



**Minutes of a meeting of the Community Liaison Committee of
RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

held in the Council Chamber at Rainford Village Hall on Wednesday 02 March 2022 at 6.30pm
Present: Councillors: Denton, Dodson, Lamb (Chairman), Reynolds
In attendance: Sally Powell (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence:

None

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 02.02.2022:

The minutes of the meeting held on 02.12.2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Long, seconded by Councillor Dodson and carried unanimously.

3. Rewilding Rainford:

Greg Hamilton had put a post on FaceBook which was very well received and supported. The meeting with Richard Scott had not yet been arranged, but was in the process of being organised. It had been suggested that a large map of the parish is put up somewhere (possibly the Village Hall) where all areas of rewilding could be shown. Additionally, another farmer had offered land bordering fields for wild flowers to be sown. This is a very inclusive project, as even people without gardens can join in, and every small pot can contribute.

4. School's Liaison Officer's report:

Councillor Dodson gave the following report:

- The person she liaises with at Rainford High had been off sick, so the video project had been delayed. They are still keen to go ahead with this, though.
- The primary schools are all working on their road safety banners, and it has somehow turned into a competition. Brook Lodge has already delivered their banner. There was a discussion about what the schools would get from the Parish Council. It was agreed that certificates would be produced for them. The schools have been given until the middle of March to complete the banners. When all the banners have been submitted, they will be taken to the banner makers to see what they can do with them.

Action: The Clerk

- Arrangements need to be made for Brook Lodge students to come to the Village Hall to visit the Council Chamber and meet Councillors to see how the Parish Council works. It needs to be established how many children will be attending, for logistics. Additionally, a spokesperson for the Parish Council will need to be appointed.

Action: The Clerk/Councillor Dodson

5. Road safety:

- Notice from St Helens Council had been received that double yellow lines and no waiting areas are going to be implemented in Linear Bank Close
- A road safety meeting will be held at the Village Hall on 08.03.2022 with representatives from the schools, Merseyside Police, Council officers and Councillors
- The PCSO has frequently cancelled speed watch sessions. Paul Mountford suggested that the sergeant is contacted and dates given, requesting support from the PCSO. If these are cancelled, it will go back to the Sergeant.

See Appendix 1 for the draft Road Safety strategy

The wheelie bin stickers are available, but a way of distributing them needs to be established. The following suggestions were made:

- Hand delivery
- Social Media
- Article in the next newsletter
- Examples on the notice boards in the Village Hall and centre of the village
- A letter from the Chairman and the stickers distributed to the residential properties in the 20mph zone on Church Road

Councillor Reynolds outlined the strategy. It is important to show residents that the Parish Council is reacting to their concerns and acting where possible.

It was agreed that further points may be added following the road safety meeting on 08.03.2022. It will be updated and presented at the next full council meeting.

Action: The Clerk

There is a pilot scheme in other parts of the borough to make roads in front of schools one way or pedestrianised at certain times of the day. It is hoped that this scheme will be extended to include Brook Lodge.

Enforcement is also key, and the speed watch volunteers may be able to assist with this.

There is now a school crossing patrol officer on Cross Pit Lane.

Councillor Reynolds left the meeting at 7.03pm

8. The Future of the Library Service in Rainford:

A meeting was held with Dave Boocock (Title) on 01.03.2022. The Clerk gave a brief outline of the meeting:

In the past, library have been kept open at the expense of the maintenance of the buildings, many of which are now in poor repair. Organisations are being sought who will provide some sort of library service if existing libraries are closed:

- Super borrowers who would be able to have 100 books at a time and then distribute and collect from residents
- Non-statutory library services: Not so much support from St Helens Council
- Statutory library services where books and IT services are provided by St Helens Council, but the library would have to be open for at least 15 hours per week

If Rainford library is earmarked for closure, then the Parish Council will have to decide what, if any, involvement it wishes to have in the provision of library services in the Village. It was the feeling of the meeting that the Parish Council should be part of any future library service.

One of the organisations in the Village has had a meeting with Dave Boocock and there may be the opportunity to work together with them and possibly other organisations. Councillor Lee will be approaching the organisation to find out its views.

It was agreed that the Parish Council needs to have a plan in place if the library in Rainford closes. Many residents want a library service to be maintained and there may be a group of volunteers willing to help maintain a community library. However, these people will need to be trained, supported and managed.

Councillor Long left the meeting at 7.18pm

9. Senior Citizen's Fair:

Contact details for possible stands have been gathered, but there are not enough yet. An email will go out shortly to the organisations and the spreadsheet with the details will be circulated to all committee members.

The following suggestions were made:

- ❖ Carers society: Cllr Denton is the link with them particularly in relation to dementia.
- ❖ Tax relief for older citizens. There is a charity which does this.
- ❖ Venues where groups can gather
- ❖ City Health Care Partnership
- ❖ St Helens Council
- ❖ Not too many organisations like the Alzheimer's society etc
- ❖ Home Security/ Faraday pouches
- ❖ Cyber security and easy to use electronic devices
- ❖ Gyms
- ❖ Therapies
- ❖ Rainford in Bloom

Action: The Clerk

10. Rainford Christmas Fayre:

It was agreed that the Parish Council should set up a working party to organise a Christmas Fayre for 2022 and that the working party would decide on whether the Fayre should be inside or outside.

There was a discussion, particularly around whether the fayre made more money inside or out. Money was lost because the road closure had to be paid for, even though it did not happen, because of the weather. Also, about the restrictions of holding (or having to move) the fayre inside, such as the difficulties with the entertainment and the stalls spreading out further than the allocated table. There were also suggestions for moving the grotto to allow for more stalls inside.

The intention was to put on a good community event, not to raise funds.

There have been a spate of car thefts in the village recently. People should keep their car keys in a tin box. Additionally all keys should not be kept together (car, house etc). Key boxes on the front of houses are a good idea.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.32pm

Councillor Chris Lamb
Chairman, Community Liaison Committee
Rainford Parish Council 2021/22

Appendix 1



Draft Rainford
Road Safety Strategy