



**MINUTES OF THE RAINFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 16 MAY 2022 at 6pm**

Present: Councillors: Bardsley, Denton, Dodson, Grice, Lamb, Lee, Long (Chairman),
Newton, Sterry, Reynolds

In Attendance: Sally Powell (Clerk)
Victoria Swainbank (Event Co-ordinator)
2 residents

1. Chairman's Review of Parish Council Affairs 2021/22:

Councillor Long gave the following report:

The year 2021/22, as the last year had, in lockdown, so for the first 4 months of my Chairmanship there was nothing I could do or progress with. And then the next 6 – 8 weeks was holiday time, so it was October before I could have my chairman's dinner. I must say it was a most successful evening and I was really, really please with it. It set off my chairman's fund at a gallop.

It was difficult in many, many ways because people were reluctant to gather in large numbers and that inhibited us about what we could do and what we could organise and as we only got off to a start in October, coming up to Christmas, people were concentrating more on their Christmas celebrations rather than giving money to my chairman's fund. Never mind, we still did very well and I have to say that a lot of it was to do to members of the Council; Councillor Grice was one and Councillor Reynolds was another who did quite a lot for me, and of course my Vice- Chairman who I couldn't have operated without. He was always there when I needed him and there were people like David, (ex-Councillor David Monk) who was always there with steadfast advice and I really did appreciate it.

You think, you sit down there, and I sat down there for years, thinking it's a doddle up here, well it isn't because you have so many things you have to do. One of the most pleasant is delivering flowers to people for their significant anniversaries and birthdays. I took great pleasure in that and I really did enjoy that, meeting and talking to people, especially when they had no idea that you were coming and they didn't know what it was about. As the year progressed, I grew into the office of Chairman and I am very, very sorry that I have to step down this evening, but my time has come and gone and that's it. Other than that, we finished off a very good year for my chairman's fund and we raised £3191.53 for the Rainford Heritage Society. A lot goes on in the background that people don't get to see. The work the Parish Clerk does and especially the Event Co-ordinator. You don't see it until suddenly it appears in the hall or on the balance sheet. The hard work that goes into these things isn't always appreciated and I would like to say a personal thank you to both of them.

2. Financial Report 2021/22:

A document had been circulated prior to the meeting and the Clerk gave the following report:

- The Annual Precept for the year was £75, 036 which was less than the previous year due to a decline in the number of households contributing.
- The total amount of other receipts was £116,783. This is in very great part to the efforts of the Event Co-ordinator who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Village Hall has been open as often as possible and promoted to bring in events and functions. Pre-Covid had been the most financially successful year and so the business has had to be built up from scratch.
- Staff costs for the year were £85,636. This was paid out, but some furlough money was received. These are the all the staff costs for the Clerk, the Event Co-ordinator, the 2 caretakers, the Bar Supervisor and all the bar staff.
- The Bar Supervisor has left today to take up another position and it remains vacant.
- The capitol repayment of £2972 is the repayments for the PWLB loan taken out for the bar refurbishment.
- Other payments were £111,735. This is high but a lot of work has been undertaken on the Village Hall at an approximate cost of £40,000. This was emergency work that had to be done on the advice of a structural engineer.
- The financial year ended with a balance of £43196 being carried forward, which given the circumstances, was pleasing.
- The amount in the bank accounts on 31.03.2022 was £64,416 which includes the £9,160 Heritage Lottery grant.
- The total value of the fixed assets which include the Chairman's chain and the grandfather clock is £
- Total amount of borrowings is £9,545 which is the amount outstanding on the PWLB loan.11.11

3. Open Forum:

The residents present did not wish to raise any issues with the Parish Council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.30pm

Councillor Chris Lamb BEM
Chairman Rainford Parish Council
2023/24