



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 17 DECEMBER 2018
COMMENCING AT 7PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
AT RAINFORD VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors: Aspinall, Brown, Collins, Grice, P Jones, Lee, Long, Monk,
D Nichols, R Nichols, Reynolds (Chairman), Wesley
IN ATTENDANCE: Sally Powell (Clerk), Vicky Swainbank (Admin Assistant)
1 Resident
ABSENT: Councillor L Mussell

786. Apologies for Absence: Councillor G Jones (Family)

787. Declaration of Interest and Updating of the Register:

None

788. Formal announcements from the Chairman:

The Chairman informed the meeting that Councillor D Mussell had resigned due to ill health. Councillor Reynolds thanked Councillor D Mussell for his work as a member of the Parish Council. As there is less than 6 months until the Council elections, it is not necessary to co-opt another Parish Councillor at this time.

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

None

790. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Rainford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 22 October 2018:

Duplication of names on the attendance and apologies sections was amended.

With the above correction, Councillor Grice proposed the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 22.10.18. This was seconded by Councillor Aspinall and carried unanimously.

791. Matters arising from the minutes not itemised on the agenda

779. 4 Councillor Brown requested an update on the request from Rainford Rangers to use the land at the rear of the Village Hall as a car park on a Saturday morning. The Chairman informed the meeting that he had been in contact with St Helens Council, but had not yet received a reply. Councillor R Nichols stated that it is not the Parish Council's decision and the Parish Council is only covered if the land is being used for Parish Council business.

779.10 Councillor D Nichols asked if the Clerk had responded. The Clerk confirmed that she had and that there is a list of events taking place at the library on the Village Hall noticeboard.

780 Councillor Aspinall requested an update on the situation regarding the renewal of the lease for the Village Hall. The Chairman stated he would contact the appropriate person at St Helens Council. Councillor R Nichols reminded Councillor Reynolds that he should not do this as he is

compromised due to being a Borough Councillor. As lead Councillor for this issue, Councillor R Nichols has been liaising with the Clerk. No further correspondence had been received.

781 The Chairman informed the meeting that the income from the Poppy Project and the WW1 Centenary Event in the Parish Church Hall was over £4000 and the Parish Council raffle raised in excess of £500. Councillor Aspinall asked for it to be noted how well the village pulled together for the event. Councillor D Nichols asked how long the silhouettes would be on display and the Chairman informed the meeting that they would be on display until the end of the year.

783 Councillor R Nichols stated that following the resignation of Councillor D Mussell, another Councillor would need to be appointed to the Health & safety committee. The Clerk notified the meeting that as the Health & Safety committee had not met for 6 months, it had been disbanded by default.

783. Councillor Lee asked for an update on the plans that had been objected to. The Clerk informed the meeting that the application for retrospective permission for works in a Conservation Area had been granted despite the objection of the Conservation Officer. The planning application regarding the Grade 2 listed dwelling had not yet been decided, but had the support of the Conservation Officer as it would be more in keeping with the original building.

792. Accounts for Payment:

Receipts for October 2018 £15,350

Payments for October 2018 £29,749

Receipts for November 2018 £17,665

Payments for November 2018 £18,051

There were no comments or queries regarding the receipts and payments for October and November 2018.

793. Correspondence

The Clerk Read out the following correspondence:

1. Email from Cllr L Mussell with list of events at Rainford Library
2. Letter from Virgin Media with notification of planned works for 21.11.18
3. Thank you letter from resident for anniversary flowers
4. Letter from Mike Berry, Community engagement officer for the Police & Crime Commissioner, thanking the Clerk's office for assistance with the Police & Crime Commissioner's visit to the Rainford Community Police Station on 04.11.18
5. Notice of the RiB AGM
6. Letter from tenant giving notice on an office in the Village Hall
7. Copy of an email from Cllr Allan Jones to Mike Berry regarding pressurising the Govt re funding for the Police
8. Letter from Windle Parish Council inviting the Chairman to the Christmas Tree Lighting at Bleak Hill School
9. Notice from Keep Britain Tidy regarding a successful campaign to reduce dog fouling and offering a reduced rate for the package starting at £250
10. Series of emails and phone calls regarding a resident's complaint about cars parking outside their house (near one of the primary schools)
11. Email from Cllr Monk detailing the charge rates for Merseyside Police for a variety of offences
12. Series of emails regarding a resident's complaint about street lighting
13. Email from the Chairman of the Heritage Society cancelling the Heritage Weekend booking in September 2019

14. Letter from Cath Fogarty, Strategic Director of Corporate Services at St Helens Council, informing the Parish Council of the proposed dates for the precept in 2019: 50% 18.04.19 & 50% 20.06.19. Also requesting the date that the precept will be agreed.
 15. Copy of an email from John Ireland, solicitor for St Helen Council to Garry Van stating that the person he had been dealing with had left the Council. Mr Ireland had not seen any instructions from the Council's Estates Manager, Neville Chadwick, but would remind him of the situation.
 16. Email from a resident regarding white supremacist stickers which had been placed on the lamp posts close to the High School. (He had also informed the school).
 17. Email from Rainford Tennis Club with information that it is investigating connecting the club to the national electricity grid and thought that the Parish Council might be interested in using part of the supply
 18. Email from a resident requesting a meeting with ward Councillors regarding an issue with the Conservation officer
 19. Copies of emails between Councillor Allan Jones and the Tennis Club regarding the Power supply
 20. A copy of the CPRE response to the Govt NPPF Technical Consultation
 21. Information and invoice from the new music licensing service
 22. Letter from Ray Waring.
 23. Email from Ray Waring.
 24. Letter from Joan Dagnall.
 25. Email from tenant giving notice on offices at the Village Hall
 26. Copy of an email from Ray Waring to Councillor Grice. *Items 22, 23, 24 and 26 were read out in full and a discussion ensued. It was agreed that as a gesture of goodwill, the Heritage Society/Mrs Dagnall should be offered a Friday, Saturday and Sunday free of charge for their photographic exhibition, but that acceptance of the dates offered needed to be within a short time frame. It was further agreed that individual Councillors should not interfere with the day to day running of the Clerk's office or with the booking system for the Village Hall. Additionally, it was noted that separately, Councillors do not have the authority to offer the use of the Village Hall facilities free of charge to organisations. The Clerk reminded Councillors that it is not the policy of the Parish Council to publish draft minutes and advised the meeting that the issue under discussion had been exacerbated by draft minutes being shown to the parties concerned.*
 27. Letter from St Helens Council detailing the proposed Council Tax base for 2019/20 at 2924. This is an increase of 35 from the figure for 2018/19
 28. Merry Christmas email from Mahood Marquees
The Clerk's office had received: 145 Visitors and 142 Phone Calls in October and 156 Visitors and 137 Phone calls in November.
- 794. Renewal of the lease for the Village Hall: Councillor R Nichols**
No further correspondence had been received.
- 795. Moving the Village Hall defibrillator: Councillor Reynolds**
The Chairman informed the meeting that there are at least 15 defibrillators in and around the Village, but only 3 can be accessed 24 hours. There was general agreement that, if possible, the defibrillator in the Village Hall should be moved to the outside of the building. The Clerk was asked to determine if there were any planning restrictions.
- 796. Free use of the Village Hall:**
Following a discussion, it was agreed that the current situation regarding free use of, and storage at the Village Hall should continue.

797. Disabled Access at the front of the Village Hall:

The Chairman stated that this item would be deferred. Councillor Lee asked for a progress report on the broken flags on the path on the right-hand side of the building. The Clerk informed the meeting that it was being established whose responsibility the repairs would be.

798. Refurbishment of the Bar: *Councillor Long*

Councillor Long requested that this item was deferred until the Council meeting in February. Councillor Grice informed the meeting that he had re-contacted a firm who had looked at the possibility of altering the bar some time ago.

799. Committee Reports:

- **Borough Council:** Council Reynolds reported that the new version of the Local Plan had been published. Most of the building on greenbelt land in Rainford has been removed, except for the site on Rookery Lane, where there are plans to build 259 dwellings. The land is currently Grade 1 agricultural land. The Chairman stated that the plan is better than the original, but still not the best it could be.
- **Community Development Committee:** Councillor Lee informed the meeting that the Community Development Committee had not met since the last full Council meeting and would next meet in February 2019.
- **Finance, Planning & Administration Committee:** (See Appendix 1 for minutes of the meeting held on 12.12.18) Councillor P Jones informed the meeting of the following:
Planning 4 sets of plans were considered. Councillor Aspinall proposed en bloc approval. This was seconded by Councillor Long and carried unanimously.
Personnel Committee A meeting had been scheduled.

800. Any Other Business:

1. Councillor R Nichols reminded the meeting that all Councillors are due to be re-elected in May 2019 and that it was, therefore, a good time for members of the Parish Council to consider their position and to encourage residents to consider standing for election.

801. Diary Dates

23.01.19	6.30pm	Finance, Planning & Administration Committee meeting
28.01.18	7pm	Full Council Meeting
02.02.19	11 – 11.30am	Borough Councillors' surgery
04.02.19	1pm – 3pm	Meeting re the revised Local Plan at the Town Hall, Room 10
06.02.19	7pm	Community Development Committee meeting
08 – 10.02.19		Beer Festival
20.02.19	6.30pm	Finance, Planning & Administration Committee meeting
25.02.19	7pm	Full Council Meeting
28.02.19	2pm – 6.30pm	Drop in session re the Local Plan at the Village Hall
06.03.19	11 – 11.30am	Borough Councillors' surgery
08.03.19	7.30pm	Quiz; Chairman's Fundraiser
20.03.19	6.30pm	Finance, Planning & Administration Committee meeting
23.03.19		Community Cinema
25.03.19	7pm	Full Council Meeting

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 19:59

APPENDIX 1

Minutes of a meeting of the FINANCE, PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF RAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

in the Council Chamber at Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford
on Wednesday 12 December 2018 at 6.30pm

Present: Councillors: Aspinall, Brown, Collins, Grice, P Jones
(Chairman), Long,

Reynolds

In Attendance: Sally Powell (Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Councillor L Mussell (Business)

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Finance, Planning and Administration Committee held on 21.11.18:

The minutes were approved; proposed by Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor Collins.

3. Matters arising from the minutes not itemised separately on the agenda:

Councillor Aspinall requested an update on the planning applications P/2018/0708/HHFP & P/2018/0786/LBC. The Clerk informed the meeting that the former retrospective application had been granted and that although a decision had yet to be made regarding the listed building consent, the Conservation Officer had lodged a supportive report.

4. Plans:

4 sets of plans were considered. There were no objections to any of the applications.

5. Income and Expenditure for November 2018:

Receipts for November 2018: £17665.16

Payments for November 2018: £18050.56

Amount Invoiced in November: **£9783.25**

Bank Balances as at 30.11.18:

Current Account £5783.94

Business Savings Account £35,814.03

The receipts and payments for November 2018 were accepted without comment

6. Lease Renewal:

A recent email forwarded from Garry Van showed that there had been a staff change at St Helens Council. No further correspondence had been received. Councillor Reynolds stated that he would make enquiries.

7. Bar Staff Wages:

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the bar staff wages should be increased in line with the minimum wage on 01.04.19 and account should be taken of this during the budgeting process.

8. Use of the Village Hall Free of Charge:

The Chairman gave an overview of a recent incident where a local organization had wanted to book the hall free of charge for 3 days. The booking had been made in the Clerk's absence and the weekend in question already had a provisional booking. The Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the FPA made the decision that the provisional booking should get the date. Aware that the decision was going to be unpopular and given the potential for reputational damage, the hall had been offered for free of charge on alternative dates, but this option had not been taken up so far.

There was a discussion during which it was agreed that the Clerk's office had to be allowed to manage the hall bookings without interference.

Councillor Grice joined the meeting at 18.58

It was further agreed that no organisation should be allowed to have the use of the Village Hall free of charge for 3 days at a time. However, groups would be allowed to continue storing items free of charge. It was also the feeling of the meeting that in order to maintain impartiality, groups wishing to hold public meetings should probably pay for the hall.

With regard to the use of the hall by the Chairman's charity, Councillor Brown suggested that the hall could be used free of charge only if the Chairman is attending the event.

Councillor Reynolds left the meeting at 19.07

9. Local Plan:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the planning department at St Helens Council would possibly be using the hall for a consultation meeting.

10. Any Other Business:

- i. Councillor Long commented on how fantastic the hall had looked for the Wedding Reception on 08.12.18
- ii. Councillor Brown asked the Clerk to contact Councillor Lee as she had a contact number for a quote for the work outside the Village Hall. There was a short discussion regarding this project. It was noted that there would be a further discussion including the disabled access at the full Council Meeting on 17.12 18
- iii. Councillor Long questioned why the Christmas lights in the tree outside the hall are not lit. The clerk will investigate.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 19.22

Councillor Peter Jones
Chairman Finance, Planning & Administration Committee Rainford Parish
Council 2018/19