

RAINHILL PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES
10th October 2022

At a meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 10th October 2022 at Rainhill Village Hall, the following were present:

Cllrs: G. Barker (Chair), S. Barlow, I. Brown, A. Daniels, D. Greaves, A.V Howitt, M. Jones, S. Rutherford, K. Stevenson, J. Tasker, J. Woodhouse, W. Williams.

2 members of the public were also present.

Prior to commencement of business the meeting was adjourned to allow members of public to raise any concerns. Those present reported:

A thank you for all the hard work and effort involved in keeping the library open.

The meeting was recommenced.

20.950 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made

20.951 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: G. Ward, D. Hendrick.

The Chair asked for any updates on the recovery of Cllr Hendrick and was informed he is still receiving rehabilitation.

20.952 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

To consider and approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st September 2022

Resolved that the minutes should be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

20.953 TO RECEIVE MERSEYSIDE POLICE MONTHLY STATISTICS REPORT

To receive the police reports for September. Chair noted the stats okay for September. Cllr Greaves discussed the high rise in fuel drive offs and the effect on the employees of the garages.

Resolved that the report of the crime statistics for Rainhill be noted.

20.954 TO NOTE THE CONTENTS OF THE CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk confirmed payback had attended St Anns and it will become a regular service once a week with the Packhorse Bridge still being discussed. Cllr Tasker confirmed conversations with St Helens Council regarding their support and their wish is to deal with the probation service directly. The Clerk will pass the details on. PA system has been confirmed for the Remembrance Service and the Clerk has ordered wreaths and requested an order of service and confirmed road closures. The Chair confirmed the lamppost poppies will be put up on 29th October.

It was resolved that the contents of the Clerk's report be noted.

20.955 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been assessed and comments submitted as indicated:

No comment has been submitted for the following applications and the closing date for comments will have passed at the time of the meeting:

GW

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P/2022/0613/HHFP Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear and side extension. 22 Sandstone Close

P/2022/0615/TPO Works to 2x oak trees covered by Tree Preservation Order. Ship Inn 804 Warrington Road

P/2022/0616/FP3 Creation of 1.8m wide footpath Two Butt Lane Open Space Two Butt Lane

P/2022/0619/HHFP Single storey rear extension. 13 Victoria Place

P/2022/0632/HHFP Demolition of the existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension. 20 Elderswood

P/2022/0651/HHFP Demolition of the existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension, loft conversion including a rear dormer window and 2no roof lights to the front, alterations to the existing window and door openings to the side, and a front porch canopy. 2A Lawton Road

P/2022/0662/HHFP Single storey side extension to extend existing store. 10 Epping Close

P/2022/0683/HHFP Demolition of the existing conservatory and porch and erection of a single storey front porch and bay window extension, single storey, side extension, and a single storey rear extension. 7 Sherman Drive

P/2022/0688/TPO Works to various trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders. Elsinor Mill Lane

Comments/objections have been submitted on the following applications

The Council noted the actions taken.

20.956 TO AUTHORISE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

OCTOBER			
Payee	Description	Amount	Ref
K Adamson	Telephone 15.83 + 3.16 vat	18.99	
	Salary - October (less Tax, NI & Pens)	1199.26	
	Printer Ink – 9.62 + 1.93 VAT	11.55	
	ECO garden Halloween posters	4.00	
	Total	1233.80	TFR598
Merseyside Pension Fund	LGPS – October	371.25	TFR599
Water Plus	Water – Albert Fellowes 76.80+15.36VAT	92.16	DD
Water Plus	Water – Holt 31.66 + 3.74 VAT	35.40	DD
Corona	Electricity - Holt Playing Fields 25.04+1.26VAT	26.30	DD
Scottish Power	Electricity - Rainhill Park	60.00	DD
NOVEMBER			
K Adamson	Telephone 15.83 + 3.16 vat	18.99	
	Salary - November (less Tax, NI & Pens)	1203.61	
	TOTAL	1222.60	TFR601
Merseyside Pension Fund	LGPS – November	371.25	TFR602
Water Plus	Water – Albert Fellowes 76.80 &15.36vat	92.16	DD
Water Plus	Water – Holt Playing Fields 34.26 +4.05vat	38.31	DD
Corona	Electricity - Holt Playing Fields 26.94+1.35vat	28.29	DD

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Scottish Power	Electricity - Rainhill Park 504.65+26.57vat	531.22	DD
Rainhill Village Hall	Part Payment of grant	5905.99	TFR605
S.137 Payments			
Royal British Legion	Wreath & Donation Remembrance Sunday	50.00	TFR603
Tony Lewis	Rainhill Rotary Remembrance Service Speakers	50.00	TFR604
Premier Traffic Management	Remembrance Road Closure 680.00 + 136.00 vat	816.00	TFR600
Rainhill Luncheon Club	Donation Christmas Meal	300.00	TFR606

It was resolved that the items were approved for payment.

INCOME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT

Information noted.

20.957 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY

Cllr Stevenson reported the Community Group legally challenged with judicial review. Solicitor contacted and guided the process along with a barrister. Letter before action was sent to St Helens Council going for an injunction to keep the library open due to a failure of completing a quality impact assessment. St Helens Council ignored all correspondence until the last day they legally had to reply and put a statement out confirming consultation will take place.

Cllr Greaves updated with the hearts and minds of the community and the lack of comms from the council. The staff at the library naturally cannot jump for joy but Cllr Greaves has it on very good authority that they are delighted to remain for now in the place they are passionate and proud of, that doesn't feel like a place of work, it's a community hub where they provide much more than materials to read. Cllr Greaves wishes to thank publicly all the groups and residents including our schools, churches, civic society, Railways heritage plus all the wonderful parents and children that made their sheer love for our library abundant. Despite being repeatedly told this library will close on 31st October fact, guess what it hasn't and you did that Rainhill you did it with your letters/emails/posters of support as well as challenging the locality model with the day of action to Chester Lane, thank you to everybody who stood up to challenge, support and help. Disappointingly are those that claimed to support the library and vowed to fight a closure but then rolled over claiming it was a "done deal" and campaigners were wasting their time. Even more disappointingly is the deafening silence from St Helens Borough Council, including the Officers, Cabinet portfolio holder, The Chief Exec and the Council Leader who wrote previously in his email "We need to be clear and honest that the decision is not going to be reversed, so while I understand the emotion behind the campaign it would be better if everyone's energy was spent productively and constructively to find a way forward" So unsurprisingly, we have still not had any communications from SHBC, the Clerk confirmed neither had the Parish Council. Cllr Greaves also asked on 29th September for a copy of the original consultation report in paper or digital format, plus I have asked on 5th October for Officers, the Cabinet member and our MP to attend a future public meeting during the next community consultation period they hold in line with the library strategy.

For the record Cllr Greaves has had no response to either to date. Cllr Woodhouse reported about the visit to the library and Rainhill on Saturday. The Solicitor wished to visit and spoke to members of the library and had a tour of the museum to aid him to get an understanding of why the library is so important to Rainhill.

Cllr Stevenson confirmed the reversal decision has to go before St Helens Cabinet meeting to then be agreed to go on another agenda for a consultation to be proceed.

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Cllr Daniels thanked the Councillors for all their hard work and commitment. The Chair thanked everyone for keeping everyone updated with the ongoing information and all their efforts.

The information was noted

20.958 TO APPROVE THE TIMETABLE FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Clerk confirmed nomination forms have been sent out. The closing date for nominations is 18th November 2022. It has been published on RPC website and social media platforms and the clerk will also place paper copies in the Library, Millennium Centre, Post Office, and Bridge Barbers. Clerk copies nomination forms to members of Awards Group by 21st November. Awards Group meets at a convenient time before 9th December. Recommendations of Awards Group ratified by full Council at 12th December Council meeting. Member's agreed, the awards evening will take place, on the same basis as in previous years, Room has been provisionally booked for Saturday 11th February 2023. Members agreed to promote.

The was resolved that the timetable be agreed.

20.959 TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT AND BANK RECONCILIATION

The Council noted the current budgetary position and approved the report and bank reconciliation

20.960 TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT

Confirmed for Sunday 27th November 2022 gathering at 4.15pm for a 4.30pm switch on. Cllr Howitt discussed concern over costs and green/sustainability impact. Alternative discussions took place with an agreement due to St Helens Council tight deadlines alternatives were not an option and for it to be discussed and included in January agenda and to look at possible alternatives for 2023. This years event should be more of social event with businesses being encouraged to open. Cllr Tasker will be meeting with the cookhouse to discuss the provisions they will be providing on the evening. Rotary have confirmed provision of the speakers and Discussion of possible people to switch on took place. The Clerk to accept the quote from St Helens Council by their deadline of Friday 14th October.

Resolved for St Helens Council to provide the Christmas tree and decorations

20.961 TO CONSIDER A DONATION TOWARDS LUNCHEON CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

If anyone can volunteer the party will take place on Tuesday 12th December

Resolved by all members to award a £300 donation towards the luncheon club Christmas Party.

20.962 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MERSEYFOREST

Cllr Brown provided an update. The Clerk made contact with Merseyforest who are keen to pick up with the original plan. Cllr Brown has replied to inform the original plan would require updating and modifications, but the Parish Council would be keen to progress. Merseyforest has access to grants. Due to Merseysforest planting trees within Rainhill (Two Butt Lane- which was part of the original plan) with St Helens Council and no communication with the Parish Council, Cllr Brown has requested Merseyforest keep the Parish Council in the communication loop.

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The update was noted.

20.963 TO CONSIDER RESIDENTS COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

Cllr Daniels reported a complaint regarding issue with light in Derwent Close. Cllr Stevenson aware and will report when the necessary information has been received.

Resolved that the complaints reported in the agenda and report and meeting be noted.

20.964 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

- a) Public Open Spaces
Cllr Tasker reported the recent conversations regarding possible charges St Helens Council may wish to charge the Parish Council to mark out the pitches at the Holt which could be around 5K a year which would also mean considerably higher costs for Albert Fellowes open Space. Independently sourcing someone to do it might prove to be more cost effective.
St Helens Council wish to look at the present location of bins throughout the borough and identify if any require moving. Date yet to be confirmed.
- b) Village Hall Management Committee
Next Meeting is 8th November and the Parish Council have contacted the Chair to request the 3 further Parish Council representatives be added to the committee.
- c) Rainhill Railway & Heritage Society
Cllr Greaves reported there have been several meetings regarding the library. With joint committees of the Civic Society and the Parish Council working together.
- d) Merseyside Assoc. of Local Councils
The Clerk has of today received future meeting dates and will forward them onto Cllr Ward.
- e) Rainhill Gala
The Gala was looking to go ahead next year but now put on hold until confirmation of the date for the Coronation.
- f) 4F Centre
Good mix of groups with committed running by the Manager.
- g) Monthly Market
On hold

The updates were noted.

20.965 TO DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Outdoor Washing facility. Two Butt Lane dog Park. Parish Boundaries. Phone Box.

20.966 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was resolved that the Closed Finance Meeting will be on 14th November 2022 starting at 7.00pm the venue being Rainhill Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.05pm



Chair of the Parish Council
19th December 2022

Row