Local Life is reviewing its distribution in Rainford in the Autumn. A copy of the newsletter is also posted on the Village Centre and Village Hall noticeboards. Online copies are also available.
7. There has been a leak in the ceiling of the Main Hall. The roofer has attended and repaired the fault. The ceiling on the inside still requires repainting.
8. Many complaints have been received about the closure of the footpath between Higher Lane and Lakeside Gardens. Along with Councillors, I have been in contact with St Helens Council to

determine the correct position. The footpath will be closed for safety reasons until the bungalow has been fully demolished, a process that is now well underway. The footpath should then be re-opened. Residents are being kept informed of the situation via social media and email. *The demolition of the bungalow has now taken place. The Planning Officer has been contacted to establish when the footpath will be reopened. There was a short discussion. The Clerk will follow up.*

Action: The Clerk

9. Tickets are now available for the Afternoon Tea on 22.05.2022 and Gala Dinner on 28.05.2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Please support these events. The Borough Councillors and other organisations have asked what the Parish Council would be organising. There may be some street parties.
10. A further meeting regarding speeding on the bypass took place on 12.01.2022. It is hoped that several initiatives will be implemented and a further meeting will be held in February 2022. I have not yet been informed of the date of this meeting. The St Helens Star has shown interest in this story and requested a quote from the Chairman. This was printed in the week commencing 24.01.2022 edition.
11. In addition to the Quiz that took place on 04.02.202 for the Chairman's fund for Rainford Heritage Society, tickets are available for an Afternoon Tea on 13.03.2022. Tickets are also still available for the concert by Rainford Band on 26.03.2022. Councillors support in promoting and attending these events would be appreciated.
12. The outstanding furlough money will be shown on the payroll for February 2022.
13. The details for payroll payments for November, December, January and February have not yet been received.
14. Steve Littler attended the FPA committee meeting on 09.02.2022 to discuss the renewal of the lease for the Village Hall and the cost of the on-going repair work to the building.
15. Bookings for after 01.04.2022 are being made and the increased prices quoted. This does not appear to be affecting bookings and the high percentage of enquiries that are converted to bookings remains.
16. Age UK are holding a 5-week Creativity course at the Village Hall for older citizens starting on 24.02.2022.
17. As requested, the document suggesting an alternative distribution for the wards within the parish for the Community Governance Review was updated and circulated. It was also sent to the relevant officers at St Helens Council. This is a separate agenda item.
18. The caretakers and Licensees have been asked to ensure that all lights and heating are turned off when there is no-one in the Village Hall. Additionally, the caretakers were asked to make sure that the radiator in the gent's toilets is turned off.
19. A thank you letter has been received from the British Legion for the purchase of Remembrance Day wreaths.
20. As the end of the financial year is approaching, any outstanding invoices have been chased and several payments have already been made.
21. The next B A R breakfast meeting will be held on 23.02.2022. Councillors are very welcome to attend. 4 further barrels for the Beer Festival were sponsored following the January B A R meeting.
22. The Beer Festival, took place from 11 – 13 February 2022 and was the most successful yet. More sponsorship was received this year, than previously.
23. Following the CLC meeting on 02.02.2022, the draft Road Safety Strategy drawn up by Councillor Reynolds will be updated. Additionally, a meeting is being organised with officers from St Helens Council and Merseyside Police to discuss a Road Safety Campaign covering all the schools in Rainford.
24. At the suggestion of St Helens Council, an application was made for an Omicron Hospitality and Leisure grant, but it was rejected as Parish Councils were exempt.
25. Preliminary meetings with the principle of Rainford High regarding a joint project have taken place.
26. A further meeting with officers from St Helens Council regarding the future of the library service in Rainford is being arranged with members from the CLC and FPA committees.

27. The Council Tax Base has been confirmed at 2937 (Band D equivalent) which will give a precept of £79,299. This will be paid in 2 instalments in April and June.
28. I have been contacted by a company who may be interested in taking over the 02 Ormskirk Road as (among other things) a veterinary surgery. They wanted assistance in trying to gauge a need for the service. It was suggested that they post on the Rainford Social media pages.
29. A request for assistance with anti-social behaviour was received from a resident. This was passed on to the PCSO and the Borough Councillors, who had been involved previously. *A comprehensive response was received from the Police Constable for Rainford. The resident had been visited and no further action will take place at this time.*
30. *A meeting regarding the future of the library service in Rainford has been arranged for 6pm on 01.03.2022 and the following Councillors will be attending: Denton, Dodson, Lee, Long, Reynolds, Sterry*
Any other Councillors who would like to, are welcome to attend.
31. *A grant application for raised beds and wildflower beds in conjunction with Torus Housing Association has been submitted to the National Garden Scheme, for Springfield.*
32. *The Clerk thanked all Councillors who had contributed to the success of the Beer Festival by volunteering over the weekend. Their assistance had significantly contributed to the increased profit.*

8. Committee Reports:

➤ Borough Council:

The following report was received from the Borough Councillors:

It has been rather quiet since our last report so there may not be much in this one that you don't already know, however one or two items have been expanded to perhaps give you more information.

We have had a few enquiries from residents regarding street parties for the Jubilee. We have sought assistance with these from the Events Team in the Town Hall which is now dealing with residents direct.

Allan has looked further into the proposed Incinerator Plant in Simonswood. This has been put forward by Lancashire County Council and is for medical waste (this is on your agenda). The site is not far from the West Lancs/Knowsley border (Kirkby) and there have been a lot of objections from residents in the area and also from Knowsley Council. LCC have not advised St Helens Council about the proposal but Allan has advised our Planning Team, which has sent a letter to LCC asking for details. The Plant would be approx 2 miles from the Rainford Border. Further information can be gleaned from our Head of Planning Kieron Birch.

We have resurrected our regular meetings with the Police and although the first one (on Teams) was riddled with computer problems (a damaged cable down a flooded hole in Liverpool) it has been established that the speed camera will be out again soon on Mossboro', Church Road and Higher Lane near the junction with Scarisbrick.

A follow up meeting regarding speeding in Crank is scheduled for April and you will be kept informed of dates etc.

Our Traffic Department has now formulated the new speed restrictions for the Bypass (Mill Lane junction). Sally has received a copy of the proposals and Linda has shared these with residents on Social Media.

Provision is also being made for more parking places on the Bypass for police camera vans.

We were also told at the meeting that Crime Figures for Rainford are very low. This is a good thing but we must not become complacent. Residents should be encouraged to report crime (any crime) so it can be recorded (if it is not reported and recorded it has not happened).

Our next meeting will be in March and will be face to face.

At the meeting of full Council, this coming Wednesday, time has been set aside for an item on the situation in Ukraine. The taking of refugees from this war-torn Country by the Borough will be suggested and we would hope it gets full support. Allan has already sent an email to the Leader of the Council offering our support and hopefully Linda will get a chance to offer verbal support at

the meeting.

As we all know, Local Elections will take place on May 5th and as far as the Borough Council elections are concerned Rainford will be electing only Two Councillors. This will be for a period of four years.

Each voter will have two votes.

At the time of his last election (2019) Allan made it clear that this would be his last term and he would retire when the term was over. Linda and John have indicated that they will be standing again and as such, they have been adopted as Candidates.

From the paperwork received for this meeting, it is clear that you have the Parish Council elections well in hand.

➤ **Community Liaison Committee:** (See Appendix 1 for February 2022 draft minutes)

Councillor Lamb gave the following report:

- Further work on new community groups is on-going.
- Greg Hamilton had spoken at the last CLC meeting about the Rewilding Rainford project which the CLC are keen to support.
- Rainford in Bloom are hoping to do some work on the King George V playing fields, in particular planting trees. They are currently putting together a proposal, which it is hoped the Parish Council will endorse.
- Councillor Lamb initiated a discussion about the future of the Art Exhibition. It was agreed that it would not take place until 2023 at least, because the Rainford Show would be going ahead on 03.09.2022 and it will be the 40th anniversary.
In recent years, there has not been much variety. It was agreed that this event will be discussed further at the September 2022 meeting.

Action: The Clerk

Finance, Planning & Administration Committee: (See Appendix 2 for February 2022 draft minutes)

As Councillor Sterry had been unable to attend the meeting, Councillor Monk gave the following report:

- 13 sets of plans had been considered at the last committee meeting. There were no objections.
- Steve Littler, Assistant Director, Property & Economy, St Helens Council, attended the meeting and there was a discussion about the new lease for the Village Hall. Initially, Steve's attitude was that the lease would be re-instated on the same terms, but the committee had explained that the Parish Council could not commit to a lease, when it did not know what its obligations were going to be. Steve Littler will be arranging a survey of the building and following this, further discussions will take place. There was a short discussion, in particular about the land at the rear of the Village Hall.
- The committee had discussed the idea of Parish Council initiated community groups using the hall free of charge. This had been agreed, particularly as it may assist with grant applications.
- The Clerk had provided the committee with the chargeable costs for the Luncheon Club which is due to recommence on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 01.03.2022. Pre Covid, the RSCSC had made an annual donation for the use of the hall, but this does not cover half of what the hire cost would be. Given the increase in the cost of fuel, this position needs revisiting, as to carry on as before will mean that the Parish Council is subsidising the Luncheon Club. The cost of the lunches is being increased significantly. There was a discussion, during which it was suggested that there were not as many people attending as before. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the group and ask to attend their next meeting to discuss the matter.

Action: The Clerk

➤ **Health & Safety Committee:**

Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting that the committee had not met since the last full Council meeting. A meeting would be arranged shortly.

Action: The Clerk/Councillor Reynolds

9. Road Safety in Rainford:

Councillor Sterry was not able to attend the meeting, but the Clerk gave the following information:

- i. A Road Safety meeting has been arranged for 08.03.2022 for Head Teachers, the St Helens Council Road Safety Team and Highways Technicians, Merseyside Police and Borough and Parish Councillors. Any Councillors who wish to do so, are welcome to attend.
- ii. Following considerations, double yellow lines and no waiting areas will be installed in Linear Bank Close. There was a discussion regarding enforcement of the restrictions.
- iii. There is now another school crossing patrol officer on Cross Pit Lane.
- iv. The traffic around the High School in the afternoons appears to be getting worse. It was suggested that the bus drop off could be used for cars, as it cannot be used for buses.

10. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:

An Afternoon Tea and a Gala Dinner are being organised. Additionally, the Clerk's office is gathering information from other organisations and individuals who are arranging celebratory events. The Royal British Legion are selling merchandise for Jubilee celebrations. There was a discussion. It was agreed that a small amount of carefully chosen merchandise should be purchased.

People who want to organise a street party will be referred to St Helens Council. It is not known whether costs for closing roads will have to be paid. This will be investigated. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item again in April 2022.

Action: The Clerk/The Event Co-ordinator

11. Revised Code of Conduct:

A new Code of Conduct was adopted by St. Helens Council on 21 July 2021. Since then, the LGA have revised their model Code of Conduct. St Helens Council agreed to update its Code in accordance with the revised LGA model code at its meeting on 19 January 2022.

There was a discussion. There does not appear to be any material changes to the code, but the responsibilities of being a Councillor have been set out in a clear and easy to understand manner.

RESOLVED: Councillor Long proposed that the Code of Conduct accepted by St Helens Council by Rainford Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Monk and carried unanimously.

12. Community Governance Review:

A document was circulated with the agenda, detailing the suggested changes to the Parish Ward boundaries. (See Appendix 3 for the document)

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

- ❖ Ward boundaries should reflect communities
- ❖ Wards should have parity regarding the number of electors in each ward, as far as possible
- ❖ It would be interesting and exciting to create a new ward: Old Hall
- ❖ Additional housing which may be built could affect the parity of the suggested wards
- ❖ The plan does not include an equal number of Councillors for each ward, but this is not necessarily consequential

RESOLVED: Councillor Reynolds proposed that the changes to Ward boundaries and the addition of Old Hall ward in Rainford Parish detailed in the Community Governance Review document are accepted. This was seconded by Councillor Monk and carried unanimously

13. Local Elections May 2022:

The Clerk informed the meeting that nomination papers for the local elections in May 2022 will be available from the Clerk's office. Councillors are requested to inform the Clerk whether or not they intend to stand for re-election.

14. Plans for Simonswood Incinerator:

Councillor Griffiths was unable to attend the meeting, so the Chairman gave some background to the plans that have been submitted to Lancashire County Council to build an incinerator in Simonswood. The site is only 2 miles from the border with Rainford. There was a discussion. There is a public meeting on 16.03.2022. It is known that Knowsley Council are objecting to the application. It was agreed that an objection should possibly be sent from the Parish Council, but that further information was required, such as whether there are any alternative sites. Additionally, the grounds for Knowsley Councils objection would need to be taken into consideration.

Action: The Clerk

Councillor Bardsley requested that all Councillor's take part in the CPRE's star count event.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.22pm

Councillor John Long
Chairman
Rainford Parish Council 2021/22

Appendix 1



6. Draft CLC
Minutes 02.02.2022.

Appendix 2



FPA Draft Minutes
09.02.2022.docx

Appendix 3



Community
Governance Review