

**RAINHILL PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES**  
**28<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

At a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Rainhill Village Hall, the following were present:

Cllrs: B. Almond, J. Carroll, J. DeAsha, M. Donovan, J. Doyle, L. Glover, S. Glover, B. Heydon, J. Kelly, C. Moore and W.M. Wood.

**442. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: B. Grunewald and P. Lynch.

**443. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr S. Glover – Planning Applications.

**444. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2014**

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

**445. POLICE REPORT**

No report. Cllr Wood added that although the Merseyside Police ‘Have Your Say’ meetings had now been scheduled to occur only every 3 months no representative from the Police attended the scheduled July meeting.

It was resolved that the Clerk writes to the Police Commissioner about the lack of communication from the Police via local meetings in Rainhill.

**446. CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk reported on actions taken relating to resolutions made and issues raised.

**447. CORRESPONDENCE**

J Jones, St Helens Council	Eco Garden - first meeting with artist
LALC	Newsletter, AGM
J Jones, St Helens Council	Eco Garden art sculpture - 1st workshop 8th July
S Mackell	Eco Garden website
D Boston	Rainhill Village Hall
Merseyside Pension Fund	Beeline - June 2014
Jobstoday	Account activation
K Markell	St Helens Reporter
R Halliwell	Veolia Gillmoss Open Day 16th August
A Moakes, St Helens Council	Village Hall possible bookings for workshops
J Attwood	Eco garden metal fence
B Farrell, St Helens Council	Notice Board advertising
M Gelder, LALC	Rainhill Parish Council Vacancy

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M Gelder, LALC	Feedback from Brandon Lewis meeting
C Gill, St Helens Council	MRWA Community Fund
B Ferguson	Eco Garden Plan
NALC	New Finance Briefing - Practitioners Guide
S Mackell	St Barts
HMRC	Receipt of Online Submission
NALC	Update Legal Topic Note - Handling Complaints
L Rynn, St Ann's Primary School	Christmas Lights Switch-On
Careerbuilder	Online Job Advertising
J Jones, St Helens Council	Eco Garden Workshops
NALC	Harrogate Conference
J Lowe	Cheque photograph
NALC	Revised Legal Topic Note - Closed churchyard and burial grounds
L Wilson, Guardian Group	Job Advert
M Whitehall	Eco Agenda
J Attwood	Eco website
A Haymonds, CETB	Agreement 561
J Jones, St Helens Council	Eco Garden CETB agreement and payment to artist
J Jones, St Helens Council	Invitees to 8th July event - time capsule
A Bannister, St Bartholomew's School	Time Capsule
Fields in Trust	July Update
P Reid, St Helens Council	Parish Council Memberships 2014/15
123-reg	Domains
A Whitehall	Cory Contracts
Clerks & Councils Direct	July 2014 Issue
G Woods, St Helens Council	Assets of Community Value Register
J Attwood	Website Updates
NALC	E-bulletin
I Lucas	Time Capsule
NALC	New Policy Consultation
B Geldard	Inconsiderate Parking
M Catterall, St Helens Council	Assets of Community Value Register
HMRC	New online support for employers
R Wilkinson, St Ann's School	Rainhill St Ann's Community Cohesion Meeting
J Jones, St Helens Council	Eco Garden plaque for tall focal point
LALC	Three Tier Forum information
Employment Crossing	Strategies for retaining your best employees
AV Howitt	Poppies
NALC	Future Local - Larger Councils Conference
SLCC	Subscription Offer from SLCC, including The Clerk magazine
B Kenrick, St Helens	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2014

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Council	
CPRE	CPRE Lancashire: Organic Farm Visit
NALC	Bulletin from Larger Councils Committee Meeting
Ordnance Survey	PSMA Regional member events
D Palmer, Came & Co	Visit
Microsoft account team	Account security Info verification
Longton Lane Primary School	Newsletter 18th July 2014
NALC	E-bulletin
D Bate	Cranford Residential Home Site
J Jones, St Helens Council	ECO Garden - Setting out
NALC	Policy Consultation Response - Local Audit
J Boden, St Helens Council	Pitch Fees
Fields in Trust	Centenary Fields
Charity Commission	Annual Return - 521295 Children's Playground
J Jones, St Helens Council	Eco Garden - various
Planning Portal	Planning Portal News: 24 July 2014
L Lewis-Hall, Zurich Insurance	Rainhill Parish Council
K Cleary	NALC documents
J Attwood	Memory Stick
D Green	Cranford Nursing Home
K Cleary	MALC Agenda

It was resolved that the Clerk books a place for Cllr Wood at the LALC AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

**448. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

It was resolved that an objection be submitted for the following application based on infill grounds:

P/2014/0561, 52 Stapleton Road, Erection of 2 detached dwellings to the rear and sub-division of existing property into 2 flats following erection of a two storey rear extension.

It was resolved that the following applications be left to neighbourhood consultation and that no additional comments will be submitted:

P/2014/0508, 18 View Road, Conversion of existing flat roof to pitched on garage.

P/2014/0525 (follow up to 0385), 31 St James Road, Works to trees covered by a tree preservation order to 2 beech trees.

P/2014/0536, 45 Calder Drive, Single storey rear extension

P/2014/0552, 1 Heyes Mount, Works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order to fell 11 hollies.

P/2014/0567, 826 Warrington Road, Rear and side extension, with modifications to the roof and elevation treatment of an existing detached dwelling.

P/2014/0577, 6 Newby Avenue, Two storey side extension with single storey rear extension.

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Cllr Wood commented that the permitted hours of work for the old ‘Oak Tyres’ site needed to be monitored and suggested Cllr Donovan may be best placed to do this. Cllr Donovan commented that site workers were parking on the Chatsworth Road service road to the detriment of shop users and local residents. It was resolved that the Clerk writes to St Helens Council’s Highways Department to bring this problem to their attention and to determine whether both sides of the service road are subject to parking restrictions. It was further resolved that the Clerk follows up the enquiry previously made regarding the possible funding of road repairs further along the service road.

**449. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

It was resolved that the following items are approved for payment:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Ref</b>
M Paton - Clerk Advert - Guardian Group	348.01	TFR72
M Paton – Photocopying, Printer Ink, Postage, Salary - July (less Tax, NI & Pens Ded)	1,068.04	TFR73
Merseyside Pension Fund - LGPS - Jul	447.85	TFR74
4F Centre - Grant	5,500.00	TFR75
Scottish Power - Martin Close (Holt) Jul	40.00	STO
Scottish Power - Deepdale Drive (Rainhill Park) Jul	8.00	STO
United Utilities - Holt Playing Fields - Jul	5.45	STO
United Utilities - Deepdale Drive (Rainhill Park) Jul	61.66	STO

**450. CLERK VACANCY**

The Chair gave an update to the Council on behalf of the Selection Committee. A shortlist of candidates had been drawn up and interviews would be carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

**451. CLERK’S APPRAISAL**

Cllr Moore reported to the Council, on behalf of the Clerk’s Appraisal Group, that the Clerk’s performance had met the required standard during the preceding 12 months. It was resolved that, following the Clerk’s appraisal and subsequent discussion by Council members, the Clerk will remain at the current point on the salary scale.

**452. CETB AGREEMENT**

It was resolved that the Chair, Cllr B. Heydon, and the Vice-Chair, Cllr J. Doyle, are authorised to sign the 561 Agreement, relating to the proposed Rainhill Eco Garden on the Exchange Place land, with Cory Environmental Trust in Britain on behalf of Rainhill Parish Council.

**453. 4F CENTRE**

Following the discussion with the new Centre Manager, Mr Graeme Tomkins, immediately prior to the Council meeting it was resolved that no further action is required in the immediate future.

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**454. TWINNING**

It was resolved that a Twinning Working Group be set up to investigate the possibility of twinning, potentially with Latour-en-Woevre, with Cllrs J. DeAsha, J. Doyle and B. Heydon as the initial members. Following previous interest expressed by Cllr D. Long it was resolved that the Clerk contacts Cllr Long to confirm that he will also be a member [confirmed post meeting]. It was resolved that the Clerk should also inform Cllr Grunewald and Lynch to determine if they are interested in serving on the Working Group.

It was further resolved that the Clerk writes to Rainhill Civic Society to invite them to nominate a member to be co-opted onto the Working Group.

**455. RESIDENTS COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS**

Highway Problems

Mr B Geldard complained about inconsiderate parking in Ashley Close and Ashton Avenue caused when children are being taken to or collected from Oakdene School. He said he had spoken to a number of people including the police and had been advised to speak to one of the local Councillors about the problem. Cllr DeAsha contacted Mr and Mrs Geldard regarding the problem.

Cllr Doyle complained again about the pot hole and missing stake problems on the road close to the bottom of Coylton Avenue. Cllr Wood also commented on road surface repairs that were needed on View Road which were also a danger to pedestrians. Cllr DeAsha reported that remedial work had already been planned in each case.

Poppies

Ms A-V Howitt commented on the poppies appearing along Warrington Road: “I thought the Parish Council would like to know how much we are enjoying the wildflower swathes in the grass verges. We particularly like the wide spread Remembrance poppies which do give a moments reflection in keeping with the Civic Society's Pop in some Poppies move”.

Cllr DeAsha had also received a number of similar comments about the poppies as had Cllr Donovan. Cllr Carroll suggested the Council looks at doing something similar in future years. It was resolved that the Clerk notes this for the November Finance meeting and budget setting.

Stoops Plant Thefts

Ms A-V Howitt reported that “some plants appear to have been stolen from some of the barrier troughs at the Stoops”.

Cllr Moore had also received comments from a resident about the same problem.

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Cranford Residential Home Site

Ms D Bate complained about the Cranford Residential Home site: “Since the demolition of the building, the plot has been left untidy, with the detritus of the demolition spread around the site. I feel the site is a danger, with ineffective fencing that has already fallen down. This allows access to the site by anyone. With the school holidays starting, I am concerned that adventurous children will access the site, and could come to harm. Certainly, when I was a child, a site like this would have seemed like an adventure playground. Apart from the safety issue, the site is an eyesore in our lovely village, and detracts from all the hard work done by the council and community to keep Rainhill an attractive village”.

Following this a further complaint was received from Mr D Green who commented “The site is now an eye sore and we feel it will attract rats and other vermin”.

Both Ms Bate and Mr Green were advised that the Parish Council had already complained on behalf of residents to St Helens Council who were the Planning Authority and had enforcement powers. They were also advised that St Helens Council had already issued an enforcement order against the applicant but to complain directly to St Helens Council to add weight to the Parish Council’s existing complaint.

Cllr S Glover advised this had become a Health & Safety issue and that the fence was not fit for purpose.

Rainhill Paths

Cllr S Glover asked Councillors to report any paths which were impassable or overgrown so that he could take action on them. There is a danger of losing rights of way if paths remain obstructed.

**456. REPORTS**

- Public Open Spaces: Cllr S Glover reported that inspections had taken place on most of the Council’s open spaces and, in general, everything appeared to be in good order. However the gates at Two Butt Lane need to be properly bolted and locked

The Clerk added that the roundabout on the Martin Close playground area had a protective fence around it and that a member of the Grounds Maintenance Team would be following it up as the roundabout had recently been renovated and should be in working order. A missing bolt on the gate of the playground was also reported.

Cllr S Glover also reported on a meeting held with Stephenson’s Resource Centre. They were willing to obtain plants for planting in October to cover the Winter period but Cllr Glover preferred they obtain plants now to cover the period until October. However this would entail a cost of approximately £30. It was resolved that this is agreed in principle and will be included for approval at the next Council meeting. It was further resolved that the possibility of obtaining more planters and/or rearranging the existing planters would also be discussed at the next meeting.

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- Village Hall Management Committee: Cllr Moore gave a brief report on the last meeting including the fact that the central heating efficiency had been improved by the installation of a touch-screen control panel..
- Rainhill Railway & Heritage Society: Cllr Wood reported that the 12 month programme had been arranged.
- Merseytravel Customer Forum: Cllr Doyle reported she had received no further news and it looked likely that there would be only one meeting a year in St Helens. Cllr S Glover commented that this would justify any future complaints being submitted via Council meetings.
- Merseyside Association of Local Councils: Cllr Wood advised the next meeting is at the new Prescot Town Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> August.
- St Helens District Sports Council: No report.
- Rainhill Gala Committee: No report.
- 4F Centre: No further immediate action. See items 449 and 453.
- Exchange Place Project: Cllr S Glover reported that work had started rapid progress would now be clearly visible. The Metalwork sculpture artist was holding a meeting in the adjacent Willow Room while the Council meeting was taking place. Cllr DeAsha added that he was attending a meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July at which possible funding for conservation areas would be discussed and that he would report back to the Council.

**457. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was resolved that the next ordinary meeting will be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, starting at 7:30pm, the venue being Rainhill Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:58 pm.

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Chair of the Parish Council  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2014