



**Date: 16.01.2023**

**To: Members of Rainford Parish Council**

**You are summoned to attend a meeting of  
RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
on 23 January 2023 commencing at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Rainford Village Hall**

**The Press & Public are invited to attend**

#### AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence Grice**  
*Councillors are reminded that they must contact the Clerk in writing, prior to the meeting, to give a valid reason for their absence*
- 2. Formal announcements from the Chairman**
- 3. Co-option of a Councillor for Mosboro Ward**  
*Carol Whalley would like to be considered for co-option*
- 4. Declaration of Acceptance of Office, of Interest, and Updating of the Register**  
*Councillors are reminded to make any new Declarations of Interest*
- 5. To hear and respond to any questions/deputations by members of the public**  
Ray Waring, Chairman of Rainford Heritage Society would like to discuss the possibility of using the land at the rear of the Village Hall (that borders on Pilkington Street), for a Heritage Centre.
- 6. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Rainford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12 December 2022**  
*See separate document*
- 7. Receipts and Payments for December 2022**  
*See FPA draft minutes for January 2023 for full details*

Receipts for December 2022	£16,603	
Payments for December 2022	£12,702	
Payments do not include staff costs for December 2022		
Bank balances @ 31.12.2022:		
Current Account: £ 9,171	Business Account: £ 52,587	Christmas Fayre Account: £3,860
Liabilities: £8,474		
Debtors £6,980		
Amount invoiced in December 2022	£ 7,393	

## 8. Clerk's Report

1. The survey commissioned by Steve Littler took place on 07.04.2022. The report has been received and a meeting took place with members of the FPA committee, Steve Littler and Paula Blellock for preliminary discussions about the lease and assistance with building repair costs. Permission will be required from Lord Derby's Estate to alter the terms of the Village Hall lease. A copy of the covenant contained in the lease has been requested, but has not yet been received. A further survey took place on 24.11.2022 and a meeting will be scheduled for the new year and the surveyor and Paula will prioritise the items on the Condition Report. It was agreed that some things are not as urgent as the report suggests, but that a minor repair may suffice eg. Chamber carpet. A date for this meeting has not been agreed. *There was a discussion.* A local organisation may wish to use the land at the rear of the Village Hall, which would alter the negotiations for the lease renewal. There will be a further discussion at the full Council meeting at 23.01.2023.
2. The Bar Supervisor's role has been readvertised. In the meantime, the Event Co-ordinator continues to cover most of the functions. New bar staff are also being recruited. This is becoming an issue as the Event Co-ordinator is regularly working a lot of additional hours as she needs to be in the office as well as supervising at events. Some are taken as lieu time and some paid as overtime. It was agreed at the FPA committee meeting on 11.01.2023 that none of the current bar staff have enough experience to supervise shifts. Councillor Denton has offered to help out, if required.
3. 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 application will be submitted the New Year. This has not yet been completed.
4. The application from Miller Homes is still pending consideration. The applicant has been given the option of an additional extension of time but they have not agreed to this as yet. If an additional extension of time is not agreed, it is likely the application will be refused. Councillor John Case confirmed that the application would not be considered at the January 2023 meeting of the planning committee.
5. Quotes for loft insulation in the Village Hall and other building upgrades are being sought.  
A quote for £1250 + VAT to add 200mm of loft insulation has been received.  
A quote of £1450 + VAT to replace the curved window and the top windows in the Main Hall with double-glazed units has been received.  
A quote of £1951 + VAT to replace the windows in the Council Chamber with double-glazed units has been received. The surveyor suggested that these windows are left and the outside painted to protect the wood.  
A quote of £1820 + VAT to supply and fit secondary glazing to the Council Chamber has been received. Initial research suggests that an air conditioning unit would cost in the region of £1500 - £2500. A grant application will be submitted in due course.
7. The speed bumps for the car park opposite the Village Hall have not yet been installed, but the work has been scheduled by St Helens Council.
8. Councillors will be visiting the pubs personally to talk about the KnifeSaver scheme. There has been some initial interest. This has not yet been arranged. A KnifeSavers pack has been obtained at a cost of £98.00, so it can be shown to the pubs. It will be kept at the Village Hall.
9. The glass in the folding doors between the bar and the Main Hall has been removed and boards inserted instead. The redecoration is now complete and the new curtains and blinds have been fitted. Arrangements are being made to have the rear doors replaced.
10. St Helens Council refused to lodge an objection to the proposed medical incinerator in Simonswood, despite delegations from residents, the Parish Council and the Borough Councillors. The application has now been granted.
11. The Casual Vacancy in Mosboro ward has been advertised following the resignation of Colin Newton and there has been some interest in the vacancy.
12. Councillor Linda Mussell forwarded a complaint about cars being left running outside schools. The issue has been taken up by Councillor Dodson as Schools Liaison Councillor.
13. Paula Blellock has requested information about the Bowling Pavilion. This was supplied. She also forwarded a link regarding grants for Village Hall. Unfortunately an application cannot be made as the lease on the Village Hall has expired.
14. The payroll report was not received in time for payment to be made in December 2022.
15. PKF Littlejohn has been awarded the contract as the external auditor for smaller authorities for the next 5 years.

16. The Council Tax Base for 2023/24 will be 2969 (Band D equivalent). This is an increase of 32 on the current year.
17. The precept will be paid 50% in April and 50% in June 2023. A total of £80,668.
18. The Beer Festival will take place on 10/11/12 February 2023. Some sponsorship has already been secured and most Councillors have offered times when they could be on duty.
19. Councillors have been invited to a brief meeting on the future plan of The Millennium Centre in St Helens. This has not yet been arranged.
20. St Helens Council has completed the first consultation of the Community Governance Review which took place between 1 October and 30 December 2022. During this period, residents, local businesses and other community groups were invited to contribute their views for consideration in the review. Following this, between January and March 2023 a CGR Cross Party Working Group will review and consider the results of the postal ballot undertaken in Newton-le-willows East and West, as well as considering all representations received relating to the creation of a town council. The Cross-Party Working Group will then make draft recommendations to St Helens Council at its meeting on 19 April 2023. The postal ballot result, along with a summary of all representations received in response to the Newton-le-Willows consultation will be included in the report to St Helens Council and made available on the CGR website [www.sthelens.gov.uk/cgr](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/cgr) when published. For the existing Parish Councils, the same process will begin in January 2023. The Cross-party working group will review all representations received and present draft recommendations to St Helens Council at its meeting in July (date tbc). Further updates and the relevant reports will be published on the website [www.sthelens.gov.uk/cgr](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/cgr) when they are available.
21. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Friday 19.05 2023 and will be followed by the new Chairman's evening. The Annual Parish meeting will take place on Monday 22.05.2023 and will be followed by the ordinary Council meeting for May 2023.

9. **Committee & Working Party Reports**

- **Borough Council:** *Councillors Case & Mussell*
- **Community Liaison Committee:** *Councillor Lamb*
- **Finance, Planning & Administration Committee:** *Councillor Lee*
- **Health & Safety Committee:** *Councillor Reynolds*
- **Rainford Christmas Fayre Working Party:** *Victoria Swainbank*
- **Village Hall Improvements Working Party:**

10. **Road Safety in Rainford**

11. **Budget 2023/24**

*For discussion and decision. See separate document for the draft budget for 2023/24. It was agreed at the Council meeting on 12.12.2022 that the precept would not be increased for the financial year 2023/24 and the draft budget has been prepared on that basis. The Chairman and Clerk attended a Teams meeting with Kath O'Dwyer and members of the Senior Management Team at St Helens Council on 09.01.2023. They are having to make some very difficult decisions about where to make cuts so that a balanced budget can be produced. CIF may disappear which would impact on the Parish Council, in particular with regard to the school crossing patrol on Cross Pit Lane as the Parish Council and CIF both currently contribute 50% each of this cost.*



**Clerk & RFO to Rainford Parish Council**