



**Minutes of a meeting of
RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

held on 26 September 2022 commencing at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Rainford Village Hall

Present: Councillors: Bardsley (Chairman), Denton, Grice, Griffiths, Long, Newton

**In Attendance: Sally Powell (Clerk)
John Bimpson
Bernie Bowden
James Holden
Kerry Kirkham
Daniel Stockton-Pugh
1 resident**

1. Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Dodson (Family commitment), Councillor Lamb (Away), Councillor Lee (Unwell) Councillor Reynolds (Unwell)

2. Formal announcements from the Chairman:

The Chairman informed the meeting that several significant and momentous events had taken place since the last full council meeting:

- i. Councillor Sterry had resigned due to ill health. The Chairman wished her a speedy recovery.
- ii. The Parish Council objection to planning application P/2022/0461/FUL had been submitted and drop-in sessions had taken place at the Village Hall to inform residents about the application.
- iii. The 40th Rainford Show had taken place; the first since 2019. It was well attended and was a great village event for all those who took part and attended.
- iv. The Parish Council had followed all protocol following the death of the late Queen Elizabeth 11 and the Chairman had attended the reading of the proclamation of King Charles 111 in St Helens and then read it outside the Village Hall in Rainford. The Event Co-ordinator was thanked and congratulated on her diligence regarding the organisation of the necessary arrangements. The books of condolence at the Village Hall had been signed by 88 residents.

The Chairman declared his intention to take Item 5 on the agenda next as Kerry Kirkham had another Parish Council meeting to attend.

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

Dr Kerry Kirkham addressed the meeting. She is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of York and also works at the London school of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She is also heavily involved in the opposition to the proposed incinerator in neighbouring Simonswood.

In her experience, many residents are unaware of the application. St Helens Council has not registered an objection despite some parts of the borough, in Rainford, being only 3km from the site.

The application for the height of the chimney has changed from 14m to 26m, which means that anything coming out of the chimney will travel further before it lands. WHR have stated that incinerators such as this should not be built near farmland growing food, but the site of the application is very close to farmland.

Additionally, the conclusions around the stated effects of the incinerator in the application have been based on out of date and inappropriate modelling, which are not relevant to medical waste incinerators.

Populations living near to similar incinerators show higher rates of congenital abnormalities in new-borns and higher rates of diseases such as cancer.

The building of this incinerator could cause problems in Rainford and the wider borough.

Members asked questions and it was agreed that the Parish Council would try to make residents aware of the issue. Also, that St Helens Council would be contacted and the Borough Councillors copied in. The next meeting regarding the application will be in Preston on 16.10.2022 at 10.30am. Councillors were invited by Dr Kirkham to attend this meeting and to register to address the meeting.

Action: The Clerk

Dr Kirkham and a resident left the meeting at 7.12pm

3. Co-option of Councillors:

Prospective members addressed the Council and were then asked questions.

There was a private ballot and the following people were co-opted as members of Rainford Parish Council:

John Bimpson

Bernie Bowden

James Holden

Daniel Stockton-Pugh

Action: The Clerk

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

Councillors Bimpson, Bowden, Holden & Stockton-Pugh read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. There were no other updates.

6. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Rainford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 26 July 2022:

The minutes of the meeting held on 26.07.2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Long, seconded by Councillor Newton and carried unanimously.

Action: The Clerk

7. Receipts and Payments for July & August 2022

Full details can be found in the Finance, Planning & Administration committee minutes for July and August 2022.

Receipts for July 2022 £ 17,097

Payments for July 2022 £ 33,316

This includes staff costs for April, May, June & July 2022

Amount invoiced in July 2022 £13,445

Bank Balances @ 31.07.2022: Current A/C £12,013 Business A/C £ 77,237

Christmas Fayre A/C £2,483

Provision for liabilities £ 4,471

Debtors £ 2562

Receipts for August 2022 £ 12,697

Payments for August 2022 £ 18,434

Amount invoiced in August 2022 £ 4,260

Bank Balances @ 31.08.2022: Current A/C £7,008 Business A/C £77,237

Rainford Christmas Fayre A/C £2554

Provision for liabilities £646

Debtors £3281

Councillor Griffiths asked why the payments for July 2022 were so high. The Clerk informed the meeting that this was because the staff costs owed to St Helens Council for April, May, June & July 2022 were included.

8. Clerk's Report:

The following report was circulated as part of the agenda for the meeting. Additions are in italics.

1. The survey commissioned by Steve Littler took place on 07.04.2022. The report has not yet been received. The Clerk met with Paula Bllelock who is the Interim Senior Surveyor for the Estates Department of St Helens Council on 30.08.2022. She looked around the Village Hall and will be involved in the discussions regarding the lease. A date is still awaited for the meeting for formal discussions.

Action: The Clerk

2. The Energy Performance Certificate for the Village Hall needs renewing. The survey will take place on 22.09.2022. *The Survey has taken place and some good suggestions for energy efficiency were given by the surveyor, who suggested an air-conditioning unit for heating (as well as cooling) the Main Hall. Councillor Griffiths offered to research whether any funding would be available for this. It was thought that this would be a lot cheaper than the current radiator system. Additionally, there is some insulation in the loft space above the landing.*

Action: The Clerk/Councillor Griffiths

3. All payroll payments are currently up to date. Overtime payments have been made to the Clerk and Event Co-ordinator as the Bar Supervisor's position has not yet been filled. However, the applicant who could not start until October is still interested. In the meantime, the Event Co-ordinator has been covering most of the functions.
4. Bookings continue to be made regularly for the hall for events and functions. However, there are very few bookings for November, but a Life celebration and a Wedding Reception have been booked between Christmas and New Year, when the Hall is normally closed. 2 Wedding Receptions have already been booked for 2024.
5. One of the Registrars from St Helens Council visited the Village Hall with a member of the licencing team and agreed that a licence to hold marriage ceremonies could be applied for. *The Registrar suggested that decorating and any other work in the hall is completed before the application is submitted.*

Action: The Clerk/The Event Co-ordinator

6. The on-going project with Rainford High School using the Reception Room continues to go well and the High School are pleased with the number of students attending at the Village Hall.
7. There is no further development on the Miller Homes Planning Application for the Rookery Lane/Higher Lane site. The decision will be made by the planning committee due to the number of objections that were received.
8. The Planning Application for the Heritage Boards has been granted.
9. Quotes for loft insulation in the Village Hall and other building upgrades are being sought. *Loft insulation not required, as there is already some in place.*
10. The latest Parish Council newsletter has been published in Local Life.
11. Scout Leader Martin Cox has revived the suggestion of putting speed humps on the car park opposite the Village Hall. This was a pre-covid project which the Parish Council had agreed to contribute to. Borough Councillor John Case was following it up with St Helens Council. There is currently no further information on this project.
12. The bibs and footballs sponsored by the Parish Council for the walking football group have been delivered to the organiser. Formal thanks have been received from the organiser of the group.
13. The artwork for the school banners has gone missing. The manufacturers thought that they had been collected but this was not the case. Letters from the Chairman will be sent to the schools.
14. The pubs in Rainford had been contacted about the Knife Savers Scheme to see if they would be interested in having a KnifeSavers Pack. Sadly, there has been little response. However, the Event Co-ordinator and Councillor Roberts will be visiting the pubs personally to talk about the scheme and hopefully initiate some interest. *The Chairman expressed his disappointment that the pubs in Rainford had shown little to no interest in having KnifeSaver packs and free training for their staff. There was a short discussion and it was agreed that Councillors would approach the pubs in person and that following this, there would be publicity for those who took up the offer.*

Action: Councillors Griffiths, Reynolds and any others willing to go to Rainford pubs/The Event Co-ordinator

15. Quotations are being gathered for the various sustainability suggestions and the improvement of the Village Hall.

16. Following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth 11, all protocols were followed. The Union flag was at half mast within 10 minutes of the announcement and then raised and lowered as required. Books of condolence were made available to residents and these will be sent to the St Helens Council Archive.
17. *New curtains and blinds for the Main Hall have been ordered. The material was on offer at half the usual price for a limited period. This was approved by members of the FPA committee. There will be blinds at the smaller, high up windows for ease of opening and closing and to prevent light leak around them.*
18. *The glass in the folding doors between the bar and the Main Hall has been removed and boards inserted instead. The doors will now be painted.*
19. *The external auditor has signed off the accounts for 2021/22. There was an error on the form, which has been mentioned in the report. There were no other issues.*

9. Committee Reports & Working Party Reports:

➤ **Borough Council:**

The Clerk read out the following report submitted by Councillor Mussell:

It has been a very quiet period over the summer, but meetings are beginning to start again as a result, there is very little to report.

Miller Homes

A decision regarding this application has not yet been made but I am informed by the planning department that all who submitted a objection or support will be contacted when a determination has been made. Over 130 objections were received by the council. Also and very importantly, the councils own planning officer responsible for council policy reported that the plans in their present form could not be supported. The application is likely to go to the planning committee but likely to be rejected. This could be late 2022 or early 2023. The danger is that Miller Homes can revise the plans and submit a new planning application.

Should Miller Homes be successful in their plans either with the original or further plans we intend to seek section 106 monies to be spent in reinstating the playground on George V field opposite the Star

Library

It is proposed to close the library on the 31st October when the building will be emptied of all books, and movable equipment. We now have all the costings regarding the continuation of the building use and provided 51% is given to library services the council will assist with capital funding.

Our intention is to run the premises as a community Library/Hub as a Trust. A small board of trustees has been set up and we are cooperating closely with St Helens Council who are being very supportive. The problem is that it will take approximately 1 year to set this up and so there will be a gap in service from the end of October 2022. Volunteers and Funding will be required. Maybe the Parish Council will offer some funding to this important community trust. CIF money will be invested.

We have a group of residents willing to be part of the board, but we would welcome a Parish Councillor to be involved. The first meeting is on Thursday 29th at 1.00pm at the library.

Rainford in Bloom

we had a very productive meeting with RIB, and it was agreed that the planters in the centre of the village will be moved to the next segment (in front of the proposed Bargain Booze shop). The Christmas Tree will be set in its usual position. The tree will be 25 feet tall and have extra lights (funded by CIF).

Rainford Athletic Ladies Football

We are proposing to reinstate the football pitch at the Junction to FA standards to allow this team to use it as a home ground. Works paid via CiF

CiF will fund a bench at the pond on Siding Lane to replace the one which is rotted. We would welcome suggests for sighting a further bench.

Cllr Linda Mussell

Cllr John Case

Councillor Newton informed the meeting that he was still investigating whether there was a covenant on the land that Rainford library was built on. Councillor Denton stated that it would be

beneficial for a Parish Councillor to be a trustee of the Community Library Trust being set up by the Borough Councillors. The Clerk was asked to request who the Trustees are. There was a short discussion about the future of library services in Rainford and the possibility of the Village Hall being used for activities that currently take place in the library.

Action: The Clerk

➤ **Community Liaison Committee:**

In Councillor Lamb's absence, Councillor Denton gave the following report:

- i. There had been an issue with the road safety banners for schools.
- ii. A discussion about implementing sustainable measures in the Village Hall had taken place.
- iii. The plans for St George V playing fields by Rainford in Bloom have been put on hold for the time being.
- iv. There is no data from the temporary SID placed on Higher Lane during August. It is hoped that there will be more speed checks in the coming weeks.
- v. The first Senior Citizen and Well being Fair was not particularly well attended, which was disappointing as there were some very good stalls. Those who did attend engaged with the stall holders. It had been widely advertised, but if future events take place, the marketing of the event will need to be re-thought. Councillor Holden suggested that it was linked with a coffee morning
- vi. St Helens Council will be installing 3 electric car charging points on the car park opposite the Village Hall. Councillor Reynolds is investigating the possibility of having further points installed in other areas of the parish.
- vii. Meetings of the Christmas Fayre Working Party have taken place and nearly all the stall spaces have now been taken. Councillors Bimpson & Stockton-Pugh stated that they would like to join the Christmas Fayre Working Party.

Action: The Clerk

- viii. The planning permission for the Heritage boards, replica Station Signs and memorial to those who lost their lives in industrial accidents has been granted. QR codes will be used to give further Rainford history.
- ix. Councillor Denton and the Clerk had met with a representative of Home Instead and the Dementia Hub in Rainford will start on 17.11.2022 and then take place on the third Thursday of the month. Home Instead will arrange for the stall holders and assist with the advertising of the events, which will be similar to the Parkinson's support group. People will not have to live in Rainford to attend. There was a short discussion which included concerns about whether people would attend and the general need for dementia awareness training.

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

As the Chairman of the FPA had resigned, Councillor Bardsley gave the following report:

- i. The survey report commissioned by Steve Littler had still not been received, despite many requests.
- ii. Payroll payments to St Helens Council are back on track.
- iii. There were no objections to any planning applications submitted since the last meeting.
- iv. Bookings are up for the Village Hall
- v. The project with Rainford High School is going very well. Councillor Griffiths informed the meeting that one parent had told him how well the system was working. There was a short discussion about creating an outside area at the rear of the hall. Rainford in Bloom have agreed to assist with this.
- vi. Nothing further on the proposed Miller Homes development.
- vii. The 50mph limit is now in place on the by-pass.
- viii. Christmas parties are being marketed. Tables are still available.

Action: All Members

- ix. A resident attended the meeting as they wished to discuss the Parish Council's objections to a planning application. The Chairman had allowed the resident to address the committee.
- x. The walking football group had received the bibs and balls. A photo with the Chairman will

be arranged

- xi. The Artwork for the school banners has gone missing. There was a short discussion.
- xii. A quotation for decorating the Main Hall had been received.

RESOLVED: ***Councillor Griffiths proposed that the quote for decorating the Main Hall is accepted. This was seconded by Councillor Long and carried unanimously***

- xiii. Councillor Bimpson asked if discounts were given to residents who lived in Rainford for hiring the Village Hall. This was stopped some years ago and there are no plans to re-instate the system.
- xiv. The Parish Council will stay with the SAAA appointed external auditors

- **Health & Safety Committee:** Councillor Reynolds was not able to attend the meeting, so no report was available.
- **Rainford Christmas Fayre Working Party:** This was included in the CLC report.
- **Village Hall Improvements Working Party:** This has been covered in the FPA committee report.

Action: The Clerk

10. Road Safety in Rainford:

A speed indicator sign was put on Higher Lane during August 2022. Paul Mountford has been back to collect the data, but his report has not yet been received. PCSO Harrison has given dates over the next 2 months when he can be available for speed watch sessions. There was a short discussion.

11. The Future of the Library Service in Rainford:

This item was covered in the Borough Councillor's Report.

12. Community Governance Review:

This item was deferred to the next full Council meeting

Action: The Clerk

13. Art Exhibition 2023:

This item was deferred to the next full Council meeting

14. Dementia Hub:

This item was included in the CLC report

15. Private Agenda:

The Clerk was asked to leave the meeting while a matter was discussed under private agenda.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Councillor Stuart Bardsley
Chairman, Rainford Parish Council 2022/23