

**RAINHILL PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES**  
**15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

At a meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Rainhill Village Hall, the following were present:

Cllrs: G. Barker (Chair), I. Brown, A.V Howitt, S. Rutherford, J. Tasker, K. Stevenson, J. Woodhouse, W. Williams, G. Ward,

5 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 member of the public representing The Village Hall would like to correct some of the comments made at the Annual Parish Meeting by a resident and that the grant given to the Village Hall is less than a 1/5 of the Precept and is more like 17% and the Village Hall has never stated their bookings were full.

The meeting was recommenced.

**20.1024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: S. Barlow, A. Daniels, D. Greaves, D. Hendrick, M. Jones,

**20.1025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1 declaration of interest made for item 12 from Cllrs Williams.

**20.1026 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

To consider and approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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

**20.1027 TO RECEIVE MERSEYSIDE POLICE MONTHLY STATISTICS REPORT**

To receive the police reports for February, March & April

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

**20.1028 TO NOTE THE CONTENTS OF THE CLERK'S REPORT**

**It was resolved that the contents of the Clerk's report be noted.** Cllr Tasker volunteered to be cover during the Clerks Annual Leave in June.

**20.1029 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:

P/2023/0105/HHFP Two storey side extension with single storey rear extension 23 Sherman Drive

P/2023/0110/HHFP Demolition of the existing garage and the erection of a two storey side extension. 42 Mooreway

P/2023/0146/HHFP Single storey front and side extension following demolition of existing garage and porch. 4 St James Road

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P/2023/0155/FUL Demolition of existing school buildings and removal of hardstanding and car park areas. Construction of a two-storey school building (Class F1(a)), a sheltered seating area covered by PV Panels, new parking arrangements, provision of hard and soft landscaping and associated infrastructure, including roof top PV Panels to the main building. Longton Lane Community Primary School Longton Lane

P/2023/0162/FUL Proposed dropped kerb on a classified road with alterations to extend driveway 139 Stoney Lane

P/2023/0172/TPO Removal of 8no sycamore trees due to poor condition, and replace with 8no mountain ash trees. Blundells Hill Golf Club Blundells Lane

P/2023/0174/HHFP Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. 17 Honiston Avenue

P/2023/0195/LBC Works to listed building, including stone coping to chimney stack, facing stonework and coping stones to gable edge. St Marys Convent Chapel Lane

P/2023/0208/HHFP Proposed single storey rear extension. 16 View Road

P/2023/0227/HHFP Demolition of the existing conservatory and outrigger and the erection of a single storey rear extension, increase in roof height to existing side extension, creation of a window to first floor side elevation, and replacement upvc windows. 523 Warrington Road

P/2023/0230/HHFP Two storey side extension with front porch. 40 Mooreway

P/2023/0237/HHFP Conversion of the existing garage to a habitable room with infill side extension with dual pitched roof over existing flat roof, and a single storey rear extension. 11 Elmswood Avenue

P/2023/0242/HHFP Demolition of the existing side extension and the erection of single storey side extension. 13 Sherman Drive

P/2023/0244/HHFP Demolition of the single storey side extension and the erection of a single storey side extension, first floor rear extension, and a front porch. 11 Sherman Drive

P/2023/0255/HHPA Prior approval for a proposed extension to existing single storey rear extension, projecting 6m in total from the rear, 3.5m max height and 2.3m at the eaves. 76 School Lane

Comments/objections have been submitted on the following applications

P/2023/0213/FUL Erection of 16 ultra-rapid electric vehicle charge points, substation and associated electrical infrastructure. The Manor Farm Mill Lane

P/2023/0214/LBC Listed Building Consent for the erection of 16 ultra-rapid electric vehicle charge points, substation and associated electrical infrastructure The Manor Farm Mill Lane

**The Council noted the actions taken.**

**20.1030 TO AUTHORISE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**Resolved to authorise the payments** listed on the Schedule of Payments for May 2023 (Voucher Nos 1-8 and 2 DD totalling £10,611.61).

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>APRIL 2023</b>		
St Helens Council	1 <sup>st</sup> Precept Payment	34,170
<b>MAY 2023</b>		
HMRC	VAT Return 2022/2023	2899.83

**Income noted.**

**20.1031 TO APPROVE TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23**

Resolved that the Annual Governance Statement be approved for signing by the Chair on behalf of the Council.



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**20.1032 TO APPROVE THE 2021/22 ACCOUNTS FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT & BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was resolved that the accounts presented by the Clerk after explaining £51.00 having to be taken out of the amount to be claimed for VAT due to an incorrect number being presented the amount will not be able to be claimed and has been moved onto the expenditure , having been scrutinised by internal audit, be approved and that the Annual Accounting Statement be signed by the Chair and Clerk on behalf of the Council, and the Bank Reconciliation be approved for signing by the Chair.

**20.1033 TO DISCUSS THE NAMING OF THE TREES PLANTED IN OLD LANE OPEN SPACE**

Cllr Howitt put forward the possible naming of the tree area be Coronation Copse to fit in with the Coronation.

**The members agreed to the naming and the Clerk to look at possible signage.**

**20.1034 TO CONSIDER FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR RED TELEPHONE BOX**

The painting cost was agreed at previous meeting. Still awaiting costings for the internal works. Clerk to get possible costs.

**The members agreed to look at possible costs at next meeting**

Cllr Wil Williams removed himself from the following discussion and vote

**20.1035 TO CONSIDER A GRANT APPLICATION FROM St BARTHOLOMEWS**

The Members all voted for the purchase 3 banners to remind drivers about safe parking.

**Resolved to award the requested grant of £226.77.**

**20.1036 TO CONSIDER UPDATING THE GRANTS POLICY**

The Clerk suggested the grants policy be looked at with possible updates to be suggested.

**It was resolved for the Clerk to provide suggestions.**

**20.1037 TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED ST HELENS COUNCIL OPEN SPACE CHARGES**

In November 2022 the Parish Council were told they would be responsible for £50K of charges for open spaces maintenance. At the beginning of 2023 St Helens Council looked at these costs again and then removed the charges for playgrounds with these not being the responsibility of the Parish Council. This brought the costs down to 22K but with the pitch markings would be an additional 7K. Cllr Tasker informed the members that both himself and Cllr Ward had been meeting with Rainhill United to look at possible grants from pitch power to improve the pitches. Cllr Tasker suggested the possibility of releasing certain smaller open space leases. Cllr Woodhouse and Stevenson would not wish to surrender any. All members present agreed. Cllr Tasker suggested looking at Village green status and Cllr Howitt used the example of re wilding. Cllr Ward read out the possible options.

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Cllr Brown suggested to do the open space tour before the next meeting to look at each space.

It was resolved Clerk to circulate some possible dates for open space tour and Cllr Tasker to gain a final figure to be discussed.

**20.1038 TO DISCUSS THE LIBRARY STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

Cllr Stevenson confirmed there is a leaflet due to go out to encourage the completion of the consultation which is due to end by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 and that technically a decision should not be made until the consultation finishes but it has already been stated the library will close.

**Resolved for updates if available at the next meeting be given.**

**20.1039 TO CONSIDER RESIDENTS COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS**

Cllr Ward reported a residents complaint regarding Dunbleath Ave and the state of the road. ST Helens Council has stated there are more roads in a worst state. Cllr Ward has made a visit to the road and is concerned at its state. Cllr Ward is happy to meet with highways and residents.

Resolved for Cllr Tasker to make the request with highways.

**20.1040 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

- a) Public Open Spaces  
Cllr Tasker made members aware of the discussions regarding Station Street and its pedestrianisation. Proposal is for every weekend and BH for it to be closed off for an 18 month trial. The long term aim is for it to become pedestrianised permanently. Drop down bollards and signage would cost £3,274.00. Proposed times being 6pm on a Friday until midnight on the Sunday. Concerns of who would be responsible for the rubbish and cleaning up and also the issue of supporting commercial businesses. Members agreed to meet half of the costs (amount to be included in next meeting for payment agreement) and the issue of rubbish to be raised with those involved.
- b) Village Hall Management Committee  
Cllr Ward reported AGM took place. Members of the public thought they could be elected onto the Committee. The Constitution was read out and caused confusion. Members of the public wish to volunteer- skills required would need to be identified. Cllr Ward to meet with the Secretary of Village Hall to discuss.
- c) Rainhill Railway & Heritage Society  
Continue to be concerned with the library and are waiting to see how it progresses. Fundraising was positive at the recent parade in St Helens and a trip to Bala is also planned. A Culture event at St Helens on 27<sup>th</sup> May 10-3pm is also to be attended.
- d) Merseyside Assoc. of Local Councils  
Nothing to report
- e) Rainhill Gala  
Two weeks to go. Volunteers greatly welcomed. More external contractors have been hired in this year. People can come to help from 8am with Stewarding Rolls between 10-11pm with a briefing at 11.15am. The Chair paid tribute to the Gala Committee in bringing it back after the last few years being a difficult time.
- f) 4F Centre  
Regular monthly meetings continue to take place and all going well.
- g) Monthly Market

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Well attended with a lot of the stalls selling out. Slowly being built up. Next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June.

The updates were noted.

**20.1041 TO DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

200 mtg. Open Spaces.

**20.1042 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was resolved that the Ordinary Parish Meeting will be on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 starting at 7.30pm the venue being Rainhill Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

  
Chair of the Parish Council  
12<sup>th</sup> June 2023