


12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Councillor,

As Parish Council Chair, I would like to formally invite you to attend the Rainhill Annual Parish Meeting. It will be held on Wednesday 21st April 2021, commencing at 7:30 pm online via teams. The agenda is set out overleaf.

Please make every effort to attend this important event for our local community.

Yours faithfully,



Cllr Ann Veronica Howitt  
Chair of Rainhill Parish Council



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# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## MEETING AGENDA

**Meeting Starts 7.30pm Wednesday 21st April 2021**

**Online Via Teams**

- 1) Chairman welcomes residents and introduces Councillors to meeting
- 2) Apologies for absence
- 3) Police Report Mike Berry Community Engagement Officer Knowsley & St Helens (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Merseyside)
- 4) Consideration of minutes of meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 for approval
- 5) Chairman's Report
- 6) Financial Report 2020/2021
- 7) Any reports from voluntary bodies in Rainhill
- 8) Open Forum discussion

**(Residents should clearly give their name and address before speaking)**

- 9) Close meeting

**Rainhill Annual Parish Meeting**  
**24<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**Held at Rainhill Village Hall**

Present Cllrs: B. Almond, J. DeAsha, J. Carroll, J. Doyle, L. Glover, S. Glover, B. Grunewald, B. Heydon, D. Long, P. Long, W. Wood, Sgt. Kath Rackham (Merseyside Police), and 24 residents.

1. The Chair, Cllr L. Glover, welcomed residents to the meeting, thanked them for attending, and explained how the meeting would progress.
2. Apologies were received from Cllrs M. Donovan, J. Fulham, and C. Moore, and Mr Miller.
3. Mr Mike Berry, Police and Crime Commissioner's Engagement Officer explained the PCC's priorities for policing and budget. Increases in Council Tax were to recruit more staff. Cybercrime, hate crime and crimes against older people were this year's priorities. Tackling knife crime was a national priority, Merseyside had received £3.5m to deal with this. PCC were also commissioning victim care services. Foot patrols had reduced as officers were covering greater areas. The PCC was retiring this year and there was still uncertainty whether the role would be replaced.

Insp. K Rackham outlined the statistics for crime in Rainhill and reassured residents that Rainhill was amongst the safer places to live. Details were provided for crime statistics over the past two months and the ways in which the public can report and check up on crime. Leaflets with contact details were provided. PCSOs continue to provide a drop in facility at the Library on Fridays 2-3pm. Residents were encouraged to report all known crime, best method is social media.

The use of 101 for reporting crime was criticised. It was recognised that the facility was understaffed nationally, it was best to ring 999 in any emergency situation.

The new staff recruited with funding from Council Tax increases were expected to be on the street during December 2019.

Cllr L. Glover thanked the Police representatives for their attendance and for all their service in protecting the residents of Rainhill on a daily basis.

4. It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 should be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
5. The Chair expressed that she was honoured and privileged to have chaired the council for the second time. Thanks were given to the members of the Parish Council for their support provided during her year in office. A report was given on the activities of the Parish Council over the previous twelve months. Key points included:
  - The Rocket 190 celebrations had received much support and thanks were expressed to Cllr Brian Heydon, helped by representatives of the Gala Committee, Rotary, and Rainhill Railway & Heritage Society and a number of volunteers
  - Thanks were expressed to the many dedicated volunteers in Rainhill especially the amazing efforts of the Rainhill Gala whose year round activities include the 10k Run Rainhill, and Halloween Disco raising funds for many local good causes.
  - The Rotary Club were thanked for their community activities throughout the year, especially the Beer Festival which, together with the Christmas Float raised thousands of pounds for local causes.
  - The Railway & Heritage Society had been instrumental in initiating the celebration of the 190<sup>th</sup> and 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rainhill Trials. Ensuring appropriate commemoration of the importance of the Trials in transport history.
  - Thanks were expressed to Rainhill Civic Society for all their efforts, especially in organising the Rainhill in Bloom, and ensuring that significant sites are marked with heritage plaques, together with erecting interpretation boards in the village.
  - Environmental improvements has been made with the introduction of additional tree planting on Warrington Road, together with continuation of the bulb planting, to supplement the wildflower areas,

and maintenance of the barrier baskets. A smart new noticeboard had been installed in the village centre

- The Parish Council, with the help of Ward Councillors and St Helens Council, continued to support the provision of open spaces for the enjoyment of Rainhill residents. The Council had responsibility for 8 parks spread over 43 acres of Rainhill, providing facilities for around 50 football teams. Plans were in progress to enhance the children's play areas.
- The Parish Council continued to help the hard-working members that run the Village Hall by contributing towards the hall running costs. The VH management team had again been successful in securing grant funding for much needed repairs. Further appreciation was expressed for the Hall being made available throughout the Rocket 190 celebrations free of charge. Thanks were also given to the volunteers who keep the 4F Centre running. The Parish Council has recently funded much needed improvements to the 4F Centre providing another valuable resource.
- Our acts of remembrance this year had included recognition of the centenary of the end of WW1 by sponsoring a Silent Soldier Silhouette. A 2nd Merchant Navy Day service was held in September.
- The Chair expressed her thanks to Cllr Heydon and to Longton Lane School Choir for hosting the Christmas Tree lights switch on event.
- The Parish Council were pleased to present the Good Citizenship Award to: Maria Heaton, Nicola Hughes and Brenda Farrell, to recognise their excellent work in and for the community.
- The Parish Council continued to support local residents by vetting local planning applications and making comments, and objections where necessary.
- The Annual Report, including an 8 page pull-out supplement dedicated to the Rocket 190 celebrations had, once again, been distributed to all homes in Rainhill.

As an addition to the chairman's report Cllr B. Heydon remarked that without the sterling efforts of the Parish Council Clerk (Gillian Pinder) there would be no Rocket190 celebrations and he formally called upon the Parish Council to make a substantive recognition of her contribution far above and beyond any requirements of her post.

6. The Clerk briefly presented the draft accounts for 2018/19 to the meeting:
  - The Parish Council was in a stable state financially and was conforming to all statutory requirements and national association guidelines.
  - Total Income for 2018/19 was £67,700 predominantly made up of precept and income from pitch hire. £2,700 had been reclaimed in VAT. This income was roughly equivalent compared to last year.
  - Total Expenditure for 2018/19 was just over £58,600, which is a £4k increase on the previous year. Administration remained the highest cost as this covered a multitude of expenses. Public Open Space & Environmental Expenses were both up by £2.5k, spending on Publicity was down by £200, and there was a reduction in spending under Section 137.
  - At the end of the 2018/19 financial year the accounts showed a balance of £80,513, this is made up of a cash balance of £29k and reserves of £51k. within those totals, there is committed spend totalling £18,000, leaving an actual balance around £62k. Much of the committed spend is in reserve to ensure the Rocket 190 weekend is adequately financed, though is hoped that many of the activities will be self-financing. Following a budgeting exercise this year's precept has been set at £68,340, which is a 2% increase on last year.

The amount held in reserves by the Parish Council was criticised, no increase should be made in precept when excessive funds are being held. It was explained that the Parish Council cash reserves were within the guidelines recommend. General reserves were being built to facilitate replacement changing rooms and fund the Rocket 190 event and were not considered excessive. It was suggested that in subsequent years an explanation of the requirements for reserves and why they were being held should be included in the financial report.

7. Mrs J. Lowe spoke on behalf of the Civic Society (RCS) reporting that the Society was now in its 6<sup>th</sup> decade with undiminished ambition. The aims of SOGB were supported. Environmental improvement were encouraged through Rainhill in Bloom, new planting troughs, and bulb planting. In November a new publication was launched and a Remembrance concert was held. Heritage plaques are being erected together with interpretation boards. RCS are also contributing to a project to enhance the

Houghton Street area. An exhibition of 1979 trials re-enactment would form part of the Rocket 190 celebrations. RCS also host History Study days, Rainhill Remembered, social evenings & quizzes.

8. Mr I. Lucas gave a report on behalf of Rainhill Eco Group. The Group is made up of representatives of local organisation and residents both within & outside Rainhill. There are 10 committee members who are responsible for the majority of the maintenance on the garden e.g. hedge cutting, wildflower planting, weeding, etc and for administration e.g. website, Facebook. The Garden hosts several community activities throughout the year including an Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween party, etc. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for their support and to residents for their appreciation.
9. Mrs Z. Clarke reported that the 2018 Rainhill Gala had been attended by around 6,000 people, raising funds for local charities. A second Run Rainhill including 10K and 5K courses attracted 320 runners, and the 1 mile run attracted 45 children. A two session Halloween disco entertained around 200 kids with tickets in high demand. These astounding achievements are due to the hard work and dedication of their volunteers who live both inside and outside the village. However, the Committee were disappointed that the Parish Council had failed to formally recognise the contribution made by their members from outside of the Parish and felt this should be addressed. The Gala Committee are honoured to contribute to the Rocket 190 and would like to thank Cllr Heydon and the Clerk for their efforts in organising the event.

Cllr B. Heydon thanked the Gala Committee for their support with the Rocket 190<sup>th</sup> celebrations, taking on the organisation of the tea party and other entertainment. The recognition of contributions from residents living outside the village had been discussed and would be redressed.

10. Mrs R. Proffitt reported from Kendrick's Cross Women's Institute that support had been given in the form of donations of toiletries to the Forum based in Parr. Support had also been given to Blood Bikers. Some of their members were mobility impaired and the loss of the Village Hall lift had caused inconvenience. Mr Tigwell explained that there were plans to get it repaired. A tree had been planted in the Eco Garden to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of WI. Tickets were being sold for Rocket 190 musical event, contributions to the tea party and bunting and participation in the parade.
11. Mr P. Worrall reported on behalf of the Rotary as the current president T. Lewis had taken ill. Rotary had a busy year raising just under £40,000 supporting 60 charities. £19,200 had been given away at Dragons Den. The Beer Festival was now reaching its manageable capacity, relying heavily on volunteers to take place. The Christmas Float operates throughout December culminating in Village Centre collections. Rotary also support St. Helens Rangers in their Taylor Park Sport Day event and organise Young Citizens Achievers for local school children. A 5 year bursary was being introduced to assist in provision of books, IT, and transport for those children who needed it. 5,000 crocus bulbs had been planted in three locations across the village. Rotary had taken responsibility for organising the Grand Parade for Rocket 190 and participants could still sign up. Mr G. Roberts would be president next year and it was hoped this would attract new young and enthusiastic members. Thanks were given to local businesses and the community for their continued support.
12. Mr C Tigwell, on behalf of Rainhill Railway and Heritage Society, reported an uneventful year, however meetings had been well attended. Speakers had focussed on a railway theme and contemporary illustrations from the 1830. The final stages for the Llangollen Railway revival contrasted with the latest preservation scheme of the Lynton and Barnstaple Railway. Christina Spencer's story of escape from East Germany was well received. The summer trip was to Llanberis. Schools continued to visit the museum. It was hoped that the Rocket 190 event would raise the profile of Rainhill's heritage. Thanks were given to the Clerk for the additional work undertaken.
13. The Clerk read a report from the Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee:  
The hall continued to be at the centre of Rainhill's community, used by not for profit organisations and some commercial users. The Parish Council were thanked for their generous grant without which the hall would be unable to operate. The last major refurbishment was in 2000. Volunteers were currently redecorating the hall. Fundraising for major refurbishments have raised £3,000 from local user groups. £19,000 from Wren had paid for a new heating system and external improvements. £31,000 from Biffa had secured the repair of the foyer roof and refurbishment of two kitchens. £4,000 from Coop had

purchased a scaffolding tower and repair of the disabled platform. The stage was in need of refurbishment including new lighting and sound system. Thanks were expressed to the volunteers who keep the hall running smoothly.

14. Mrs S. Reeves spoke on behalf Rainhill Women's Institute. The group was attracting new younger members some as young as 20, and some founder members were still in attendance. Christmas Lunch had been held at the Millennium Centre, with Father Christmas (Rotary!) in attendance. A poppy display for remembrance had been well received. Members helped to maintain the flower beds in front of St. Ann's Church and had run a kids tombola at the Gala, giving funds raised to Rainhill United; 4F Centre and Stanley Bear Club. Their beetle-drive was a popular social event. RWI would be helping with the Flower Festival and ticket sales for the Rocket 190, together with participating in the parade and helping with the tea party. Activities had included knitting blankets which were given to the Fire Service, knitting soliders for the Ex-servicemen's club and knitting beanie hats which were given to the Seaman's Mission, together with cuddly toys and CDs.
15. The Clerk gave a report from Rainhill Rockets. Thanks were given to the Parish Council for their continued support in providing facilities for 120 local children and 20 16-18 year olds. 2018 had been a good 'dry' season. The club remain charter standard and affiliated to Liverpool County FA. Teams play in Rainhill & St. Helens League, Warrington Junior League and Warrington & District Saturday League. An academy is run for player aged 4 to 6. Two teams U11 & U13 have reached cup finals. Dedicated volunteers are needed as regulations require fully checked and qualified coaches. Rainhill Rockets are proud to be hosting a football tournament for under 8s as part of the Rocket 190 celebrations providing entertainment for local teams.
16. Mr N. Thompson presented on behalf of Rainhill Town Football Club who run 5 teams: 4 Saturday teams, and Veterans on a Sunday - who have reached their cup final. The amateur teams were runners up in the West Cheshire League. The main aim is to be able to play all their games in Rainhill. Work has been ongoing with the Football Foundation to seek improvements to pitches at Albert Fellowes Park. Due to standards required by the leagues 3 of the teams play outside Rainhill. Austerity measures mean pitch improvements have not been a priority. There are 200 members adult and junior. Currently there are U14 and U16 matches but by 2020 only U15 will remain. However facilities are provided by R. United and R. Rockets for junior members. R. Town had donated 5 bags of old football kits for Africa through Liverpool FA.
17. Mrs C. Warpole spoke on behalf of the Townswomen's Guild reporting that in their 68<sup>th</sup> year membership had grown. Monthly meetings include guest speakers and fellowship, additional meetings are held for social studies, arts and crafts and tap dancing, all are well supported. Thanks were expressed for the ongoing support of the community. Coffee Mornings had raised £1,556.60 which was divided between: Marie Curie; The Stroke Association; and Blood Bikers. The Townswomen's Guild was based on the Suffragette movement and in 1929 the Guild was formed to encourage women to learn about citizenship and how to use the vote they had fought so hard for. The Guild will be marching in the parade wearing sashes of the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds – red, white and green.
18. Cllr L. Glover thanked all groups who had attended, together with the wider voluntary groups throughout Rainhill. The dedication of the voluntary sector made a Rainhill a special place to live.
19. The Chair introduced the Open Forum section:
  - Mrs A Pearce drew attention to the untidy state of the land at the junction of Rainhill Road and Warrington Road, owned by Riverside Housing. This had been an ongoing concern and attempts had been made to engage Riverside to improve it. Cllr D. Long offered to contact Riverside management to encourage action in time for the celebration weekend. The community offered to tidy the area voluntarily, however as this is private land the owner's consent would be needed.
  - Mrs A Daniels reported that the area around the footbridge crossing the railway was full of rubbish and grime. A report had been sent to Network Rail regarding the area around the station and requesting action. Again, given it is private land the owner's consent would be needed for any tidy up. Attempts would be made to secure action prior to the celebration weekend.

- Mrs N Lucas agreed that the whole village needed a clean-up. The shop frontages on Warrington Road needed attention. The businesses needed to be approached to take action.
  - Mrs A Daniels noted that recent refurbishments to a property on Warrington Road had resulted in paint being left all over the pavement. This had been reported to St.Helens Council who would re-tar the pavement when the weather permitted. Concern was expressed that tax payer's money was being used to clear up an individual's mess, did powers exist to reclaim this? The Parish Council had no such power, it was unlikely to be expedient to pursue such repayment, however the resident should be made aware of the actions they had incurred. Cllr J DeAsha would pursue action from St.Helens Council. Cllr D Long concluded that as the village would be a showcase to the world every effort would be made to present it at its best, £400,000 had been committed to invest in Rainhill centre but buy in was needed from private owners too. Mrs S. Roscoe asked if the public had been consulted on the proposed spend and what was needed. Early consultation had been undertaken and a vision would be presented.
  - Mr C. Tigwell queried if the forthcoming Heritage Strategy would input into these plans. It would but all plans had to fit in with the needs of businesses.
  - Mr S. Clarke indicated that waste collection was adding to the issue of unsightliness as waste receptacles were often overflowing and reports to St.Helens Council go unanswered. Cllr J. DeAsha would chase with St.Helens. The issue is exacerbated by the use of several commercial waste companies, with different collection days. Whilst businesses are free to use any waste company discussion could be held to see if a collection contract could be brokered.
  - Mr I. Lucas indicated that Dane Court service areas used to be enclosed by fencing since its removal, all waste items on show. There was an ongoing traffic issue around the school entrance area and several other areas across the village. The traffic issues are acknowledged, however, Rainhill village was not designed for modern traffic and whilst solutions can be investigated, resources need to be identified to implement them.
  - Mrs Z. Clarke expressed concern that a second charity shop was due to open in Dane Court. It was accepted that this trend did not bode well for the future of the remaining units, however, landlords did not wish to have empty units. There are no powers to limit the number of charity outlets in an area. It was hoped that the regeneration of the area would make the units more viable to retail uses.
20. Being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.

# RAINHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## ACCOUNTS 2020/2021

2019/2020		2020/2021	
£	RECEIPTS	£	
68,340.00	Precept	68,340.00	
729.00	Football Pitch Hire	392.50	
689.55	4F Centre Insurance Premium	710.24	
15.00	Other	367.98	
4,656.90	VAT reclaimed	1,586.07	
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74,430.45	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	71,396.79	71,396.79
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
37,761.19	Administration	22,773.51	
4469.73	Public Open Spaces	4,179.19	
11,869.14	Village Hall	11,338.29	
17,240.03	Environmental Expenses	8,267.55	
2,673.83	Publicity	2,773.07	
319.00	S137 Payments	300.00	
0	Contingency	0	
4,164.00	VAT payable	2,169.33	
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78,496.92	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	51,800.94	51,800.94
	<b>CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE</b>		
82,889.84	Balance Brought Forward at 1/4/2020	78,823.37	
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74,430.45	Plus Total Receipts	71,396.79	
157,320.29		150,220.16	
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78,496.92	Less Total Payments	51,800.94	
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78,823.37	Balance carried forward at 31/3/21	98,419.22	98,419.22