

RAINHILL PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES
25th November 2013

At a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Parish Council held on Monday 25th November 2013 at Rainhill Village Hall, the following were present:

Cllrs: B. Almond, J. Carroll, J. DeAsha, B. Heydon, J. Kelly, P. Lynch and W.M. Wood.

001. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: B. Grunewald. M. Donovan, J. Doyle, L. Glover, S. Glover C. Moore.

002. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

003. ACCOUNT BALANCES, INCOME EXPENDITURE & RESERVES

The Clerk gave a report on the half-year and current account balances including a summary reconciliation figures for each month of the half-year.

It was resolved that the NatWest Bank accounts be closed and that the Clerk advises Computershare accordingly.

The Clerk suggested all Councillors on the Unity Trust Bank authorisers list make a point of authorising transactions from time so that they remain familiar with process.

The Clerk gave a report on income, expenditure and reserves pointing out the large drain on the Councils reserves over the last two years and the possible increased exposure to large costs. It was resolved that the Council will budget for a gradual increase in reserves to meet both the costs of planned capital projects and any large impromptu needs.

004. PRECEPT

The Clerk was instructed by the Council on the approach to be taken in preparing a budget paper to determine the 2014 Precept and given parameters to work within. It was resolved that a final decision on the Precept amount will be made at the 3rd February 2014 meeting.

005. RISKS

The Clerk summarised new risks highlighting the fact that it was highly likely the Parish Council would have to shoulder more of the burden of Open Spaces costs including the possibility of increased costs at St Ann's churchyard.

006. 4F CENTRE

Cllr DeAsha gave a brief update on the status of the 4F Centre informing the Council of the intention to employ a grant-funded manager.

It was resolved that the Council would not be making any grant towards the costs of electric roller shutters which had recently been installed at the 4F Centre. Cllr DeAsha

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added, however, that future assistance for the 4F Centre from the Council could not be ruled out.

007. VILLAGE HALL GRANT

The Clerk reported that, as instructed by the Council, the Village Hall Management Committee had been advised at the end of the last financial year that provision would need to be made for a reduction in funding to the Village Hall from the Parish Council from 2014/15 onwards.

It was resolved that the grant to the Village Hall for 2014/15 will be reduced by 2.5% from £11,536 to £11,248. It was further resolved that the Village Hall Management Committee be advised of the new amount immediately, to give them as much notice as possible of the change, and also be advised that further annual re-assessments will be made at this same time each year.

008. ST ANN'S CHURCHYARD

It was resolved that, when the current contract for basic grass cutting, strimming and tidying expires in March 2014, a 12-month extension will be offered to the contractor pending clarification of the situation regarding ongoing maintenance.

009. PROJECTS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Exchange Place

Following a submission by Cllr DeAsha, it was resolved in principle that further (“3rd party”) funding of either £500 or £1,700 will be provided to Rainhill ECO to enable them to apply for larger grants from either BIFFA or CETB.

Holt Changing Rooms - Container

It was resolved that a preliminary consultation will take place with the immediate neighbours of Holt Changing Rooms to assess their feelings about the proposed container and possible fencing. This consultation will take place before any formal planning application is submitted.

010. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was resolved that next ordinary meeting will be held on Monday 16th December 2013, starting at 7:30pm, the venue being Rainhill Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:28 pm.

Chair of the Parish Council
16th December 2013