

**Minutes of a meeting of**

**RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**held on 23rd October 2023, commencing at 7pm, or immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting**

**in the Council Chamber at Rainford Village Hall**

**Present: Councillors: Bimpson, Bowden, Denton, Dodson, Holden, Lamb BEM (Chairman), Long, Stockton-Pugh, Reynolds**

**In attendance: Victoria Swainbank (Event Co-ordinator)**

**Lynne Smith – Halton & St. Helens Voluntary & Community Action**

**Jackie Ashton & Partner - Resident**

**Absent:**

# Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Lee (Away), Councillor Grice (Away), Councillor Roberts (Away) Councillor Turner (Work), Councillor Whalley (Away)

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

None

# Declaration of Acceptance of Office, of Interest, and Updating of the Register:

None.

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

**Jackie Ashton** – Walking along the linear/Derby Drive, 3 youths dressed in black on electric bikes. Very intimidating. We never see a police presence in the Village. There is an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour. Councillors advised that every incident needs to be reported to the Police. This will help build up a picture of what is happening. As a Council we will raise this with the Police.

Jackie also spoke about the flooding in her garden and Rookery Drive. Investigations are still on going, Councillor Bimpson will carry on with this.

**Lynne Smith** – Gave a presentation on Halton & St Helens Voluntary & Community Action Group. The organisations help support voluntary groups from setting up, becoming a charity and any other help that they need, including accountancy and training. Mrs Smith left information packs for the Councillors.

**Councillor Denton** – Luncheon Club complaints, regarding dish washer and other issues. It was agreed that a check list would be made up for all users to complete when finishing in the kitchen and also one for the Village Hall Staff to complete after use.

# To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Rainford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25th September 2023:

*See separate document*

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th September 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate

Record, proposed by Councillor Long, seconded by Councillor Denton and carried unanimously.

1. **Clerk Update**

Mrs Powell has now completed her treatment; she is doing better but is exhausted. Hopefully Sally will be back just after the Christmas Fayre. This will be a fazed return back, with some work from home.

1. **Update on Miller Homes Development: Councillor Lamb BEM**

Councillor Lamb had been on a team meeting with some residents, Councillor Mussell and Gila Middleton. Miller Homes are still adding plans. The planning officer will still take comments on board up until the meeting. Councillor Lamb had received an email with regards to the lease which suggested that the Miller Homes plans will go ahead in November.

The email was asking if the Parish Council have had any thought regards to requesting funding under the LPA07 from Miller Homes for the Village Hall. The feeling of the Council was to not request funding as they are still objecting to the plans.

A discussion regarding the library going through the options, Councillor Bowden has the covenant for the land that the library sits on. Councillor Reynolds will speak with Rupert Nichols to look at the covenant.

# Receipts and Payments for September 2023:

# *See FPA draft minutes for August for full details*

Receipts for September 2023 £13’416.06

Payments for September 2023 £12,805.60 (no invoice for wage bills)

Bank balances @ 30.09.2023:

Current Account: £8,430.34

Business Account: £90,777.72 (£3,038.41 Christmas Fayre)

1. Clerk’s Office Report:

# The Clerk’s Office has seen a great increase in the number of visitors to the office with differing queries which sees the residents engaging in the Parish Council. The Office has been open longer hours, the media both social and local life and you Councillors being more vocal and interacting seems to have made a big difference.

# Work has started on the roof.

# Staff are due new uniforms; this is a chance to change/alter the uniform should you wish.

# Benches, Cllr Denton will be meeting Darren Haigh this week to formalise locations

# Committee & Working Party Reports:

* **Borough Council:** *Councillors Case & Mussell*

*Library. - The council’s cabinet will meet on 25th October to make a decision, following the*

*second public consultation. Linda, however, has received a briefing from senior officer which*

*recommends closure in January 2024. The cabinet papers are available on the Councils website*

*(over 800 pages) these indicate that Rainford had a big response to the consultation with 80*

*survey returns. The Protected Characteristics of the area will be highly affected but the*

*mitigation is to use Moss Bank, which we feel is not acceptable.*

*We have been working with the National Community Library Network (CLN) who have been very*

*supportive of our plans moving forward.*

*A Community Library Trust will be swiftly set up with the aim to refurbish the building and open*

*a Community Library & Hub by Spring 2024. Trustees have been appointed and a committee has*

*been formed. Daniel Stockton – Pugh is on the committee. Application has been made to*

*register as charity, Constitution complete and Business Case 95% complete, We will likely*

*approach the Parish Council in 2024 to request an annual contribution towards the running*

*costs. We do will applying for various grants with CLN support and advice. Financial support*

*from the St Helens council, local businesses sponsorship. We will, however, the costs of running*

*the Hub will be high. We thank the PC in advance.*

*Miller Homes. Linda & Chris Lamb (John Case is a member of the Planning Committee so*

*excluded from discussions) had a meeting with Gila Middleton in the planning dept. She is still*

*going through all the objections and papers. Best forecast is that the application will go to the*

*planning committee in January or February. People can still write it to object or support the*

*application up to the committee date. Linda has made it known of our disappointment to the*

*process and the planning portal is not always working.*

*T Wilson/Len Wright Salads Haulage business has left Maggots Nook Lane site and relocated to*

*Skelmersdale. The residents of News Lane/Bushey Lane have endured a lot of noise and*

*disruption for many years and are very pleased about this. Not clear what the site will be used*

*for.*

*The 7 benches funded by the CIF will soon be in place. There will be 2 on the linear path (at the*

*junction end), 2 at the cricket club, 2 at the bowling club and 1 at the Siding Lane Fishing Pond.*

*The Christmas Tree has been ordered and will be in place in the centre of the village early*

*December. Costs out of CIF of £4,500. As CIF will be stopped in April 2024, we are unsure what*

*will happen for Christmas 2024.*

*We have been working with Lord Derby’s estate office to manage the flooding on Inglewood*

*Close caused in part by the overgrowth in the brook. Work is to begin shortly. The damage to*

*the road will be assessed in our tour of the village as below.*

*Potholes. Linda & John are meeting the Chief Highways Engineer early November. Particularly*

*bad potholes have been identified and will feature in our road tour. If anyone knows of bad*

*potholes, please report these to Linda or John, and these will be added to the list of pot holes of*

*concern on the tour.*

* **Community Liaison Committee:** *Councillor Reynolds –*

See attached minutes from October 2nd meeting.

*The Committee was not quorate.*

* **Finance, Planning & Administration Committee:** *Councillor Long*

See attached minutes from October 11th meeting.

* **Health & Safety Committee:** *Councillor Stockton-Pugh, No meetings have taken place.*
* **Village Hall Improvements Working Party:** Councillor Stockton-Pugh,

The meeting held was primarily to discuss The Christmas Fayre.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

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**Councillor Chris Lamb BEM**

**Chairman, Rainford Parish Council 2023/24**