

Rainhill Annual Parish Meeting
25th April 2012
Held at Rainhill Village Hall

Present Cllrs: B. Almond, J. Carroll, J. De'Asha, M. Donovan, J. Doyle, S. Glover, L. Glover, B. Heydon, D. Kelly, J. Kelly, P. Lynch, C. Moore, W. Wood, PCSTO A. Beaumont (Merseyside Police), SPC C. Moore, 5 residents.

Apologies received from Cllr B. Grunewald.

1. The Chair, Cllr L. Glover, welcomed residents to the meeting, thanked them for attending, went through evacuation procedures and explained how the meeting would progress.

2. The Chair then asked members of the Council to introduce themselves and said she had been honoured to have served the people of Rainhill during the last 12 months. The Chair then gave a report on the activities of the Parish Council over the previous twelve months. Key points included:
 - The Parish Council continued to support Rainhill Carnival by sponsoring a team of pupils from Rainhill High School in the 'It's a Knockout' event and will give support to the Gala again this year.
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 - Barnardos unfortunately had to give up the 4F Centre in September. As the land and buildings are owned by the Parish Council the Council was very keen to see the building continue to be used for good work similar to that done by Barnardos and on behalf of the community. To this end the Parish Council worked with Ward Councillors, St Helens Council, 'Friends' Groups, Rainhill High School and other parties to see the set up of a new 4F Centre Management Group chaired by Cllr DeAsha. This organisation is already making good use of the 4F Centre which now has a healthy outlook again.
 - The Parish Council continued to support the Village Hall by contributing towards the hall running costs and this year also made a one-off contribution to assist the Millennium Centre.
 - The Parish Council, with the help of Ward Councillors and St Helens Council, continues to support the provision of open spaces for the enjoyment of Rainhill residents. The Council has responsibility for 8 parks spread over 43 acres of Rainhill. The Council provides support to two junior football teams, Rainhill United and Rainhill Rocket and this year has invested a substantial amount in improving drainage to the playing areas.
 - The Parish Council continued to help Rainhill Music Festival by providing trophies and prizes. I was very pleased to be able to present the Mike Doyle Memorial Trophy to 'Young Musician of the Year' Lidong Xiao.
 - The Parish Council continues to support local residents by vetting local planning applications and making comments and objections where necessary.
 - The Parish Council works closely with Rainhill Ward Councillors in making environmental improvements which included further improvements to the Christmas lights. I was delighted that St Ann's School Choir were able to sing again at the switch on of the Christmas Tree lights - so many thanks to them.

- The Parish Council is pleased to have been able to support St Ann's Church in the restoration of one of Rainhill's best-known landmarks - the lych gate at the entrance to St Ann's Church. I was a member of the Lych Gate Project Steering Group and the Council was able to make a significant donation towards the funding of a very worthwhile and successful project.
 - The Good Citizenship Award was presented this year to Derek Houghton to recognise his excellent work in the community.
 - The Parish Council was deeply saddened when Gordon Jamieson passed away in February at the age of 81. Gordon served with great enthusiasm on the Parish Council from 1991 to 2010 and will be sadly missed by all those who knew him. Before Gordon's death the Council was already planning to add a memorial plaque for Gordon's long-term partner Cathy Wilson, to the disabled access gate that she campaigned tirelessly for, at Rainhill Station.
 - The Parish Council website continues to be improved and is now a regular source of messages to the Council. Any suggestions for additional content will be welcomed.
 - Close co-operation continues between the Police, Ward Councillors, St Helens Council and the Parish Council.
 - The Annual Report has, once again, been distributed to all homes in Rainhill.
3. The Chair moved item 5 up the Agenda so that PCSTO Beaumont, Merseyside Police, could deliver his report and return to duty. He talked through the crime figures for the previous 12 months, comparing figures with the previous year. In summary the statistics were:
- Anti-Social Behaviour down 2% (from 133 to 131)
 - Vehicle Nuisance down 51%
 - Burglaries (dwellings) up 43%
 - Burglaries (other) down 66%
 - Criminal Damage / Arson down 16%
 - Drugs Offences down 47%
 - Robbery (business) up 116%
- He believes those responsible for the Co-op robbery had been apprehended
- Robberies (personal) down 75%
 - Theft from Motor Vehicles down 18%
 - Theft of Motor Vehicles up 37%
 - Theft down 14%
 - Theft from shops up 121%
 - Violent Offences down 11%
 - Issue of Stop Forms down 79%
 - Fixed Penalty Notices down 9%

PCSTO Beaumont then answered questions:

- Cllr Heydon asked whether the actual figures were available but PCSTO Beaumont said he only had the figures he had read out.
- Cllr S. Glover asked if there was any more information about robberies from dwellings and whether there was anything else that could be done to help. PCSTO Beaumont said victims were visited and given advice. He suggested that robberies were often opportunist crimes and it was now common for criminals to work in pairs with one distracting a home owner at the front door while the other entered the property through the back door. So it would be

good advice to make sure the back door is locked before answering the front door.

- Cllr DeAsha asked that actual figures could be supplied for the next meeting as percentages could be misleading without the associated actual
- Cllr Doyle asked whether people living on their own were more vulnerable and were actually targeted by criminals. PCSTO Beaumont didn't think this was the case. Cllr DeAsha said ID should be requested when someone is at the door and where suspicious Crimestoppers should be contacted.
- Cllr J. Kelly suggested that ID should always be shown as a matter of course. PCSTO Beaumont agreed but said people can't be compelled to this.
- Cllr D. Kelly commented that Neighbourhood Watch schemes were very useful and Cllr Wood agreed saying that a lot of Police successes were down to residents own actions. Cllr Wood then asked if there was any success in promoting Home Watch area. PCSTO Beaumont replied that they were working to get more and that there was a big list of established schemes and a couple of new ones.
- Cllr Carroll asked where the actual crime figures were available and PCSTO Beaumont said he would ask Janine to supply them.
- Cllr Donovan asked whether the figures could be included in the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter and PCSTO Beaumont said he would pass the request on.

4. The Clerk then briefly presented the draft accounts for 2011/12 to the meeting:

- The 'Income' total for the year is almost identical to the previous year; just a few pounds more
- In the 'Expenditure' section there is a significant increase compared with the previous year. The Clerk reminded everyone that in the previous year's report he had commented that a significant figure had been committed to Public Open Spaces spending but that not all bills had been received during the year. Those bills were received in 2011/12 and were mainly for Changing Room refurbishment and Drainage works. Section 137 payments also showed a significant increase mainly due to a one-off grant being made to the Millennium Centre. There was also a 'Contingency' payment of £10,800, this being a contribution made out of Reserves towards the refurbishment of the St Ann's Lych Gate.
- In the final section the reduced 'Cumulative Fund Balance' reflects the increased spending / reduction in reserves.

There were no questions regarding the accounts.

5. Mr D. Whitley gave a report on behalf of Rainhill Civic Society including:

- It has been a good year
- Increased membership
- Most successful event was November's 1940s event with more than 700 visitors
- Interesting speakers with topics ranging from Theatres in St Helens to Whiston Hospital Centre although disappointment at cancellation of Titanic speaker
- Successful oral history progress with recordings from local residents
- Looking at Planning Applications with Skew Bridge being the current main focus and challenges being made to the work on the parapet

- Website is collecting lots of accounts from ‘all over’ and there is a request for any information about the Victoria for an event in September.
 - Thanks for support
6. Mr C. Oldfield gave a report on behalf of St Ann’s Church and Millennium Centre including:
- Thanks for support which will help keep “wolves from the door” and with keeping costs down
 - Work on the Lych Gate project is coming to an end. Grateful for the financial support of the Parish Council and the Lottery grant.
 - Lots of comments on the felling of the Cherry trees which unfortunately, due to a delay, had come into blossom. However, new slow-growing Maple trees are now being planted which will not have the same drainage problem.
7. Mrs J. Speakman gave a report on Rainhill Townswomen’s Guild, including that they had also had a successful year and with new members were now numbered about 68. They are very active with craft events and coffee mornings throughout the year. There have been some very interesting speakers including Dame Lorna Muirhead, the current Lord Lieutenant of Liverpool, and a “fantastic tale” about the sinking of a Dublin to Llandudno ferry by a German U-boat. The charity for this year is ‘Soldiers Off The Street’. The Chair and the Clerk took note of Mrs Speakman’s further comment that, on health and safety grounds, the seats used for the Annual Parish Meeting should be ‘locked’ together.
8. The Chair read out a report Mrs Case, the Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee including:
- In general a good year
 - The hall has been busy all year; most user groups are continuing to use the hall and there are some new users including yoga classes for all ages
 - Large areas of the hall have been refurbished with the Oak Hall having been repainted and ceiling lights replaced and the main corridor re-carpeted
 - Trouble with one of the boilers but, with Leymac, they are trying to resolve the problem
 - Planning to paint the exterior of the hall this year subject to good weather and enough volunteers coming forward!
 - Hope to continue providing a vital service to the local community and look forward to another successful year
 - Without the generous grant from Rainhill Parish Council would find it difficult to maintain current high standards
 - Finally after many years as Chair the time has come for me to retire. I have enjoyed my time at the Village Hall.
- Cllr J. Kelly suggested a letter of thanks is sent to Mrs Case on behalf of the Parish Council.
9. The Chair introduced the Open Forum section requesting that residents wishing to speak should give their name and address before speaking. There were no further comments from the floor.
- Cllr DeAsha said he would encourage Councillors to look at the Civic Society website as there were interesting comments on there.

Cllr Heydon advised there was a website article about the sinking referred to in Mrs Speakman's report.

10. The Chair thanked residents, Councillors and the Clerk for their support throughout the year and, being no further business, closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Chair, Rainhill Parish Council
15th May 2012

Following the meeting the Clerk obtained a full list of the year on year actual crime figures from PC Moore.

That list is attached to these minutes.

RAINHILL CRIME STATISTICS FROM 1ST APRIL – 31ST MARCH

ASB

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	131	133	-2%

VEHICLE NUISANCE

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	15	35	-51%

BURGLARY DWELLING:

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	40	28	+43%

BURGLARY OTHER THAN A DWELLING:

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	17	49	-66%

CRIM DAM/ARSON:

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	60	71	-16%

DRUGS:

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	37	69	-47%

ROBBERY BUSINESS:

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	13	6	+116%

ROBBERY PERSONAL:

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	1	4	-75%

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE:

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	41	50	-18

THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE:

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	11	8	+37%

THEFT:

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	45	52	-14%

THEFT SHOP:

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	31	14	+121%

VIOLENCE

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	26	29	-11%

STOP FORMS

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	235	1110	-79%

FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

	1 st Apr 11 -31 st Mar 12	1 st Apr 10 -31 st Mar 11	+/- %
Total	143	159	-9%