



Rainow Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Main Hall,
Rainow Institute, Tuesday 15th March 2011 at 08:30 p.m.**

Present:

Nine Parish Councillors, Cheshire East Cllr Harold Davenport and the Clerk.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Brett and Cllr John Stagg.

Councillor Vivienne Law and Cheshire East Councillors Matthew Davies and Diana Thompson were not present.

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

I was re-elected for my fourth term of office at our AGM in May 2010 with Mary Marsh re-elected as Vice Chair.

Following the sad and untimely death of John Leigh a new Councillor was co-opted onto the Council, Mrs Pat Mellish.

Highways & Traffic

We continue to have close contact with the Highways Department of Cheshire East but with mixed success. Councillors have met with Highways Engineers on a number of occasions tackling them about gully emptying, road signs, gritting and potholes.

Along with most parts of the country we have again had problems with gritting of roads during the recent cold weather. This year we have had some success, after a slow start we have been able to get most roads gritted. We have also had the additional benefit of Grit Bags being deposited at strategic points which has allowed members of the community to take action where particularly needed.

Another area in which we have had some measure of success is in the cleaning of road gullies, but again we have been told that some gullies in areas where water does not accumulate will not be cleaned.

We are concerned with excessive speeding through the village. Following on from an earlier trial where it was found that a large proportion of drivers were exceeding the limit we have been successful in obtaining a grant of £3000 for the purchase of a SID (speed indicator device).

We have had meetings with the police and Cheshire East to agree on which device to purchase, how this may be used, its storage, deployment and ongoing maintenance. It is intended that we share this with other villages in the area with them paying a small charge to cover maintenance, depreciation and insurance. The SID should be in operation before the summer so keep your eyes on your speedometer!

Dog Fouling

Another issue which is a cause of much concern in the community is that of dog fouling. The Parish Council is considering another campaign similar to that carried out 3 years

ago targeted at dog owners. We are currently waiting the reprinting of the leaflets, which are issued by Cheshire East, the old ones being out of date.

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan Implementation Group has completed a review of the Parish Plan, which is now five years old, and has issued an update of the recommendations. The SID grant is the result of help from Community Action supported by the Parish Plan. It should be remembered that computer and projection equipment was provided from grants received through the Parish Plan process and these are available for use by any bona fide village organisation. These are looked after by the Ravens and any enquiries for loan of the equipment should be directed to them. The Raven magazine continues to be a great success with issue no.14 the spring edition due out soon. A lot of this continuing success is down to the skill and efforts of the original editorial team of Ian Brammer, Tony Nicol, Bob Langstaff and now those of the newly extended editorial team. They and the many other contributors give their efforts voluntarily.

The Parish Council continue to give financial support to the publication although the editorial team are having a good deal of success in attracting advertising from local people and businesses and our contribution has been reduced accordingly. We have recently been successful in obtaining a grant supporting the Country Walks feature. Nevertheless finance is a continuing challenge and the future of the magazine does depend on the team continuing to find advertising support.

Local Government Action

The PC has maintained a significant involvement in the Cheshire East Unitary Council.

With the drive by Local Councils to reduce their financial commitments we are being faced with the prospect of most non-statutory services being discontinued. This is coupled with the Council also offering the devolution of some of the statutory services including the transfer of council owned/run facilities. We have attended a number of meetings hosted by Cheshire East in an attempt to better understand this policy move and we will be meeting them again this month. There are some pilot projects in progress eg at Nantwich and these are being watched with keen interest. It is likely that the question of devolution of services will only affect larger towns and villages but, with the possibility of the smaller villages purchasing certain services from the larger or the grouping together of smaller villages we have to remain alert to what is happening.

This comes at a time when the governments Localism Bill is making its way through the House of Commons. This Bill attempts to change the way in which local government operates. It is the general view of most T&PC's through NALC that some key aspects of the bill will require further thinking and modification. We have attended budgetary and consultative workshops and other development meetings. We have also responded to consultation documents issued by the Cheshire East and Peak Park authorities.

We are represented on the Macclesfield LAP and the newly formed Area Management Group (said to be the policy forming group within the LAP.)

One of our Councillors continues to act as a Trustee on the Cheshire Community Action board. This organisation still covers all of Cheshire and has been instrumental in helping us in gaining grants and advice.

We have been told that the council elections due to take place on the 5th May will be conducted on the new ward arrangements brought in late last year. The new Electoral

Registers were due to be published at the beginning of March. Under these changes Rainow will fall under a new Sutton Ward together with the parishes of Macc. Forest & Wildboardclough and Wincle.

There will also be at the same time elections of Town & Parish Councils including our own. There is a procedure for those members of the community who wish to stand as candidates for the Parish Council which can be obtained from the Parish Clerk Sarah Giller.

Cheshire Community Awards

The village received two awards this year one for the Raven which was judged to be the best community newsletter in Cheshire (no mean achievement) along with a cheque for £50 plus a Little Gem award in the Best Kept Village Competition for the War Memorial Garden

The Mount Pleasant Phone Box

We are now the proud owners of the telephone box at Mount Pleasant. Following suggestions from the community we are considering how best to convert this into a book exchange.

A small team of volunteers will shortly be meeting to work out how best to get the project off the ground.

KRIV

This project on which we have remained an active partner for over 7 years has now effectively completed its work and it is now entering into a 5 year maintenance period. It has achieved a great deal including the restoration of many heritage features, the production of a heritage map and booklet plus a educational school pack. The work still involves the group of volunteers who meet every Friday giving of their time freely

Meetings and Events

Councillors have attended a number of conferences and meetings over the year;

- Town & Parish Council Conference.
- Local Strategic Partnership Assembly
- Macc.Area Management Group meeting
- Macc LAP Meetings
- Cheshire East Forum & Budgetary Meeting
- ChALC Executive and Area meetings.
- KRIV Steering Group Meetings
- Peak Park Forum

We also held our fourth Civic Service Ceremony in September, which was again rated a great success by locals and visitors alike. A big thank you to Judy Wilkinson, Janice Taylor and the many behind the scenes people who, once again made this occasion a great success and demonstrated how well the community can work together.

We were proud to be the host to two MP's and two Mayors along with many other representatives of neighbouring Town & Parish Councils.

We are consulted on planning applications by Macc. Borough Council and Peak Park and make regular monthly visits to the various locations within the village. We are told that although we don't have the last word our views are taken account of.

It is perhaps a sign of the times that these applications have continued to reduce over the past year which makes it two years in succession that this trend has continued.

We are represented on the following;


- KRIV Steering Group
- Macc. Local Area Partnership (LAP)
- Macc. Area Management Group
- ChALC Macclesfield & Trafford Area Committee
- ChALC Executive Committee
- Rainow Institute Committee
- Cheshire Community Action

Finally, Parish Councillors are being called upon to play an ever greater part in local government, carrying out all of these activities on a voluntary basis and in their own time and I would like to express my thanks both personally and on the communities' behalf for their efforts and support.

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There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.

Minutes agreed by Rainow Parish Council as a true record.

..... Chairman