



**Minutes of a meeting of the
FINANCE, PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
OF RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL
in the Council Chamber at Rainford Village Hall
Wednesday 12 January 2022 commencing at 6.30pm**

Present: Councillors Bardsley, Long (via Zoom), Monk, Sterry (Chairman)
In attendance: Sally Powell (Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Councillor Griffiths

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 08.12.21:

The minutes of the meeting held on 08.12.2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Bardsley, seconded by Councillor Monk and carried unanimously.

3. Plans:

*P/2021/1044/FUL Addition of extra car parking spaces between plots 1 & 2
Millbrook Business Park, Mill Lane, Rainford*

There were no objections to these plans

*P/2021/1043/HHFP Single storey rear extension
100b St Helens Road, Rainford*

There were no objections to these plans

*P/2021/1046/HHFP Single storey rear extension
7 Heyes Avenue, Rainford*

There were no objections to these plans

*P/2021/1066/FUL Extension to existing caravan storage use following approval of
application P/2008/1164
Rainford Delph Farm, Gores Lane, Crank*

There was a short discussion regarding this application, but no objections

*P/2021/1074/HHFP Proposed single storey extension with partial garage conversion
42 Heyes Avenue, Rainford*

There were no objections to these plans

4. Clerk's Report:

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 new regulations have been put in place due to the Omicron variant. At the moment, none of them effect bookings at the Village Hall.
2. The delaminating stone work has been made safe. A report has been submitted detailing other repair work required visible from the scaffolding.
3. I have now received notification of the payments required for payroll for June – October and these have been paid.

4. The Christmas Fayre had to be held in the Village Hall due to adverse weather, but it was a great success.
5. Some bookings are being made, but cancellations are also being made due to the current uncertainty around coronavirus.
6. 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 yet.
7. The research being carried out regarding grants for installing on-street residential car charging points is on-going.
8. Quiz nights are continuing, with additional marketing to encourage more teams.
9. The electricity was due to be upgraded to a smart meter early in January, but the engineer was unable to complete the change-over on arrival.
10. A meeting was arranged for Steve Littler (Assistant Director for Place Services at St Helens Council) to visit the Village Hall regarding the renewal of the lease.
11. A Parish Council newsletter was in the January 2022 issue of Local Life.
12. Councillor Reynolds and I met with a representative from Age UK in December 2021 to discuss ways in which the Parish Council might work with the organisation. It is hoping to put on a 5-week IT course to show older residents how to get more use from phones and ipads etc
13. There has been a leak in the ceiling of the Main Hall. The roofer has attended and hopefully cured the problem.
14. A stocktake has been arranged for 10.01.2022. *This actually took place on 17.01.2022 and an additional one has been arranged for the year end on 31.03.2022*
15. *Notification has been received that the Council Tax Base for 2022/23 will be 2937 which is 51 more than the current year.*

5. Income & Expenditure for December 2021:

Income £68,187.76

Expenditure £68,452.02

This includes a transfer of £55,000 from the Savings account to pay salaries etc owed to St Helens Council June – October 2021 and an invoice for repairs to the Village Hall.

There was a discussion of the current position and concern was expressed that the expenses were more than the income.

6. Village Hall repairs:

A decision needs to be made about further works to the roof. It was agreed that the further repairs costing £14418 were not something that the Parish Council could afford. Steve Littler would be contacted as a matter of urgency for advice and assistance. The Parish Council cannot commit to spending money that it does not have.

7. Terms for the New Lease:

The Clerk gave an account of the meeting she had had with Steve Littler. The following points were made:

- That the Parish Council was not necessarily interested in having the land bordering on Pilkington Street included in the new lease.
- The Parish Council would like a decision to be made about the land behind the Village Hall. This and the other land could be assets for St Helens Council.
- The Parish Council had spent a great deal of money on the Village Hall; around £270,000 over the past 10 years, but given the need for the current repairs, this position is unsustainable.

8. Draft Budget 2022/23:

See separate document

The draft budget was considered. There was a discussion of the proposed price increases and it was agreed that these would be recommended for adoption at the full council meeting on 24.01.2022. The cost of hiring the hall, except for Wedding Receptions has not increased in over 10 years. The percentages are high, but the amounts are low in monetary terms. Office rentals will also be increased.

It will be important to market the increases appropriately.

Energy prices were discussed and the length of term was discussed. The Clerk will get prices and circulate them for members of the committee to agree.

There was a discussion about the bar prices. The budget includes an overall increase of 10%. It was agreed that the Event Co-ordinator and Bar Supervisor would go through the current tariffs and agree where increases would be appropriate, ensuring that the overall increase is no less than 10%.

There was also a discussion about current staffing levels and performance and it was agreed that the status quo should remain for the time being.

Additionally, the possibilities of grants will be looked in to.

It was agreed that the final budget would be recommended to full council for adoption.

RESOLVED: ***Councillor Sterry proposed that the budget is recommended for acceptance at the next full Council meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Monk and agreed unanimously***

9. Improvement of the offer and the profitability of the Village Hall:

This had been included in other areas of discussion.

The Clerk asked on behalf of Councillor Grice, if he could have free use of the Reception Room for meetings of a Parkinson's support group he would be setting up. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the initial meeting could be free of charge, but that the room would need to be paid for on an on-going basis as it would not be appropriate for Councillors to be given preferential treatment, as any other group would be expected to pay.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Councillor Christine Sterry
Chairman, Finance, Planning & Administration Committee
Rainford Parish Council 2021/22