

Rainhill Annual Parish Meeting
24th June 2009
Held at Rainhill Village Hall

Present Cllrs: J. Carroll, J. Doyle, S. Glover, L. Glover, G. Jamieson, J. Kelly, D. Kelly, C. Moore, W. Wood, Constable D. Brown (Merseyside Police).

6 Residents

1. The Chairman Cllr. S Glover welcomed residents to the meeting. He then talked about the untimely deaths of two 'stalwarts' of the Council, Councillors Mike Doyle and Cathy Wilson and asked for one minutes silence. He advised that elections had been held and welcomed Barry Grunewald and Julia Doyle to the Council. Councillors were asked to introduce themselves and the new Parish Clerk was welcomed.

2. As Constable Brown was 'on duty' he was asked to make his report so that he could then leave the meeting. The highlights of his report included:

Crime:

Extra police patrols in and around Rainhill in response to offences of Burglary, Robbery and Anti Social Behaviour. This had shown some very positive results. OSU traffic has been regularly deployed to Rainhill re the criminal use of vehicles and speeding offences. The speed gun has also been deployed locally. There have also been operations to detect drivers with no insurance and/or vehicle licence.

Nuisance Vehicles:

The St Helens Quad bike has been regularly used in the area and 6 off-road bikes have been seized in Rainhill. One Section 59 nuisance warning was also issued.

Anti Social Behaviour:

Several arrests were recently made for offences of Criminal Damage in and around Rainhill Village.

The extra police officers have significantly reduced calls re ASB offences (e.g. June 09 37% less than June 08) and resulted in more arrests for drugs offences. Police Officers and PCSOs also attended Rainhill Gala and found it to be a great success in meeting people and making contacts. They also visited other local groups.

Constable Brown then answered a number of questions from residents.

3. The Chairman then gave a full report on the activities of the Parish Council over the previous twelve months. Key points included:

- Precept held at same level for 9th consecutive year
- Charter Mark renewed up to late 2009
- Police presence very much welcomed
- Monies have been allocated to upgrade the Holt Pavilion
- The Council sponsored the winning team at Rainhill Gala
- Mindless vandalism at the War Memorial has been repaired
- Annual Report delivered to every home
- The Council is aware of parking problems and work is ongoing at Parish and Ward level; it is not being ignored
- Council website is being updated and improved
- The bank closure was a sad event but out of Council's control

- A Christmas Tree was provided in response to residents requests to brighten up the village at Christmas
4. The draft accounts for 2008/09 were then briefly presented to the meeting. Expenditure was very similar to the previous year, with the Village Hall getting significant support, and met income within a few hundred pounds.
 5. Rainhill Railway and Heritage Society reported a successful year. A new website of the Rainhill Trials had been sponsored by St Helens Council. The Society are trying to get action taken regarding the deteriorating state of Rainhill Station, which is a listed building. They are also trying to get part of the station used to replace the railway carriage currently used to house the Trials exhibition. An 'Awards for All' grant will be used to update the current display.
 6. Rainhill Civic Society reported the continuing good attendance at their meetings. 'Rainhill in Bloom' had been successful and was being extended this year. There will be an exhibition of 'Rainhill in the Past' photographs and artefacts later in the year following the award of a grant. The Society continues to take an active part in planning activities.
 7. Rainhill Townswomen's Guild gave a report on the Guild including the fact that they celebrate their 60th anniversary in February 2010. It is hoped that something can be included in the next Annual Report
 8. The Chairman then introduced the Open Forum section indicating that the Parish Council could only deal with items within its area of responsibility but that any other items would be forwarded to the appropriate statutory body for their attention.
 9. Mrs J Speakman raised the issue of the Mill Lane duck pond being full of growth. The Chairman reported that the owner would not work with the Ward Committee to carry out remedial work. Mrs Speakman also raised an issue re sandstone blocks on Mill Lane. Councillor S Glover will take this issue up with the Ward Committee.
 10. Mr M Carter reminded the Council that he had become Rainhill Parish Clerk 50 years earlier in 1959. He commented on the loss of shops and lack of adequate car parking and explained how the existing car park had come into existence.
 11. Mr C. Tigwell gave a vote of thanks for the work of the Parish Council and the voluntary efforts of the Councillors on behalf of residents.
 12. Being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman of the Parish Council
29th June 2009