

Annual Parish Meeting
Chairman's Report
Held in Rainow Institute
On Tuesday 19th March 2019 at 08:30 p.m.

1.0 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Alan Brett, opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

2.0 Annual Chairman's Report

The Chairman then gave an account of Council business over the last twelve months:

“Good evening everyone and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. I am Alan Brett, Chair of Rainow Parish Council.

I will present an overview of the varied activities of the Parish Council since the last Parish Meeting in April 2018.

At the Parish Council meeting in May 2018, I was elected to the position of Chairman with councillor Alan Taylor appointed Vice Chairman. There have been no changes to the team of councillors serving the Parish.

The Council precept for 2019/20 was set at £11,000, the same since 2017/18.

Policing

The Parish Council continue to provide a contribution to our excellent Rural Policing Team. We support the rural policing activity through a donation for rural policing kits, with funding again shared with other parishes. The Parish Council welcome the work of PC Ric Walker and PCSO Sarah Wilson, who have overseen a significant increase in rural policing in the Parish and surrounding area, with specific initiatives dealing with issues such as theft of livestock and farm equipment.

Highways

We continue to work with Adlington and Pott Shrigley Parish Councils to share the funding of the operation of one speed indicator device (SID) that are rotated across the three parishes. We jointly fund the employment of a contractor to install and move the SIDs in accordance with an agreed rota and to provide us with the outputs from the devices. This enables us to monitor traffic speeds on the B5470 and refer any problems identified to the police.

Road maintenance remains an ongoing issue in the Parish, particularly with regard to potholes and drainage problems. At most PC meetings current issues are identified and reported to Cheshire East Highways for action.

We have worked with our Cheshire East Councillor regarding a number of highway related issues. A particular problem has been parking in Calrofold Lane which has obstructed the lane to such extent that the milk tanker has been unable to use the road resulting in the need destroy milk from the affected farm. A proposal for appropriate parking restrictions was agreed with local residents, the police and Cheshire East Highways but has since been turned down by the CEC Highways Committee. This is being pursued by our CE Ward Councillor.

The issues around the emergency closure of the B5470 led to the Parish Council setting up a team to look at resilience planning for the community. A process is being established to help deal with emergencies and disruptive planned events such as road closures, extreme weather and interruption of utility supplies. In the first instance the team is establishing a communications structure to enable information and advice to be supplied to the community quickly and efficiently.

Councillors met with the Cheshire East Council (CEC) winter maintenance officer to discuss gritting routes and provisions of grit bags and bins. CEC no longer support the provision of grit bags so locations for additional grit bins were discussed and a request for these subsequently submitted to CEC, further progress is awaited.

Other PC activities

A new noticeboard to an improved standard is now in place in the Pleasance and the condition of the other noticeboards is being monitored. We entered the Best Kept Village competition this year and was awarded

a Little Gem for Trinity Garden. Teams continue to look after the appearance of the village, including arranging a litter pick in May. The Council continues to monitor and maintain the three defibrillators in the village.

Other ongoing activities of the Council include reviewing planning applications and liaising with CEC regarding issues on the footpath network. Considerable time has been spent reviewing the proposal for a housing development on land behind the Robin Hood. We arranged for the developer to attend a PC meeting so that their proposal could be explained to ourselves and members of the public. We subsequently submitted a detailed response detailing a number of concerns, taking account of further discussion with affected residents.

The footpath group continue to monitor the condition of our footpath network and a number of issues have been reported regarding poor condition stiles and fallen trees. A particular issue has been the condition of the stone 'donkey bridge' on the Gritstone Trail (FP28) which has led to the temporary closure of the path. A sub-group of the Council has worked closely with Cheshire East and Pott Shrigley and a funding package has now been agreed, including a contribution from the PC, to enable CEC to repair the bridge retaining its historic appearance.

The Jubilee Playground team monitor the condition of the playground on a regular basis and it is also subject to an independent annual inspection. A number of maintenance tasks are planned once the weather has improved.

Raven

The Raven continues to be produced quarterly by an independent editorial group and is supported by the Council and our team of volunteer distributors ensure that every household receives a copy of the magazine.

Events

In September Rainow Parish Council held its annual Civic Service. The Vicar Steve Rathbone led the Service with Over Alderley Brass Band accompanying the hymn singing. Among the guests were the Mayor of Cheshire East, the Deputy Mayor of Poynton, Ward Cllr Hilda Gaddum, Mr David Rutley MP and Bollington Town Mayor and the Mayor's Youth Consort. Representatives also attended from our neighbouring parish councils, including Disley and Higher Hurdsfield, and village groups. In recognition of outstanding contribution to the Community of Rainow The Mayor of Rainow, Mrs Sue Grimes, was pleased to present Mr Derrick Margerson with his Civic Award, in recognition of his excellent trumpet playing in sometimes difficult conditions at the annual Remembrance Day service. Thanks to Councillors who provided the sandwiches and for the excellent cakes provided by the Women's Institute and Mothers Union.

Remembrance Day was particularly special this year marking the end of the WW1. The Parish Council worked with the PCC to pay for the order of service and organising representatives from Rainow Primary School and other groups to be present. A particularly poignant feature of this year's service was the projection of the pictures of the fallen from Rainow during the Church service. The Parish Council was well represented and we were blessed with fine weather.

In December the Council and the Church jointly organised the Christmas Tree and Crib lighting service. It was well attended and mince pies were provided by Members in the Church hall.

Closing

I'd like to thank Hilda Gaddum (Ward Councillor) for her continued high level of support to the Parish Council, providing excellent advice and helping make sure things happen! We wish her well in her retirement from CEC service come the Council elections in May. I also thank Sarah Giller (Clerk to the Parish Council) for all her hard work and commitment keeping the Parish Council operating effectively throughout the year.

Lastly, thank you to all my fellow Councillors for their hard work, support, advice and good humour throughout the year..."