



30<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016, in the Elm Room at the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

I attach an agenda, relevant minutes, and the Clerk's Report.

Please find time to read through the information before the meeting making any notes you need to against each item. If you have any queries prior to the meeting please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Pinder'.

G. Pinder  
Clerk to the Council



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## **RAINHILL PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA**

### **5<sup>TH</sup> September 2016**

*The public will be allowed to speak on any matters of concern, subject to prior written notification being received. No such requests have been received.*

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive declarations of interest from members
3. To consider and approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 25th July 2016
4. To receive Police monthly statistics report – for information only
5. To note the contents of the Clerk's Report– for information only
6. To consider the following Planning Applications and note any actions taken:
  - P/2016/0524 - 411 Warrington Road, demolition of existing detached garage and Outline application for one dwelling
  - P/2016/0550 - 21 Lawton Road, two storey side extension.
  - P/2016/0563 - 852 Warrington Road, to raise eaves height on existing bungalow extension to the front, and single storey rear extension; and demolition of existing workshop to rebuild new workshop with a link connecting to the house.
  - P/2016/0571 - St Ann's C of E Church, Warrington Road, works to trees in a conservation area, to remove 1 sycamore and 1 elm.
  - P/2016/0593 - Rainhill Club and Sports Lounge Warburton Hey, reserved matters application pursuant to P/2016/0173 for 10 dwellings with regard to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale.
  - P/2016/0602 Premier Lodge Travel Inn, 804 Warrington Road, replacement of timber framed window to UPVC windows to front, side and rear.
  - P/2016/0606 Escape 24 Victoria Terrace, demolition of existing single storey extension and outbuilding and erection of a new single storey rear extension.
  - P/2016/0613 St Bartholomew's Catholic Primary School, School Lane, erection of mobile classroom.
  - 16/00333 Proposed Change of Use from Care Home (Use Class C2) to Asylum Hostel (Sui Generis) to accommodate a maximum of 120 persons, at the former Lilycross Care Centre, Wilmere Lane, Widnes
7. To authorise the accounts payable (list included in report)
8. To consider the future of the barrier baskets
9. To receive an update on Rainhill Trials 200 working group – for information only
10. To consider the actions of the Twinning Group – for information only
11. To authorise transfer of funds to TSB Account
12. To consider provision of a new bin at Two Butt Lane and Holt Lane Open Spaces
13. To consider Rainhill Town pitch hire fees
14. To consider request for Basketball Court
15. To consider future of planting beds on highway verges
16. To approve the audited annual return
17. To Consider Residents Comments and Complaints:
18. To receive reports from member representatives on local organisations:
  - a) Public Open Spaces
  - b) Village Hall Management Committee
  - c) Rainhill Railway & Heritage Society
  - d) Merseyside Association of Local Councils
  - e) Rainhill Gala
  - f) 4F Centre
19. Date & Time of Next Meeting:  
Ordinary Meeting 7:30pm, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**RAINHILL PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES**  
**25<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

At a meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at Rainhill Village Hall, the following were present:

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

**785. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. J. Fulham and B. Grunewald.

**786. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Non-pecuniary interests were declared by Cllrs. S. Glover and D. Long – Members of Borough Planning Committee.

**787. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 should be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**788. TO RECEIVE POLICE MONTHLY STATISTICS REPORT**

Resolved that the report of the crime statistics for Rainhill be noted.

**789. CLERK'S REPORT**

It was resolved that the contents of the Clerk's report be noted. The Clerk was instructed to pursue a parking issue at St.James Road reported at the June meeting and to seek a replacement credit card for the ALTO card.

**790. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

It was resolved that the following actions be noted in relation to planning applications:

The Clerk was instructed to submit an objection to the following application due to overdevelopment and precedent

P/2016/0524 - 411 Warrington Road, Demolition of existing detached garage and Outline application for one dwelling

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

P/2016/0461 - 19 Millom Avenue, single storey rear extension projecting 3.93m from the rear, 3.45m high overall, and 2.20m to the eaves.

P/2016/0468 - St Bartholomew's Catholic Primary School, School Lane, to provide a trim trail fitness route within the school playground

P/2016/0470 - 704 Warrington Road, single storey rear in-fill extension

P/2016/0474 - 5 Garsdale Avenue, single storey side and rear wrap around extension

P/2016/0475 - 14 Eden Close, erection of detached garage to rear garden

P/2016/0477 - 112 Holt Lane, part two storey, part single storey rear extension

P/2016/0482 - 114 Stoney Lane, conversion of existing garage to a habitable room along with first floor rear extension.

P/2016/0490 - 20 Knowsley Road, demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension.

P/2016/0493 - 12 First Avenue, part two storey, part single storey rear extension

**RAINHILL PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES**  
**25<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

P/2016/0513 Old Lane Bridge Over Railway Old Lane, Further works to modify bridge parapets in connection with electrification of railway

**791. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Ref</b>
G Pinder	Telephone	18.50	
	Salary - July (less Tax, NI & Pens)	1022.13	
	Biscuits for ceremony	5.75	
	Cord for unveiling curtain	3.16	
	Photocopying	14.45	
	Postage 12 x 2nd class stamps	6.60	
	USB flashdrive storage sticks	12.00	
		1082.59	TFR184
Merseyside Pension Fund	LGPS – July	387.50	TFR185
Scottish Power	Deepdale Drive (Rainhill Park) - July	21.00	STO
Npower	Martin Close (Holt) - July	6.00	DD
United Utilities	Rainhill Park Playing Fields – July	75.43	DD
United Utilities	Holt Playing Fields – July	6.33	STO
Hydraclean	Legionella Testing Holt Lane - July	51.00	STO
Hydraclean	Legionella Testing Rainhill Park - July	52.00	STO
Village Hall	Fire & Security Alarm Maintenance	1262.87	TFR186
St.Helens Council	Wildflower Maintenance	2813.71	TFR187
G Pinder	Telephone	18.50	
	Salary - August (less Tax, NI & Pens)	1021.93	
		1040.43	TFR188
Merseyside Pension Fund	LGPS – August	387.50	TFR189
Scottish Power	Deepdale Drive (Rainhill Park) - Aug	21.00	STO
Npower	Martin Close (Holt) - August	6.00	DD
United Utilities	Rainhill Park Playing Fields – August	75.43	DD
United Utilities	Holt Playing Fields – August	6.33	STO
Hydraclean	Legionella Testing Holt Lane - August	51.00	STO
Hydraclean	Legionella Testing Rainhill Park - Aug	52.00	STO
St.Helens Council	Supply & fitting of signs at Albert Fellowes Park	1500.00	TFR190

**792. TO NOTE THE ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Resolved that the actions of the Executive Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016 be noted.

**793. TO CONSIDER PROPOSED ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY ON BARRIER BASKETS**

Resolved that, unless further offers of sponsorship are received, the idea of sponsorship is suspended. Clerk to attend meeting with Civic Society and report to future meeting.

**794. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE RAINHILL TRIALS 200 GROUP**

The Council noted the actions taken by the Rainhill Trials 200 Group.

**RAINHILL PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES**  
**25<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**795. TO CONSIDER THE ACTIONS OF THE TWINNING GROUP**

The Council noted the actions taken by the Twinning Group.

**796. TO CONSIDER APPLYING FOR UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE STATUS FOR RAINHILL TRIALS SITE**

Resolved that the Clerk pursue an application with Liverpool and Manchester Railway Trust and report progress to future meeting.

**797. TO CONSIDER CEREMONY FOR RENAMING OF ALBERT FELLOWES PARK**

Resolved that arrangements be left to Rainhill United. Clerk to write to Rainhill United and offer Chairman's Services at ceremony if required.

**798. TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT**

The Council reviewed the current budgetary position and bank reconciliation and resolved to approve the report.

**799. RESIDENTS COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS**

Resolved that Clerk should write to:  
Rainhill Town FC to request this year's fees be paid in full, pending consideration of their request; and  
Police to request action on obstruction caused by abandoned vehicle in Sandhurst Road.

**800. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

**Resolved that the Council noted the following reports:**

- Public Open Spaces: The tour of open spaces took place on 16 July 2016. Cllr S. Glover thanked those who attended. Clerk to follow up actions noted. A follow up site visit to check drainage works at Albert Fellowes Park had been promised by St.Helens Council, Clerk to pursue.
- Village Hall Management Committee: A short meeting was held on 12 July 2016. As there is now no treasurer in post, the VH Manager presented the accounts. The main area for consideration was repair needed to the foyer wall. A roofer had been called to advise.
- Rainhill Railway & Heritage Society: The summer outing to Haverthwaite and Bowness had been a success, despite the weather. The programme of speakers for the coming year had been arranged a quiz was to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November.
- Merseyside Association of Local Councils: A number of meetings had recently been cancelled. Rainhill were due to host the September meeting (7.9.16). NALC (Northern Group) had met, an update on new first tier councils had been presented, together with details of CCLA banking.
- Gala Committee: no report.
- 4F Centre: Concern was expressed that the Police drop in facility had been cancelled. This was considered a retrograde step. Finances were reported to be stable.

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

It was resolved that the next ordinary meeting would be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016, starting at 7:30pm, the venue being Rainhill Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

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Chair of the Parish Council  
5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

## Merseyside Police Report for Rainhill Parish Council Meeting Monday 5th September 2016

Area: Rainhill

Month: July 2016

	2015	2016	Diff	% Diff	Description
Burglary Dwelling	1	4	3	300.0	1) Rear door forced - car keys stolen - Martin Close - vehicle later found crashed in Second Ave. 2)Ground floor kitchen window forced - St. James Mount - car keys & car stolen 3)Side kitchen window forced - Warrington Road - T.V.,laptop, handbag with car keys & 2 vehicles stolen 4)Garden chair used to climb & force upstairs bedroom window - St. James Road - money, watch, car keys & car stolen
Burglary Other Than A Dwelling	1	3	2	200.0	1)Offenders have unsuccessfully attempted to saw off grills at front of shop - Station Street 2) Shed door forced & broken into at nursing home - Sherdley Court, Rainhill Rd - nothing stolen 3)Bolt cutters used to break into cages at Mersey Waste, Tasker Terrace - 50 car batteries & 3 TV's stolen
Criminal Damage	6	5	-1	-16.7	1)Paint sprayed on a vehicle - Toftwood Gardens 2)Vehicle damaged - Renwick Avenue - believed to be connected to relationship breakdown 3)Witnessed damage to vehicle - Rainhill High school - ongoing dispute between pupils 4)Unknown person has sprayed wall & vehicle with spray paint - Coylton Avenue 5)Unknown person has damaged vehicle tyres - Deepdale Drive
Drugs	0	1	1	100.0	Stop check on vehicle - cannabis located - driver no insurance - Stapleton Road
Other Theft	9	3	-6	-66.7	1)Unknown person has stolen 5 climbing plants from garden - Amanda Road 2) Kettle & cups stolen from Premier Lodge Warrington Road 3)Texaco garage - making off without payment
Business Robbery	0	0	0	0	
Personal Robbery	0	0	0	0	
Vehicle Interference	0	0	0	0	
T.F.M.V.	3	1	-2	-66.7	VRM plates stolen from motor vehicle - Commercial Hotel, Warrington Road
Theft From Person	0	0	0	0	
Theft Shop	0	1	1	100.0	1) Offender makes off without payment - Co-op Warrington Road
T.O.M.V.	0	0	0	0	
Total	20	18	-2	-10.0	
ASB	18	6	-12	-66.7	

# RAINHILL PARISH COUNCIL - CLERK'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2016

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The Clerk's report is in two parts:

- The first part relates to actions that have already been taken. These items will not have a corresponding Agenda item and shouldn't need any further discussion.
  - The second part relates directly to Agenda items and is intended to assist any discussion of Agenda items. These notes are for information only and should only be discussed as each Agenda item is reached.
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## **PART 1 - ACTIONS TAKEN**

### **5. CLERKS REPORT**

All actions resulting from resolutions made at the 25th July ordinary meeting have either been completed or are in progress. Additionally I can report the following:

#### **5.1 PARKING ISSUES ON ST.JAMES ROAD**

Following contact with St.James Church, it was identified that the parking problems appeared to be associated with a Dance School who rent the Church Hall. A letter was sent to the Dance School, who have agreed to pass a message to the parents asking them to park more considerately. However, they felt that the parking issues related not only the Dance School, but also parents collecting children from St. Ann's School and patients attending the doctor's surgery.

#### **5.2 RENEWAL OF INSURANCE**

The insurance policy is due for renewal on 18 September 2016. We are currently in the third year of a five year contract with Zurich Insurance. Last year the renewal premium was £952.02, and this year it is £1010.69 which is an increase of 6%. This rate is considered favourable to other options. I have included the payment in the table for authorisation.

I attended a free workshop on insurance provided by LALC. This has led to the conclusion that the insurance situation needs to be overhauled: accurate valuations on assets obtained, ensure the assets register is up to date, etc. This could incur costs in obtaining valuations. I will assess the work involved and bring it to a future meeting.

#### **5.4 WEBSITE CONSULTANCY & SUPPORT**

As you will be aware, I update the website on a regular basis with information and news items, and also publish notices for legislative purposes. However, more technical jobs can be beyond my capabilities and we currently pay a small Consultancy and Support Fee each year to Mr Brian Walsh to provide support when needed. I have confirmed that Mr Walsh is prepared to continue with the current arrangement and have included a payment of £50 in the table for authorisation. The site has recent been updated to condense the Council minutes lists, they are now presented under headings for each year. Mr Walsh has indicated that he will happily undertake any improvements suggested, if possible.

#### **5.5 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON**

The Christmas lights switch on in the village takes place on the last Friday in November, which this year falls on the 25<sup>th</sup>. I have invited the children from St. Ann's School to accompany the switch on with songs, and the invitation has been accepted. I will send an

email to the head teachers of each of the other primary schools, informing them of this year's event and inviting them to attend.

I have discussed the arrangements with the Landlady at the Victoria Hotel, who has confirmed that the usual arrangements can be accommodated. Councillor Shields has agreed to provide the music and public address system. Donations are usually offered to those taking part and will be presented for authorisation following the event.

#### **5.6 WORLD HERITAGE STATUS APPLICATION FOR RAILWAY LINE**

A letter was sent to the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Trust, asking for their assistance in making an application to UNESCO for World Heritage Status, and offering any assistance we are able to provide. Information was also provided on the planned celebrations in 2019, with a request for support. A response has not yet been received.

#### **5.7 FOOTPATH AT TWO BUTT LANE**

The flooding witnessed on the new footpath at Two Butt Lane open space has been reported to St.Helens Council and the contractor has been recalled to undertake further work. I will report further when the outcome of investigations is known.

#### **5.8 GUIDANCE ON PRE-DETERMINATION OF PLANNING ISSUES**

This advice relates specifically to Borough Councillors considering planning issues at a Parish Council level. Legislation on 'predetermination' is contained in the Localism Act 2011, which provides that a decision maker is not to be taken to have had, or to have appeared to have had, a closed mind when making a decision.

To this end, I have previously advised that it would be best practice for Borough Councillors, involved with Planning Committee, to avoid being involved with planning issues at a Parish level.

However, I have taken advice from St.Helens Council legal section, and consider that this previous advice is over cautious. The planning protocol for St.Helens Council, para. 3.8 provides that 'Those members of the Planning Committee who are also Parish Councillors, and may happen to discuss a particular Planning application prior to it being considered at the Planning Committee, should, if they wish to, consider the matter at the Planning Committee, always make it expressly clear at the Parish Council meeting that they will only be in a position to form a final view at the meeting of the Planning Committee. In such a position the Member will be treated as having a declarable non-pecuniary interest at the Planning Committee.'

Councillors should always make it clear that their consideration of an application is on the basis of the information presented before them at the time. If subsequent information becomes available, they will listen to further evidence, without prejudice. I have downloaded a guidance note prepared for another Council, if anyone would like a copy, please let me know.

In conclusion, contributing to planning discussions at Parish Council is acceptable, but Councillors must keep an open mind until a decision has been taken. This does not preclude expressing opinions at a parish level.



## **PART 2 - AGENDA ITEMS – SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES**

### **6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The following applications have been assessed and comments submitted as indicated:

An objection was submitted to the following application:

P/2016/0524 - 411 Warrington Road, Demolition of existing detached garage and Outline application for one dwelling

No comment has been submitted for the following applications and the closing date for comments will have passed at the time of the meeting:

P/2016/0550 - 21 Lawton Road, two storey side extension.

P/2016/0563 - 852 Warrington Road, to raise eaves height on existing bungalow extension to the front, and single storey rear extension; and demolition of existing workshop to rebuild new workshop with a link connecting to the house.

P/2016/0571 - St Ann's C of E Church, Warrington Road, works to trees in a conservation area, to remove 1 sycamore and 1 elm.

P/2016/0593 - Rainhill Club and Sports Lounge Warburton Hey, reserved matters application pursuant to P/2016/0173 for 10 dwellings with regard to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale.

P/2016/0602 Premier Lodge Travel Inn 804 Warrington Road Replacement of timber framed window to UPVC windows to front, side and rear.

P/2016/0606 Escape 24 Victoria Terrace, Demolition of existing single storey extension and outbuilding and erection of a new single storey rear extension.

No comments have been submitted for the following applications but they will still be open for comments at the time of the meeting:

P/2016/0613 St Bartholomew's Catholic Primary School, School Lane, erection of mobile classroom.

An application has been submitted to Halton Borough Council for Proposed Change of Use from Care Home (Use Class C2) to Asylum Hostel (Sui Generis) to accommodate a maximum of 120 persons, at the former Lilycross Care Centre, Wilmere Lane, Widnes. This is in close proximity to Rainhill Parish boundary and has raised concern amongst residents.

A number of letters (emails) of objection have been copied to the Parish Council. The main concern is that this is not the correct building or location, and the key issues raised are as follows:

Poor infrastructure – transport, amenities for residents;

Highway safety – building is located on busy junction, with no pedestrian facilities;

Lack of security, residents are free to come and go, inadequacy staffing levels;

Overcrowding – building designed to accommodate 60 people;

Rapid turnover of occupants;

Adequacy of safety measures, fire escape routes, emergency exits;

Loss of C2 bed spaces, exacerbating hospital waiting lists;

Adverse impact on local businesses, and tourism;

The availability of suitable places of worship;

Fear of Crime; and

Adverse impact on Green Belt location.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), against which all applications are considered, sets out its Green Belt policies in section 9. Paragraph 90, indicates that: "Certain other forms of development are also not inappropriate in Green Belt provided they preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land in Green Belt." This includes: "the re-use of buildings provided that the buildings are of

permanent and substantial construction.” As no alterations are proposed to the building, it is in line with this policy. However, the NPPF Core Planning Principles, set out at paragraph 17, which should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking, include: “actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable;” Given the building’s isolated location, with few facilities in close proximity, it may not be considered to contribute to sustainable development.

Members need to consider if a representation is to be submitted to Halton Council on this application.

**The Council should note the actions taken and determine if a representation is to be submitted on Halton application 16/00333/COU.**

**7. TO AUTHORISE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Payee	Description	Amount	Ref
G Pinder	Telephone	15.00	
	Salary - Sept (less Tax, NI & Pens)	1022.13	
	Photocopying	11.20	
	Anti-virus Protection	21.99	
		1070.32	TFR191
Merseyside Pension Fund	LGPS – September	387.50	TFR192
HMRC	Tax & NI (Jul-Sept)	529.67	TFR194
Scottish Power	Deepdale Drive (Rainhill Park) - Sept	21.00	STO
Npower	Martin Close (Holt) - Sept	6.00	DD
United Utilities	Rainhill Park Playing Fields – Sept	75.43	DD
United Utilities	Holt Playing Fields – Sept	6.33	STO
Hydraclean	Legionella Testing Holt Lane - Sept	51.00	STO
Hydraclean	Legionella Testing Rainhill Park – Sept	52.00	STO
Zurich Municipal	Insurance Renewal Premium	1010.69	TFR193
Brian Walsh	Web site consultancy	50.00	TFR195
BDO	External Audit Fee	360.00	TFR196

**The Council should consider approving the above payments.**

**8. TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF THE BARRIER BASKETS**

At the July meeting it was reported: that a further quote had been requested from St.Helens Council for 13 winter baskets; that Rainhill Civic Society had been approached with a view to maintaining additional baskets; and that local businesses had been approached with a view to sponsoring a basket.

It was “Resolved that, unless further offers of sponsorship are received, the idea of sponsorship is suspended. Clerk to attend meeting with Civic Society and report to future meeting.”(MIN 793)

The quote has now been received from St.Helens Council, planting and maintenance of 13 baskets for the winter season would cost: £1,241.89 (+ VAT). If this is considered acceptable, members need to consider if the whole cost is to be met from Parish Council funds, or if an approach for part funding from CIF should be made.

The Clerk attended a meeting with members of Rainhill Civic Society on 28<sup>th</sup> July, to discuss the situation with the barrier baskets. RCS wanted to thank the Parish Council for continuing to fund 13 baskets, and were keen to gauge what the public reaction to this reduction would be. If generally considered acceptable, given financial constraints, then no further action would be suggested. If residents, and particularly RCS members, were disappointed with the reduction, then it would be suggested to RCS members that they need to participate in ensuring additional provision.

A financial contribution was discussed, but dismissed as it was considered that 'hands-on' involvement would be more worthwhile. The suggestion was that RCS members plant up the baskets, as they currently do with the stone troughs close to School Lane. However, this approach raises several issues, including health and safety, public liability and the continuing maintenance problem, which is the biggest financial burden. No solution was found to the weekly watering issue.

At the meeting it was confirmed that a funding application had become available to Co-operative Society members. This allowed Co-op members to nominate a charity to receive funds locally. RCS have submitted an application to be the chosen charity, initially with the barrier baskets in mind. However, it was unclear whether this scheme would qualify. A less specific application was submitted, which covered environmental improvements through planting. If the application is successful the funding would be available to RCS in April.

It was concluded that RCS will gauge public reaction to the reduction in number of barrier baskets and take further action if necessary.

**Members should consider whether to accept the quote for winter planting of 13 barrier baskets, and whether the total is to be met out of Parish Council funds.**

## **9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON RAINHILL TRIALS 200 GROUP**

The Rainhill Trials 200 Group are due to meet on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Confirmation has now been received from Rainhill Gala Committee, Rainhill Civic Society and Rainhill Rotary Club that they are happy to support the proposed celebrations on the Whit Bank Holiday 25-27<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Northern Railway have also indicated their aim to support the event, though details have not yet been confirmed.

An acknowledgement plaque has been organised by the Panel for Historical Engineering Works, to recognise the significance of the Liverpool to Manchester railway line as an International Historic Civil And Mechanical Engineering Landmark.

The plaque will contain the following inscription:

"Opened on 16 September 1830. This railway proved to be one of the most significant developments in Transportation history. It was the first public railway for the scheduled transportation of passengers and freight between remote cities. A team led by George Stephenson (1781-1848) designed the 35-mile, double-tracked line, overcoming numerous engineering challenges, including Olive Mount, the Sankey Valley and Chat Moss. The railway established the historic reputations of many engineers assigned to its various sections.

The first ever locomotive trials at Rainhill during 6-13 October 1829 pitted the horse treadmill *Cycloped* against four steam locomotives. *Novelty*, *Perseverance*, *Rocket*. and *Sans Pareil*. *Rocket*, designed and built by Robert Stephenson (1803-1859), outperformed the others and proved that locomotive propulsion was practical. Still operating on its original alignment with many original structures, this railway established the basic format for almost all subsequent railways and rolling stock world-wide".

Until such time as Listed Building Consent can be obtained for the plaque to be permanently located at Rainhill Station, it will be displayed at Rainhill Railway Museum. An unveiling ceremony has been set for 10.00 am on Wednesday 14th September 2016. The Parish Council Chair, Ward Councillors, and representatives of Rainhill Trials 200 Group, have been invited to attend.

**For information only.**

**10. TO CONSIDER THE ACTIONS OF THE TWINNING GROUP**

The residents of Latour-en-Woëvre held a ceremony on 28<sup>th</sup> August. The annual event is the feast day of St. Augustin, the patron saint of Latour. Photographs of the ceremony have been received. At the ceremony poppy crosses, prepared by local children were laid for Lieutenants Jones and Hickes. There has been no progress on twinning the local organisations, a response has not been received from Latour.

**For information only.**

**11. TO AUTHORISE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO TSB ACCOUNT**

The balance in the Parish Council's current account with Unity Trust Bank currently stands at £89,449.38. As only £75,000 is protected under the financial services compensation scheme, I would recommend transferring £14,000 into the new TSB account.

Following the withdrawal of the Unity Trust prepayment card, I have been investigating other options. A TSB business debit card is available, free of charge, and application forms have been obtained. The card can be issued to the Clerk only, or to all three signatories: Cllr Heydon & Cllr Moore.

However, I consider that a debit card would introduce an additional risk to the Council's money. As no signatures would be required to order items with the debit card, via the internet, etc., the Clerk, or anyone with a card, would have access to all the funds in the account, without additional signatory authorisation. I would advise that this is an unacceptable risk, and would not recommend applying for the card.

The current practice of the Clerk making the initial payment for sundries and claiming back each month, presents less risk. I have checked with other Clerks and this is common practice in surrounding parishes. All transactions are evidenced with a receipt, to satisfy audit requirements.

**Members should consider authorising the transfer of £14,000 into the TSB account.**

**12. TO CONSIDER PROVISION OF A NEW BIN AT TWO BUTT LANE AND HOLT LANE OPEN SPACES**

During the tour of open spaces it was recommended that a new bin be provided at Two Butt Lane open space. A quote has been received from St. Helens Council of £454.20 + VAT. Members need to consider whether to accept the quote.

The Area Landscape Manager, at St. Helens Council, suggested that Holt Lane open space would also benefit from a bin, if sufficient Parish Council funds are available. Whilst a dog waste bin is currently provided no litter bins are present, though there did not appear to be a problem during our visit. Members need to consider whether to fund an additional bin at Holt Lane.

**The Council should consider whether it wishes to provide bins at the above open space locations.**

**13. TO CONSIDER RAINHILL TOWN PITCH HIRE FEES**

Members may recall a late item presented at the July meeting regarding a request from the Secretary of Rainhill Town Football Club to consider reducing the pitch hire fees. The item was deferred to this meeting for discussion. The basis for the request is that the Parish Council fees are based on St. Helens Council prices, which include the provision of goal posts, nets, net pegs and corner flags. As Rainhill Town provide these items themselves, they feel the fee should be reduced.

As an alternative to reduction in hire fees, the Club are looking to invest in goal posts costing £907- £2,700 and indicate that "if the Parish Council were willing to enter into a partnership for the purchase of the above, on a 50/50 basis I am sure we could manage to continue on the rates identified for pitch hire".

"We will be providing sporting facilities and health and fitness benefits to 100-150 young men and adults which has a positive benefit to us all. I hope the Parish Council can support this initiative to help the local community. Our players are 90-95% Rainhill or ex Rainhill residents."

Rainhill Town currently hire pitches at Albert Fellowes Park, on both Saturdays and Sundays. The agreed Parish Council pitch hire fees for Albert Fellowes Park this year are: Adult/Junior full share = £367.00 / half share = £182.00. This year Rainhill Town pitch hire fees totalled £910.00, which comprised 3 x half shares for under 17's and under 18's, and one half share each for the seniors and veterans.

I have confirmed with St.Helens Council that their current fees are as follows:

Adult full share = £475.00 - half share = £237.00

Junior full share = £216.00 - half share = £110.00

This includes goal posts, however, the hire of changing rooms is an additional £475.00 for the year.

For comparison, the pitch hire fees at Holt Lane are Adult/Junior full share = £627.00 / half share = £314.00. Rainhill Rockets Seniors currently hire one half share. The Parish Council has an agreement with Rainhill Rockets JFC to have full use of pitches and changing facilities, free of charge, in exchange for undertaking cleaning, caretaking and key holder responsibilities (MIN: 804, 22.2.10).

Rainhill United JFC benefit from a similar arrangement of using Albert Fellowes Park free of charge, in exchange for undertaking cleaning, caretaking and key holder responsibilities. This agreement has been in place since pre-2009.

**Members should consider if they wish to offer any concession on 2016 fees to Rainhill Town, or if they wish to contribute towards goal posts, or neither.**

**14. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR BASKETBALL COURT**

The following request has been received:

"In Rainhill there are no council/government owned sports facilities unlike St.Helens and Prescot where they have Sutton Leisure, Prescot Astro etc. Rainhill could benefit from facilities such as an outdoor basketball court to increase the popularity of the already growing sport and add variation to the sporting schedules of residents. If a basketball court is considered to be built, I would recommend it's location to be on the "Jones Field", this

location would be suitable because the inadequate hoop that is already there would be replaced and the popularity of the field would ensure the new court to be heavily used. To counteract vandals cutting down or damaging the nets on the hoops I recommend using chain nets. Chain nets are a staple feature of outdoor courts in America where basketball is the most popular sport, so their record for deterring vandals is extraordinary. I would hope the court would feature two ten-foot hoops with chain nets and court markings that are regulation with collage rules.

In the near future I hope you consider my proposal of building this court to get the young people of Rainhill more active."

St.Helens Council have confirmed that there is visual evidence that the courts around the borough do get used by young people. The 2015 Active People results, a national survey, showed:

"For example in basketball, we are now working closely with a number of charities and these results show that basketball is on the rise, up 21,800 to 152,900 a week – especially among young people in school and further education."

Unfortunately, local data is not readily available. This is the only request of this nature that has been received.

The cost of similar projects, provided elsewhere in the Borough recently, has been in the region of £50,000, however, grants may be available to contribute toward the cost, no steps have currently been taken to assess the criteria, etc., for such grants.

Members should consider whether the provision of a basketball court is a project they wish to pursue. If so, is Albert Fellowes Park the preferred location? Would members prefer to assess whether grant funding may be an option in advance of a decision on provision?

**Members should consider if they wish to pursue the provision of a basketball court.**

## **15. TO CONSIDER FUTURE OF PLANTING BEDS ON HIGHWAY VERGES**

Members may recall that a decision was taken to replace the usual bedding plants, along Warrington Road, with a scheme of mixed herbaceous shrubs (MIN: 724, March 2016). Subsequently, at a meeting of Executive Committee, it was resolved that funding was to be divided equally between Parish Council and CIF monies (MIN: 20, April 2016). The total cost of the scheme was £4591.06, divided equally at £2295.53 each. Whilst the instruction was placed, via St.Helens Council, the CIF funding was not approved and the scheme was not implemented. The beds remained empty this year, and the funds remain in the bank.

Members may wish to consider the future of planting in these beds, I have discussed alternatives with St.Helens Council and offer the following options for consideration.

I am not aware of any adverse comments regarding the lack of planting this year, and members could consider leaving the beds empty.

Alternatively, a scheme of mixed herbaceous shrubs could be considered, which would cost a similar amount to last year.

Initial cost = £4591.06

Annual maintenance cost = £909.90 (plus annual inflation)

A third option is to extend the areas of wildflower planting into the beds, together with early spring daffodil bulbs, an option that is being used elsewhere in the borough.

Initial bulb provision & planting = £8.28 per square metre (no ongoing maintenance).

Annual wildflower seeding & maintenance = £0.73 per square metre.

The current planting beds cover an area of 90 sqm. For the same funding as herbaceous planting (£4591) a greater area could be treated with bulbs/wildflowers, with smaller maintenance costs, e.g.

470m x 1m bulb planting @ £8.28/m = 3891.60  
470m x 2m wildflower @ £0.73/m = 686.20  
Cost for 470m run of 3m deep planting = 4577.80

(or 2m deep if bulbs & wildflower occupy same space)

If members would like to pursue any of the above options, it can be discussed in more depth with St.Helens Council, and an accurate quote obtained.

**Members should indicate their preferred future treatment of the former planting beds.**

## **16. TO APPROVE THE AUDITED ANNUAL RETURN**

The external auditors, BDO LLP, have confirmed that the audit has been completed with only minor issues arising. You may recall that the accounting basis was revised this year, necessitating a restatement of the figures. The report of issues arising received from the auditor indicates that a change was required to the comparative figures. The actions recommended are 'not to include such errors in future' – therefore, no immediate action is necessary. A full copy of the Annual Return, including the auditor's opinion, and Issues Arising Report is available for inspection (a paper copy will be available at the meeting, but if you would like an electronic copy in advance please let me know). The letter from BDO requests that there is a minute recording that the Council approves and accepts the final audited version of the Annual Return. The Annual Return and notice of conclusion of audit must be published for at least 14 days, this commenced on 1 September.

**The Council should consider approving and accepting the final version of the Annual Return and authorising payment.**

## **17. TO CONSIDER RESIDENTS COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS**

### Alleyway Project Invitation

An invitation has been received for the Parish Council to visit the alleyway project at Park Avenue/Rainhill Road/Warburton Hey. The project is run by residents who indicate: "The alley has been transformed over many years and we would like to show off our project. We wish to invite the Parish Council to visit our project. As it was Mike Doyle who helped start this project, we hope Julia Doyle can visit".

If members wish to accept the invitation, I would be grateful if you could indicate a preferred day of the week, and rough time, and I will coordinate with the residents.

### Complaint regarding dog fouling

A complaint was received regarding dog fouling on grass adjacent to the Village Hall. The dog warden was contacted and information passed on. The wardens can issue a fixed penalty notice, but need a witness statement to take action. An anti-dog fouling poster was downloaded and supplied to the complainant.

### Provision of new bench

A request was received regarding the provision of a new bench in the village. Details of the approximate cost and procedures involved were obtained from St.Helens Council and forwarded. The bench may be provided within Dane Court precinct, subject to the landowners consent and sufficient finance being available.

Mill Lane Development Concerns

Concern was expressed that a development company were offering land south of Mill Lane, adjacent to the Manor Farm, as a housing development opportunity. It was confirmed with St.Helens Council that this was only a speculative offer by the company. No decision has been made on the suitability or otherwise of the land in question for removal from the Green Belt, nor its suitability for development. The "Preferred Options" version of the St.Helens Local Plan, which will set out the Council's preferred locations for development for housing and employment and other land uses, should be available in November.

**18. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

- a) Public Open Spaces
- b) Village Hall Management Committee
- c) Rainhill Railway & Heritage Society
- d) Merseyside Assoc. of Local Councils
- e) Rainhill Gala
- f) 4F Centre

**19. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

17<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 7.30pm  
14<sup>th</sup> November 2016, (Finance meeting)  
12<sup>th</sup> December 2016