



Date: 16.05.2023

To: Members of Rainford Parish Council

**You are summoned to attend a meeting of
RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL
on 22 May 2023 commencing at 7pm, or immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting
in the Main Hall at Rainford Village Hall**

The Press & Public are invited to attend

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
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. Declaration of Acceptance of Office, of Interest, and Updating of the Register**
Councillors are reminded to make any new Declarations of Interest
- 4. To hear and respond to any questions/deputations by members of the public**
- 5. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Rainford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 24 April 2023**
See separate document
- 6. Receipts and Payments for April 2023**
See FPA draft minutes for May 2023 for full details

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Receipts for April 2023 | £21,923 + 50% of the precept £40,334 |
| Payments for April 2023 | £18,978 |

Bank balances @ 30.04.2023:
Current Account: £7,261 Business Account: £82,986 Christmas Fayre Account: £3,325
Liabilities: £1,160
Debtors £7,332
Amount invoiced in April 2023 £ 6,261

7. Clerk's Report

- i.** A further report has been received from the Estates Department at St Helens Council prioritising the repairs needed to the Village Hall. A drone survey of the roof of the Village Hall has been carried out, paid for by St Helens Council. No information on the findings has been received as yet. A meeting with the Estates department to discuss the lease has not yet been arranged. In principle, St Helens Council would not have any objections to solar panels being placed on the roof of the Village Hall, but official confirmation of this has not yet been received.
- ii.** 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. The organisation is also looking at the possibility of using the library building and building on the land behind the Golden Lion. St Helens Council does not look favourably on applications to erect modular buildings. There is no further information on this proposal at this time.
- iii.** The rear doors in the Main Hall have not yet been replaced. This has been chased, and the contractor has assured me on several occasions that the work will be completed, but this has not yet transpired.
- iv.** The deadline for the application from Miller Homes has been extended to 09.06.2023. The Parish Council's further comments have been submitted. The Planning department were contacted to ascertain why the deadline had been extended for a third time. The explanation was as follows: Under national planning legislation Local Planning Authorities are required to have a duty of cooperation with developers.
This means that Local Planning Authorities need to work with developers and give them the opportunity to amend planning applications and provide revised information. Should an application be refused without giving the developer the option to provide revised information first, the Local Authority can receive criticism and the developer can apply for financial costs against the Council. As a considerable number of concerns were raised with the application, the developer will need to carry out further survey work as well as other issues which will take time so this is the reason that the deadline has been extended. No further documentation has been submitted by the applicants.
- v.** The Annual meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Friday 19.05.2023 at 6pm and will be followed by the new Chairman's evening. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 22.05.2023 at 6pm and will be followed by the ordinary Council meeting for May 2023. Efforts are being made to encourage residents to attend, particularly the Annual Parish Meeting.
- vi.** 125 tickets were sold for the Eurovision Night Event. Everyone who attended made a great effort. Unfortunately, there were major issues with the internet and it was not possible to show the programme as intended. Councillors Denton & Stockton-Pugh spoke to all who had attended and offered a refund. Only one table asked for their ticket money to be refunded. Those who did not leave, made the most of the evening.
- vii.** 82 tickets were sold for the Coronation Dinner.
- viii.** The Liverpool Combined Authority has recently been given the power to improve bus services by reforming the current bus market. In response to these additional powers, it has undertaken a detailed assessment of the options available and would like to consult with as many residents as possible. Planned meetings/events from the 15th May – 3rd August 2023 were requested, where representatives could attend or send information to raise awareness about Bus Reform. It has been suggested that the Annual Parish Meeting would be an appropriate forum to consult with residents. Attendance at this meeting has not yet been confirmed.
- ix.** Information regarding Health & Safety training for Councillors has been received. A date for this has not yet been agreed.
- x.** A Neighbourhood Planning workshop is being organised for all Parish Councillors in the Borough who wish to attend. A date has not yet been set for this.
- xi.** The dates and time for the Knifesavers training has been rearranged.
- xii.** There are places for 2 additional benches on the Linear Park, apart from the 3 that the Borough Councillors have requested part funding for. A cost per unit for the bench and installation is £1531.44
- xiii.** National Volunteers Week takes place from 1st June until 7th June this year.
- xiv.** A meeting has taken place with someone who is interested in hiring the hall to do wine tasting events every other month.
- xv.** One of the weekly classes in the Main Hall has given notice.

- xvi. The Internal Auditor has approved the accounts for 2022/23.
- xvii. The rotting wheatsheaf on the lawn in front of the Village Hall has been removed.
- xviii. The contract for the gas supply has been renewed for 12 months with British Gas Lite. The FPA committee had decided not to sign a fixed term contract for the time being, but as prices are still rising, thought a 12-month contract would be best.

8. Committee & Working Party Reports

- **Borough Council:** *Councillors Case & Mussell*
- **Community Liaison Committee:** *Councillor Lamb*
- **Finance, Planning & Administration Committee:** *Councillor Long*
- **Health & Safety Committee:** *Councillor Reynolds*
- **Village Hall Improvements Working Party**

9. Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

See separate document

Councillor Lamb to propose that Rainford Parish Council agree the following statements for the financial year 2022/23:

We acknowledge as the members of Rainford Parish Council our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022, that:

- 1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.*
- 2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.*
- 3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.*
- 4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.*
- 5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.*
- 6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.*
- 7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.*
- 8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.*

10. Annual Accounting Statement

See separate document

Councillor Lamb to propose the approval of the Annual Accounting Statement for the financial year ended 31.03.2023. The accounts have been prepared on an Income & Expenditure basis following the guidance in the Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities: A Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority

