



**Minutes of a meeting of  
RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
held on 24 October 2022 commencing at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Rainford Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors: Bardsley, Bowden, Denton, Dodson, Holden, Lee, Long, Newton, Reynolds, Stockton-Pugh (arrived 7.05pm)

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

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

Councillor Bimpson (away), Councillor Grice (unwell), Councillor Griffiths (work), Councillor Lamb (away)

**2. Formal announcements from the Chairman:**

The Chairman's quiz had been a great success and made almost £700. Additionally, a paper quiz was available for only £1. The Chairman also appealed for bottles for the tombola at the Christmas Fayre. Councillor Bardsley informed the meeting that he and Councillor Long had met with Steve Littler and Paula Blellock from St Helens Council regarding the lease for the Village Hall. The meeting had been friendly and informal, but not much information had been forthcoming about the options that may be available. The officers will come back to the Parish Council in due course with further details. The Chairman also asked new Councillors to consider joining one of the Parish Council committees.

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

None

**Councillor Stockton-Pugh joined the meeting**

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

Mark Price asked about the current road safety policy of the Parish Council and whether it was felt that any adjustments needed to be made. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council liaise with the PCSO for speed watch sessions. An example of the data Mark gathers was circulated with the agenda. There was a discussion during which the following points were made:

- 3 Tel Raam devices moved around the village would provide a great deal of evidence for the Parish Council and St Helens Council about the speed at which traffic moves around the village. A second version of the Tel Raam device is being launched in the new year and the Parish Council will consider purchasing some when it is available. Mr Price reiterated his offer to assist with the installation of the devices.

**Action: The Clerk**

- It is hoped that Merseyside Police will allow the Speed Watch volunteers to go out without a PCSO, as happens on the Wirral. Vehicles travelling at certain speeds would be sent warning letters in the first instance.
- The information gathered by Mark is extremely useful. Recently, a car was shown to be travelling at 77mph in a 30mph zone. This information will be sent to Paul Mountford.

**Action: The Clerk**

- St Helens Council has not acted on the consultant's report commissioned 2 years ago. This needs to be followed up and the meetings with Paula Feeney and Gareth Tyson that had been taking place re-instated. Councillor Bowden will follow this up. Councillor Bimpson will be consulted.

**Action: The Clerk/Councillor Bowden**

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 26.09.2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Long, seconded by Councillor Denton and carried unanimously.

**Action: The Clerk**

**6. Receipts and Payments for September 2022:**

*See appendix 1 for full details*

Receipts for September 2022	£8,618
Payments for July 2022	£10,565

This does not include staff costs for September 2022, but does include payments for:

*Curtains and blinds in the Main Hall*

*Outgoings for the Christmas Parties*

*Ground Maintenance for July – Sept 2022*

*Increased electricity prices*

Amount invoiced in September 2022 £7,987

Bank Balances @ 30.09.2022: Current A/C £5,061                      Business A/C £ 77,261

Christmas Fayre A/C £2,666

Provision for liabilities £ 10,101 including staff costs for Sept 2022

Debtors £ 7663 including stall holders for Christmas Fayre and group Christmas Party tickets

**7. Clerk's Report:**

The following report was circulated with the minutes. Additions are in italics.

1. The survey commissioned by Steve Littler took place on 07.04.2022. The report has been received and a meeting was scheduled for 19.10.2022 with members of the Finance, Planning & Administration Committee and Steve Littler and Paula Blllock. *This meeting took place on 19.10.2022 with Councillors Bardsley and Long. There is a covenant on the land given by Lord Derby for the building of the Village Hall and a copy has been requested from the Estate office at Knowsley by both the Parish Council and St Helens Council. Any alterations to the lease would have to have the approval of Lord Derby's estate. The copy of the covenant has not yet been received, but this will be followed up.*

**Action: The Clerk**

2. The Energy Survey has taken place for the renewed Energy Performance Certificate 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. Councillor Griffiths will be looking into grant funding. The certificate has not yet been received.

**Action: The Clerk/Councillor Griffiths**

3. Staff costs were not paid to St Helens Council in September 2022 as the appropriate documentation was not received before the month end. It has now been sent and the amount owing has been paid. *The documentation for October 2022 has been received, and this will be paid before the end of the month.*

4. The applicant for the Bar Supervisor's role has had a family bereavement and has not yet started. In the meantime, the Event Co-ordinator continues to cover most of the functions. *The applicant no longer wishes to take up the role, but someone else has shown interest. Councillors Bowden and Holden also had information regarding this vacancy which they will communicate to the Event Co-ordinator.*

**Action: Councillor Bowden/ Councillor Holden**

5. Bookings continue to be made regularly for the hall for events and functions, although November is unusually quiet.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The Planning Application for the Heritage Boards has been granted.
10. Quotes for additional loft insulation in the Village Hall and other building upgrades are being sought. *A quote of £1250 + VAT to add 200mm of loft insulation had been received.*
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. *Following a request from the FPA information was sought from the Scouts and Rainford Rangers about whether they had been asked to contribute to the funding. Martin Cox the Scout leader sent the following information:*  
*"Whilst we were not asked to contribute to costs of the works to be carried out by the Scout, Guide headquarters and Rainford Rangers area, it was our intentions to pay for the work ourselves all the costs between us and that offer was made to then Cllr Allan Jones and the representative at St Helens Council. It was those who decided to pay for it and ask the Parish Council for 50%. We needed their permission to carry out the works as it is St Helens Council land. Hope this helps and I'm willing to meet with you all to discuss further if needs be."* *It was noted that the cost had risen significantly since the original request. Councillor Bowden suggested that a grant may be available for the Miller Homes Developments community fund.*

**Action: The Clerk**

12. 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. At the last full Council meeting on 26.09.2022, 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. Councillors will approach the pubs in person and following this, there will be publicity for those who take up the offer. This has not yet been arranged. *There was a short discussion and it was agreed that a date for this should be set. Several Councillors expressed an interest in being involved.*

**Action: The Event Co-ordinator/Interested Councillors**

13. Quotations are being gathered for the various sustainability suggestions and the improvement of the Village Hall.
14. 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 as part of the Main Hall redecoration. *Painting has started on the hall doors.*
15. The bank will be changing the way charges are levied on the Rainford Christmas Fayre account in December 2022. This should mean that the costs are lowered.
16. Invitations for the Remembrance Day parade and service have been issued.

17. The letter to primary schools regarding the road safety banner has been sent. *Councillor Dodson asked for a copy of the letter*

**Action: The Clerk**

18. The date for objections to the Simonswood incinerator application has been extended to December. This is a separate agenda item.

19. Payroll have processed the results of the Private agenda at the full Council meeting in September 2022.

20. Copy has been submitted for the next Parish Council Newsletter in Local Life magazine.

21. *The Casual Vacancy in Randle Ward has been advertised*

22. *All Councillors were reminded that the Clerk's email address is: [clerk@rainfordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@rainfordparishcouncil.gov.uk) and that anything sent to the .com address cannot be accessed/replied to*

23. *There are still problems with the new Councillor email addresses*

Councillor Lee asked if correspondence would be included with the Clerk's report, and the Clerk confirmed this.

Councillor Reynolds asked about a Community Cinema showing some time in November. The Event Co-ordinator explained that this would be difficult as the Main Hall is being decorated, and there was no excess capacity in the office at present, due to all the other events that are taking place between now and Christmas as the position of Bar Supervisor remains unfilled.

**8. Committee Reports & Working Party Reports**

➤ **Borough Council:** The following report was received from Councillor Linda Mussell and Councillor John Case:

**Library**

*During our initial meetings with the Library Management Team we requested confirmation regarding a covenant on the building, land and the Village Hall. St Helens Councils Legal team reviewed the deeds and there is no reference to such a covenant*

Councillor Newton produced a document showing the register of title. The Clerk was asked to take a copy and find out further information.

**Action: The Clerk**

*We had several meetings with Cllr Lamb and Reynolds and we asked them if they or other Parish Councillors would like to join us on the board of the Community Library Trust but we received a negative response. An email was also sent to Councillor Long asking him if he would like to be on the board, but no reply was received.*

Several members categorically disagreed with this as both Councillors Denton and Dodson had offered to be trustees. Councillor Denton had been requested to ask if her partner would be interested instead of her, which he agreed to do, but nothing further was heard from the Borough Councillors. Councillor Long stated that he had not received an email from the Borough Councillors inviting him to become a trustee. Other members confirmed that they had not received emails asking if they would like to be on the board of trustees.

**Action: The Clerk**

*We have, however, successfully managed to convene a group of volunteers to form a Board and the first exploratory meeting was held in the library on 29.09.2022, primarily to familiarise ourselves with the layout of the building inside and out, and to consider our next steps. At this point we can't disclose the names except to say we have taken on certain tasks.*

The Clerk was asked to establish why the members of the board could not be named and to ask that the Parish Council is kept informed of future meetings.

**Action: The Clerk**

*This however, coincided with the Councils decision to stall the closures following a successful legal challenge by Rainhill community working together with Borough and Parish Council and Borough.*

*As a fallback position should the library close in the future, we have decided to continue to work towards a Community Hub getting our 'ducks in line'.*

*We are looking to use the library through the winter as a warm safe place given the current cost of living crisis for our elderly residents and meeting with library team later this month, we hope that on days the library is closed that the Parish Council will reciprocate this initiative for residents.*

There was a discussion and a presumption was made that this was a request to create a warm, safe

place at the Village Hall on a Wednesday as the library does not open. Unfortunately, as there are already activities in the Village Hall in the morning, afternoon and evening on a Wednesday, this would not be possible. Additionally, the Community Liaison Committee had previously researched and discussed the possibility of the Village Hall being used as a warm, safe place. However, it was ascertained that there is a great deal more involved in providing a warm, safe place than just putting on the heating and opening the doors to residents. Therefore, as the library was remaining open for the time being, this was thought to be a more suitable place for residents to go.

#### **Traffic Calming**

*Before the pandemic it was agreed that the Parish Council and Borough Councillors through CiF would pay for traffic calming measures outside the Scout Hut. All relevant parties were consulted with a caveat from the surgery that emergency vehicles must not be hindered. Solutions and funding agreed at the time 50/50. Post pandemic is now ready for action awaiting appointment of contractor to undertake works.*

#### **Football**

*We have successfully negotiated with the Council, using CiF monies, to reinstate the football pitch, at the North End for the use of the Rainford Athletic Ladies Football team who in recent years have had a 'nomadic' life to play matches. This is in conjunction with the Rainford X Club who have agreed storage and changing facilities for the team.*

#### **Rainford in Bloom**

*Following discussions with Rainford in Bloom and ourselves and subsequently with officers an agreement was made whereby St Helens Council teams would assist in the permanent repositioning of planters in the centre of the village. Its previous position clashed with the socket for the Christmas Tree, this work was completed on 19.10.2022 ready for RiB winter planting.*

*We have arranged for a 25 Foot Christmas Tree to be in the village centre – usual position. New lights will be put on the tree to give the tree an even better display in our village centre this Christmas.*

#### **Other Activities**

*We congratulated the Rainford CC 1st team who were promoted to the top-level league and the Semi-final of Village Cricket Cup. Also, the Tennis Club held their annual finals event and we attended and presented a cup to the winner of the Juniors event.*

#### ➤ **Community Liaison Committee:**

As Councillor Lamb was unable to attend the meeting, Councillor Reynolds gave the following report. The last meeting had discussed:

- Sustainability in the Village and Village Hall. Quotes are being gathered so that a bid for funding can be made. Councillor Reynolds requested that the sustainability report is circulated to all members

#### **Action: The Clerk/Councillor Reynolds**

- The Senior Citizens Advice Fair and the possibility of repeating the event and how more people could be encouraged to attend. Suggestions included providing food and/or piggy backing the event on to something else such as a coffee morning. Also, cookery demonstrations may be an option. It may be more successful at a different time of year.
- Electric car charging points
- Heritage Board project is progressing. There has been an issue with the board for Crank as the Recreation Ground committee did not like the contents of the board. The solution may be an additional smaller board for the recreation ground and the original board being placed near the War Memorial

**RESOLVED:** *Councillor Reynolds proposed that the Parish Council spend up to £400 on an additional Heritage Board for Crank. This was seconded by Councillor Bardsley and carried unanimously*

#### **Action: The Clerk**

- The possibility of holding an Antiques Fayre at the Village Hall. A firm of antique valuers have hired the hall in November and it will be discussed with them.

#### **Action: The Clerk/Event Co-ordinator**

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

Councillor Bardsley gave the following report:

- There were a number of planning applications. There was some concern over the size of one extension
- The lease for the Village Hall
- The Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in March 2023 and have booked the Village Hall for celebrations. The hall will be offered free of charge.
- The cost of the car park speed bumps was considerably more than the original request.

➤ **Health & Safety Committee:**

Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting that further inspections of the hall are due. Councillor Lee stated that she had been asked to join the committee, but the current timings of the meetings meant that she would not be able to attend. Councillor Holden will also be joining the committee. The day and time of the meetings will be altered.

**Action: The Clerk/Members of the Health & Safety Committee/Councillor Holden/Councillor Lee**

➤ **Rainford Christmas Fayre Working Party**

The Event Co-ordinator gave an update. All preparations are progressing well. The road closure has been arranged and the risk assessment sent to St Helens Council.

There was a discussion regarding the Village Hall being overcrowded if the Fayre cannot be held outside, and whether part of the Fayre could be held in the marquee behind the Golden Lion or Scout hut (for example) and other stalls in the Village Hall. The road closure could remain. It was agreed that the final decisions should be made by the working party, which is due to meet next on 26.10.2022.

➤ **Village Hall Improvements Working Party**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the decoration in the Main Hall had started and painting the doors had already made a difference. The fitting of the new doors will be followed up.

**Action: The Clerk**

**9. Road Safety in Rainford:**

This had been discussed under Item 4.

**10. Community Governance Review:**

There was a discussion. The previously proposed alterations to the Ward boundaries did not take account of the proposed (but not granted) Miller Homes development. Councillors representing different numbers of residents disenfranchises some electors. However, Councillors represent the whole of Rainford, so the wards are not so important, as Councillors with the appropriate knowledge and expertise deal with resident's queries and issues regardless of where they live.

**RESOLVED:** *Councillor Long proposed that Rainford Parish Council's previous submission to St Helens Council regarding the Community Governance Review is withdrawn and that a new submission to keep the existing ward representation is made. This was seconded by Councillor Lee and carried unanimously*

**Action: The Clerk**

**11. Art Exhibition 2023:**

There was a discussion about the relevance and appropriateness of re-instating the Art Exhibition, including the contribution made by the schools, weighed against the number of people who attended and the amount of time involved in organising the event.

**RESOLVED:** *Councillor Long proposed that Rainford Parish Council no longer hold an annual Art Exhibition. This was seconded by Councillor Denton and carried by a majority with 2 abstentions*



**12. Planning Application PRE/2022/0096/PRE: Proposed medical waste incinerator at Simonswood:**

There was a discussion. It was considered short-sighted of St Helens Council not to raise an objection to the application when the border of the borough is so close to the proposed site. Other surrounding boroughs have raised objections. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to St Helens Council expressing disappointment that it was not supporting the Parish Council, or taking into account the effect the proposed incinerator would have on St Helens Borough residents due to the fall-out from the chimney, which will cross the borough boundary. Additionally, St Helens Council would be asked to provide an explanation of the Council's position. Furthermore, a letter will be sent to Conor McGinn MP expressing the Parish Council's dissatisfaction with the stance taken by St Helens Council.

**Action: The Clerk**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

---

**Councillor Stuart Bardsley**  
**Chairman, Rainford Parish Council 2022/23**

**Appendix 1**  
**Receipts and Payments for September 2022**



Month 6 September  
2022 Payments.xls



Month 6 September  
2022 Receipts.xls