



Birthplace of the Railways

10<sup>th</sup> April 2019

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 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019, commencing at 7:30 pm in the Teak Room, Rainhill Village Hall. The agenda is set out overleaf.

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

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Glover'.

CLr Lynn Glover  
Chair of Rainhill Parish Council



Awarded for excellence

Serving the Rainhill Community since 1894

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## MEETING AGENDA

**Meeting Starts 7.30pm Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
Teak Room, Village Hall**

- 1) Chairman welcomes residents and introduces Councillors to meeting
- 2) Apologies for absence
- 3) Police Report – Sgt. Kath Rackham
- 4) Consideration of minutes of meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 for approval
- 5) Chairman's Report
- 6) Financial Report 2018/2019
- 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**  
**25<sup>th</sup> April 2018**  
**Held at Rainhill Village Hall**

Present Cllrs: B. Almond, J. DeAsha, J. Carroll, J. Doyle, J. Fulham, S. Glover, B. Heydon, D. Long, P. Long, W. Wood, Insp. Neil Birkett (Merseyside Police), PCSO Ken Dearing and 19 residents.

1. The Chair, Cllr P. Long, welcomed residents to the meeting, thanked them for attending, and explained how the meeting would progress. A minutes silence was held in memory of Mr Derek Houghton.
2. Apologies were received from Cllrs M. Donovan, B. Grunewald, L. Glover and C. Moore, Mrs Speakman, Mrs Proffitt, and Mr Miller.
3. Insp. N Birkett outlined the statistics for crime in Rainhill. There had been a decline in burglaries and theft, but violence with injury had remained the same. Despite cuts to the service the Police would maintain a proactive capacity in St.Helens. The custody suite would be closed but a switch to restorative action would result in more officers on the street. Overall statistics showed 40-50 crimes per month and Rainhill remained low in the statistics tables.

The issue of on street parking was raised, specifically parking on pavements. Responsibility for illegal parking lay with Parking Enforcement at St.Helens Council but parking causing an obstruction was a Police matter. The ability to enforce against illegal and inconsiderate parking was constrained by a lack of resources and complexities of the law, however, residents should report such instances. Only two Parking Enforcement Officers were available to cover parking issues across the whole borough, outside of the town centre. Rainhill Road was cited as a particular problem forcing pedestrians, with prams and wheelchairs, on to the roadway. Several schemes had been considered over the years but none were deemed a suitable solution.

The bollards along Warrington Road had not been maintained making them difficult to see at night. JDA would check if this was the responsibility of St.H Council or the City Region.

Parking used to be available at both the Commercial and Victoria public houses but strict regulations had been introduced, exacerbating parking problems. Whilst this is private land, the Parish Council would write to the owners to assess the possibility of relaxing the restrictions for short term parking. A masterplan was being prepared to address issues, including parking, a timescale for production was not given.

The Parish Council would work with the Police to look at possible solutions to this issue.

Cllr P. Long thanked the Police for their attendance and for all their hard work in protecting the residents of Rainhill.

4. It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 should be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
5. The Chair expressed her appreciation at being Rainhill's first citizen and how much she had enjoyed attending events. Thanks were given to the members of the Parish Council and Clerk for the 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:
  - Thanks were expressed to the many dedicated volunteers in Rainhill especially the amazing efforts of the Rainhill Gala whose year round schedule of tremendous events, including the newly introduced 10k run, are a great achievement and raise funds for 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 Parish Council in partnership with the Railway & Heritage Society, and members from both the Gala Committee and Rotary Club are helping put together a programme of activities to celebrate the 190<sup>th</sup> and 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rainhill Trials. Celebrations are planned for Whit

bank holiday in May 2019. We hope to draw attention to 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, new planters in Houghton Street and the bulb planting across the village.
- Cllrs Carroll and Moore, were thanked for their efforts in the planting up of the old telephone kiosk in View Road.
- 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. New signs have been introduced at Albert Fellowes Park to improve safety for users. The Council had responsibility for 8 parks spread over 43 acres of Rainhill. Efforts to enhance the village atmosphere have been increased by the introduction of bulb planting, to supplement the wildflower areas, together with maintenance of the barrier baskets.
- The Parish Council continued to help the hard-working members that run the Village Hall by contributing towards the hall running costs. Congratulations were given to the VH management team on securing grant funding for much needed repairs. Thanks were also given to the volunteers who keep the 4F Centre running providing another valuable resource.
- Our remembrance of those who have served our country, was increased this year by holding a Merchant Navy Day service in September.
- In June a new plaque was unveiled on the War Memorial, to commemorate those soldiers not previously included. The event was combined with remembrance of the Battle of the Somme and a celebration of our twinning with the residents of Latour-en-Woëvre in France. It was an honour to welcome Marie Rimmer, MP, the Mayor of St. Helens and many members of the community, to commemorate the sacrifices made during WW1.
- The Parish Council were pleased to present the Good Citizenship Award to: Kevin Wilkes, Margaret Doyle, Sheila Cowley and the 4F Centre Management Group, to recognise their excellent work in and for the community.
- This year investment was made in additional Christmas decorations and thanks were expressed to Oakdene School Choir for singing at the Christmas Tree lights switch on event.
- The Parish Council continued to support local residents by vetting local planning applications and making comments, and objections where necessary.
- The Annual Report had, once again, been distributed to all homes in Rainhill.

6. The Clerk briefly presented the draft accounts for 2017/18 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 2017/18 was £68,500 predominantly made up of precept and income from pitch hire. Just less than £3,000 had been reclaimed in VAT. Compared to last year the income was up by £6,000.
- Total Expenditure for 2017/18 was just over £54,000, which was a £1,000 decrease on the previous year, which had been a high spend year. Administration remained the highest cost as this covered a multitude of expenses. Public Open Space spending was down by £1,000 and Environmental Expenses & Publicity increased by £200 each, however there was a reduction in spending under Section 137.
- At the end of the 2017/18 financial year the accounts showed a balance of £67,734, this was made up of a cash balance of £21,000 and reserves of £46,000. The Clerk had recommended that reserves be built up to support the planned celebrations of the Rainhill Trials 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. Whilst it was hoped that many of the activities would be supported by local organisations or be self-financing, the Council must have the reserves in place to guarantee the initial outlay anticipated. Following a budgeting exercise this year's precept had been set at £67,000.

7. Mrs A. Davey spoke on behalf of the Civic Society reporting that on 17<sup>th</sup> April the Society was 50 years old and held a celebratory event with former officers and founder members. The fundamental purpose of the Society remained the same. Membership continues to grow. Rainhill Remembered provides a valuable opportunity to reminisce and exchange memories. Activities extend from workshops to talks on Tourette's syndrome. An event to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WW1 will be held on 10.11.18 in the Ex-servicemen's Club. Rainhill in Bloom, spring bulbs and new planters have enhanced the village, together with the Parish Council's barrier baskets, new bulb planting and flower display in the telephone kiosk. The Society continue to assess

development proposals and comment where necessary, with the fundamental aim of preserving the past, caring for the present and planning for the future.

8. Mr I. Lucas gave a report on behalf of Rainhill Eco Group. The garden opened 3 years ago and many teething problems had now been overcome. The Group consisted of 12 volunteers with the aim to provide an area for the enjoyment of residents. Events to encourage use had included an Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween party. A stall would be held at the Gala to raise funds and a gazebo had been purchased to facilitate this. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for their support.
9. Mr S. Clarke reported that the Rainhill Gala had been attended by around 5,000 people, despite bad weather. The event had raised £5,500 plus an additional £600 for a defibrillator at the Scout hut. The main beneficiary was Willowbrook Hospice, together with many smaller locally based groups. Local organisation also boosted their own funds by around £10,000. The Gala Committee thanked Blundells Hill Golf Course for a £2,000 contribution. 2017 saw the first Run Rainhill, a 10km race entered by 300 participants. The 2018 Run Rainhill was planned for 23.9.18. Despite these successes there had been a decline in support with only 16 hardworking and dedicated committee members. Many volunteers are over 65 and new members are needed and can join via Facebook. The 2018 Gala programme was in its final stages of publishing but space was still available.

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.

10. Mr G. Scott reported that Rainhill and Prescot Probus was a long established group for retired businessmen. The group meet monthly and follow national objectives whilst keeping local objectives. There were 10 elected members in the not for profit organisation. Events are organised and charged for. Meetings are held at the Millennium Centre and include hot meals and guest speakers. Ladies are invited to participate in special events.
11. Mr C Tigwell gave a report on behalf of Rainhill Railway and Heritage Society and marked the passing of Derek Houghton, founder member of the Society, who would be sorely missed. Meetings had been reasonably well attended and there had been an emphasis on transport. Unfortunately the quiz had been cancelled. New members were sought. A summer trip had been organised to the Severn Valley Railway and Bridgenorth. There had been more engagement with schools and plans for the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations were progressing with commitments from many local organisations.
12. The Clerk read a report from the Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee:  
The hall continued to be well used, mainly by charitable or not for profit organisations with a small number of commercial users. It continued to receive discretionary rate relief. The upkeep is undertaken by volunteers especially Eric & Doug. Several rooms had been redecorated but work continued. A scaffold tower may be purchased to facilitate decorating the main hall. New signage will be fitted shortly. Thanks to Malcolm (Treasurer) for securing funding to upgrade the heating system and boiler, replace the barge boards, fascia and gutters, however additional works were needed that were not covered by the funding. Improvements were being made to the kitchen with new cooking facilities, water heaters, venting system and a lick of paint. The foyer roof still leaks and the stage needs refurbishment, funding was being sought. User groups were thanked for their contributions towards refurbishments. A drop in rental income was anticipated during the works and rental rates would be discussed at the May meeting. The Parish Council were thanked for their generous grant without which the hall would be unable to operate, and to the volunteers who keep the hall running smoothly.
13. Mrs E. North spoke on behalf Rainhill Women's Institute. The group had been using the Village Hall for 38 years and some founder members were still in attendance. However, new members were joining, some as young as 50! The group enjoy good companionship and do what they can for the community. This year donations had been made to the Railway Gardeners and the Lilac Centre.

14. Mr N. Thompson presented on behalf of Rainhill Town Football Club. The Club would reach its 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2 years' time and planned an event for founders and former members. Last year the club reached 6 cup finals but had only reached 2 this year. The club has over 200 members with 6 adult teams and 3 junior teams that could not be accommodated elsewhere. All teams were doing well with the possibility that they could be league champions. The running costs were expensive but the club were predominantly self-financing with the help of sponsors. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for their assistance in the aim of bringing first team football back to Rainhill, with particular thanks to Cllr S. Glover for his help.
15. Cllr P. Long 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.
16. The Chair introduced the Open Forum section:
  - Mrs North drew attention to the untidy state of the village, specifically the litter outside the wine bar on Warrington Road. The Clerk was instructed to write to the establishment and request action. The issue of rubbish was a problem throughout the village and a lack of respect was blamed.
  - Mrs Pierce complimented the barrier basket but was concerned that some had been removed. It was confirmed that there were now 13 baskets rather than 26 due to financial constraints.
  - Mr Ward asked if the implications on the village services of additional housing around Rainhill had been considered and what protection was offered against issues such as parking. Cllr D. Long explained that planning rules dictate that a development plan must be produced and must include sufficient land for housing to meet government targets in order to avoid:
    - Government intervening and taking over planning for the borough; and
    - Developers taking advantage of the lack of a plan to propose unsustainable development.
 Rainhill Parish Council support a policy of brownfield development before greenfield and Green Belt, and are pushing for development of vacant sites. The St.Helens Local Plan, on which RPC are a statutory consultee, is currently in its second phase of preparation. RPC had submitted a representation to the first consultation supporting the residents' views. The second consultation had not yet commenced and there was currently no plan to comment on.
  - Mrs Daniels asked if those Parish Councillors who also served St.Helens Council suffered a conflict of interests with regards to consideration of planning issues. Cllr J. Fulham explained that it is a collective process, if individual Councillors have a conflict of interests on any matter they are to declare this, however, the Parish Council is a collective body.
  - Mr Tasker queried whether the housing target set in the St.Helens Local Plan exceed that necessary to meet Government targets. Cllr J. Fulham explained that Government had recently changed the way that objectively assessed need was calculated and this had resulted in an increase in target figures.
  - Mr Clarke queried whether those representatives who serve as borough Councillors would be in a position to object to a borough plan if their residents objected to it. Cllr B. Heydon read from the Parish Council representation submitted to the most recent consultation which supported the residents' concerns to the plans. An extract was also read from a letter rejecting a meeting with the developers. Cllr Heydon reiterated that local authorities were vulnerable to development where no local plan was in place, however, Councillors who express complete opposition in advance of consideration of an issue would be guilty of predetermination and would therefore risk having any planning outcome challenged in the high court and potentially overturned.
  - Cllr D. Long clarified that planning is not solely a democratic process, it is a legal process where individuals have rights. Planning policies exist to facilitate development and this has to be accommodated in the best way possible.
  - Mr Tasker asked why the St.Helens Local Plan catered for 30 years supply of housing when it only had to look to 15 years. If 'safeguarded' land is removed from the Green Belt it would have less protection against development. Cllr J. Fulham responded that if the plan made insufficient provision, it would not be approved and the Government would release land at the developer's discretion. Whilst a 30 year supply is identified, the first 15 years may be on brownfield.
  - Cllr D. Long emphasised that service to the Parish Council was as a public servant, at personal expense, and not for personal gain. All those involved in politics should have respect for others.
  - It was agreed that the meeting had provided an open forum for discussion and communication which was appreciated.

17. Mr C. Tigwell indicated that, politics aside, the voluntary organisations of Rainhill appreciate the work of the Parish Council, and thanked the members of the Parish Council for their voluntary efforts on behalf of the residents of Rainhill.
18. Being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.

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Chair, Rainhill Parish Council  
24<sup>th</sup> April 2019

# RAINHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## ACCOUNTS 2018/2019

2017/2018		2018/2019	
£	RECEIPTS	£	
63,400.00	Precept	67,000.00	
1,631.00	Football Pitch Hire	714.00	
489.69	4F Centre Insurance Premium	504.37	
75.00	Other	515.14	
2,897.72	VAT reclaimed	2,718.70	
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68,493.41	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	71,452.21	71,452.21
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
24,311.81	Administration	25,358.18	
7,371.23	Public Open Spaces	9,526.42	
11,023.00	Village Hall	11,023.00	
5,684.56	Environmental Expenses	7,837.50	
1,814.15	Publicity	1,594.44	
1,120.24	S137 Payments	858.48	
0	Contingency	0	
2,718.70	VAT payable	2,474.97	
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54,043.69	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	58,672.99	58,672.99
	<b>CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE</b>		
53,284.90	Balance Brought Forward at 1/4/2018	67,734.62	
68,493.41	Plus Total Receipts	71,452.21	
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121,778.31		139,186.83	
54,043.69	Less Total Payments	58,672.99	
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67,734.62	Balance carried forward at 31/3/2019	80,513.84	80,513.84