



**Minutes of a meeting of
RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL
held on 12 December 2022 commencing at 7pm in the Council Chamber at
Rainford Village Hall**

Present: Councillors: Bardsley (Chairman), Bimpson, Denton, Dodson, Lamb, Lee, Long, Reynolds, Stockton-Pugh, Turner (arrived 7.10pm)

In Attendance: Borough Councillors Case & Mussell
Sally Powell (Clerk)
Victoria Swainbank (Event Co-ordinator)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Councillors: Bowden (Family), Grice (Family), Griffiths (Family), Holden (Family)

2. Formal announcements from the Chairman:

The Chairman stated that Rainford Christmas Fayre had been a very successful day. The weather was perfect and a lot of people attended. 3 people had become Father Christmas and a lot of Councillors had assisted, which was very much appreciated.

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

None.

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

None.

5. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Rainford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 28 November 2022:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28 November 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Long, seconded by Councillor Stockton-Pugh and carried unanimously.

Action: The Clerk

6. Receipts and Payments for November 2022:

See FPA draft minutes for December 2022 for full details

Receipts for December 2022 £10,411

Payments for December 2022 £15,612

Bank balances @ 31.12.2022:

Current Account: £ 5270 Business Account: £ 64,385 Christmas Fayre Account: £2815

Liabilities: £5372

Debtors £7295

Amount invoiced in December 2022 £ 5069

Councillor Long asked if that was the final amount for the Christmas Fayre. The Clerk explained that £2815 was the position at the end of November 2022, so it did not show the income on the day. There are still a number of expenses that had not been paid.

7. 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.
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.
3. Bookings continue to be made regularly for the hall for events and functions. January is traditionally a very slow month, but there are currently 5 bookings for functions with the bar in January 2023.
4. 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 in the New Year.

Action: The Clerk/Event Co-ordinator

5. 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.
7. The Planning Application for the Heritage Boards has been granted. The boards were installed on 29/30 November 2022 and the board on Cross Pit Lane was unveiled on Wednesday 30.11.2022.
8. 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.
9. The speed bumps for the car park have not yet been installed. The Scouts have offered to cover a third of the cost. An application was made for funding, but this has been unsuccessful. Only St Helens Council preferred contractors can undertake the work, but as it is a small job the Council are having difficulty finding someone to do it.
10. Councillors will be visiting the pubs personally to talk about the Knife Saver scheme. There has been some initial interest. This has not yet been arranged. A KnifeSavers pack has been obtained, so it can be shown to the pubs. It will be kept at the Village Hall.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. The Casual Vacancy in Mosboro ward has been advertised following the resignation of Colin Newton and there has been some interest in the vacancy.
14. There are still problems with the new Councillor email addresses
15. An application has been made to the Miller Homes Development Community Fund for a donation to provide outdoor tables and chairs and enhance the rear outdoor space for the RHS students. It was unsuccessful.
16. Tables are still available for the Christmas Parties at the Village Hall on 16 and 17.12.2022.

17. A complaint was received from a resident who had paid to have bulky rubbish removed, but it had not been collected. The officer in the contact centre was trying hard to get the problem resolved. The bulky items have now been removed.
18. PCSO James Harrison arranged speed watch sessions during road safety week.
19. 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.
20. The next meeting of MALC will take place on 07.12.2022.
21. Paula Blellock has requested information about the Bowling Pavilion. This was supplied.
22. The payroll report was received in time for payment to be made in November 2022 for November 2022.
23. The engineer had to be called out as the boiler wasn't working.
24. Kath O'Dwyer has scheduled a Teams Meeting on 09.01.2022 for Parish Councils as part of the St Helens Budget Consultation process
25. PKF Littlejohn has been awarded the contract as the external auditor for smaller authorities for the next 5 years.
26. The Quote for replacing the doors in the Main Hall is £885.00
27. A briefing by St Helens Council Officers was held for Parish Councils on 06.12.2022.

8. Committee & Working Party Reports:

➤ **Borough Council:**

Councillor Mussell informed the meeting of the following:

- The repainting of the lineage on News Lane had been followed up and it is due to be done, but the weather has not been favourable
- The damage to the chevrons on the roundabout will also be repaired. A claim can be made from the driver's insurance, if they are insured and the driver stays at the scene.
- Miller Homes Planning Application has had the deadline for its submissions extended to 09.02.2023. The earliest the application could go to the St Helens Council planning committee would be 10.01.2023, but this is unlikely as there would probably not be enough time to respond to any objections. Responses and statements for when the application goes to the planning committee will need to be prepared. Councillor Mussell will only have 10 minutes to speak and everyone who objected to the application will have to be given 7 days' notice of the meeting. There was a discussion and it was agreed that if the application is to be considered at the January planning meeting, an extra-ordinary Parish Council meeting will be called for 05.01.2023 at 7pm, to discuss and draft any submission.

Action: The Clerk

- Councillor Long expressed his opinion that the Christmas Tree in the Village Centre looked pathetic. Councillor Mussell stated that there were 3 sets of lights on the tree and a star on top, at a cost of approximately £1,900. She suggested that the Parish Council could contribute to further sets of lights, which have been built up over the years.

➤ **Community Liaison Committee:**

Councillor Lamb informed the meeting of the following:

- It is hoped that further road safety posters will be produced by the primary schools
- The new contact with the High School is Joe Kenyon
- The cost of an air-source heat pump was too high to be considered as an alternative heat source.
- Some speed watch sessions have taken place
- The next Senior Citizen's Fair will take place on 11.05.2023
- The Dementia Hub will be renamed The Community Support Hub
- The Heritage boards are in place. The Memorial board is under construction
- Further discussion will take place in the new year about the Youth Parish Council, Youth disability event and other ways to involve younger residents.
- St Helens Council will be approached to see where additional benches could be placed in the Village. Councillor Mussell suggested liaising with Rainford in Bloom.
- Councillor Lamb asked if anyone was available to accompany him to the Rainford Senior Citizens Luncheon Club, Christmas lunch. Unfortunately, no-one was.

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

Councillor Bardsley reported the following:

- There were no objections to any of the planning applications
- The cost of replacing the double external doors in the Main Hall will be £885. This work has been commissioned
- To increase the Village Hall income, the following events will be organised:
 - Eurovision Night
 - Book Fayre
 - Antiques Fayre
 - Bar open on Walking Day
 - Photographic Exhibition

Action: The Event Co-ordinator

- The FPA committee suggested that the precept is increased by £1.83 to £29.00 per Band D equivalent for 2023/24. There was a discussion about whether this would be appropriate, how much extra would be generated and what would it be spent on. Additionally, how much money was in the accounts at present, and how much was left at the end of the last financial year. Opinions varied, with some Councillors considering that the money was required and others that it was not appropriate given the current cost of living crisis to increase the precept.

Councillor Long proposed that the precept for 2023/24 is increased by £1.83 to £29.00 per Band D equivalent. The proposal did not receive a seconder and was therefore not voted upon, but dismissed

➤ **Health & Safety Committee:**

Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting that a new time and date needed to be agreed for meetings. It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the second Friday in January 2023 at 11.45am

Action: The Clerk

➤ **Rainford Christmas Fayre Working Party:**

The Event Co-ordinator informed the meeting of the following:

Team work had made for a smooth-running event, that appeared to be enjoyed by all those who attended. The Chairman requested warm water for the Hook a Duck next year!

Next year, payments for the grotto and games will be kept separate.

Councillor Mussell suggested that next year the Fayre starts later and goes through into the evening. This may not be possible with the road closure. Additional food stalls need to be available next year. Stall holders had done well and several have already booked on for next year. One business had complained about the road closure, but this was the only negative feedback. There will be enough income to pay for the expenses for next year.

Action: The Clerk

➤ **Village Hall Improvements Working Party**

There was a general discussion. The curtains and the blinds in the Main Hall and Bar area have been replaced and are a great improvement. Councillor Lee asked for the plaques to be removed.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 11.01.2023 at 6.30pm before the FPA meeting.

Action: The Clerk

9. Road Safety in Rainford:

- The speed watch arranged for today had to be cancelled due to the weather. Some residents had asked for particular areas of the village to be targeted. Councillor Long requested that a session was arranged for when students were arriving and leaving school. Councillor Case informed the meeting that speed watch session cannot take place in the dark.
- A resident in Whalley Avenue had approached Councillor Reynolds about the possibility of a one-way system around Whalley Avenue/Pilkington Street and Leyland Road. There was a discussion. Councillor Mussell thought that at least 50% of the residents would have to agree, and that this was unlikely. Councillor Reynolds suggested that the Parish Council could undertake the survey of residents and stated he would compile one.

Action: Councillor Reynolds

- There was a further discussion about parking in the Village.
- Councillor Lee stated that residents had complained to her about the hedge overhanging the highway on Whalley Avenue. It was agreed that a complaint would be submitted from the Parish Council to St Helens Council.
- At the Parish Council briefing on with St Helens Council for Parish Council Chairmen and Clerks, Councillor Bardsley had requested assistance with trying to get the Speed watch volunteers permission from Merseyside Police to go out in groups on their own.

Action: The Clerk

11. Budget 2023/24:

Setting the precept for 2023/24.

This item had been covered under Item 8: Finance, Planning & Administration Committee report.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.16pm

Councillor Stuart Bardsley
Chairman, Rainford Parish Council 2022/23

Appendix 1: Draft FPA Committee minutes: December 2022



7. Draft FPA Minutes
07.12.2022.docx