

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 8 MARCH 2022 IN THE
PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT Cllr M Elliott (Chairperson)
Cllrs P Amrith B A Bartholomew G Clough G B Davis, P Davis
S Forster D H Gee D A Knowles J Peech H Ratcliffe S Smith

K A Butler (Clerk) M Haigh (Senior Admin Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE 6 Members of the Public
Cllr Sarah Allen, Cabinet Member, RMBC
Julie Pass – Neighbourhood Coordinator, Aston and Todwick

22/38 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies and reasons for absence from
Cllrs L Pitchley and R Taylor be accepted.

22/39 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairperson be authorised to sign the minutes
of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 8 February 2022 as being a
true record of the business transacted.

22/40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

**22/41 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Agenda item number 21.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public raised the following items:-

- Why are members of the public being excluded from certain Agenda items at recent meetings? The Clerk explained that this was due to the nature of the confidential business being transacted and that they are excluded in accordance with The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (s2) .
- Are there any proposals to do litter picks on Mansfield Road and Aston Way? The Clerk informed the parishioner that this was a decision for the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee but that the next litter pick was due to take place at Alexandra Park on Sunday, 13 March 2022.

A parishioner congratulated the Parish Council on the work that is being carried out on removing litter around the parish but agreed that it was an ongoing problem and that more work needed to be done. Perhaps this could be the subject for a future Agenda item for further discussion?

- A question was raised about over-development within the Parish and the problems parishioners are already facing when trying to obtain appointments at Swallownest Health Centre. The parishioner was informed that members of the public are free to object to any planning applications proposed by RMBC and that the issue of Swallownest Health Centre was a matter to be discussed at the April Parish Council meeting.
- What is the distinction between the two local household waste recycling centres? The parishioner was informed that the parish is within the Rotherham Borough Council boundary and therefore all local waste should be deposited at a Rotherham site.
- Concern about the high volumes of HGV traffic travelling through the parish was mentioned. The Clerk advised that this was a matter to be discussed later in the meeting under a separate Agenda item.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

22/42 CABINET MEMBER - RMBC

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Sarah Allen, Cabinet Member RMBC, accompanied by Julie Pass, Neighbourhood Coordinator for Aston and Todwick to the meeting.

Cllr Allen introduced herself and informed members of RMBC's commitment to working with local Councils to strengthen relationships through various groups and discussed the joint working agreement that has been in circulation since 2006 and which constantly requires updating.

Cllr Allen talked about the Joint Working Group meetings and extended an invitation to all parish councillors to attend the next Parish Council Network meeting, which was due to take place at the Lyric Theatre in Dinnington on Wednesday, 11 May 2022 (the Clerk will e-mail all members with full details of the meeting). She also invited councillors to take part in RMBC Joint Training exercises and suggested that members contact the Clerk with any suggestions for future topics for these meetings.

Cllr Allen then addressed the items raised by members of the public during the public participation session and gave her understanding on the various issues identified:

- Parishioners should not travel to household waste recycling centres outside the Rotherham Borough due to paying their Council tax (which includes waste) to RMBC.
- A request can be made for RMBC Enforcement Officers to come and see for themselves the litter issues identified; if the Parish Council inform them of specific locations/times when the problem is at its worst they will be able to come and monitor the situation.
- Dog waste may be deposited in the new black metal bins that are being situated throughout the borough, they have a visible notice on these bins informing members of the public that it is acceptable to put dog waste in these bins.

Members' comments and questions to Cllr Allen included:-

- Why is there a lack of information being received by Parish Councils from South Yorkshire Police? A written report updating councillors on what is happening within their communities should be the minimum that is provided for each parish council meeting.

Cllr Allen agreed that she would take this matter up on behalf of the Parish Council with the Neighbourhood Chief Inspector Sharron Wood. Julie Pass also agreed to speak to the relevant parties attending this week's Ward/CAP meeting.

- The issue of anti-social behaviour outside Aston Academy was discussed. Julie Pass agreed that this was something she could discuss with the Co-ordinator who goes into schools. She will report any feedback to the Clerk in order for her to inform members of the outcome.
- Discussion took place regarding HGV's travelling through the parish. (Minute 22/53).

Following discussion Cllr Allen thanked members for inviting her to the meeting and confirmed that she is available to attend future meetings of the Parish Council whenever it was felt her input may be beneficial to members.

The Chair thanked Cllr Allen and Julie Pass for their attendance and they left the meeting.

22/43 ONGOING ISSUES

- The Clerk informed members that she had contacted the Land Terrier at RMBC to establish ownership of the grass verge at the top of Brookhouse Road (owned by RMBC, leased by Pinders Schoolwear). She also has a meeting arranged with members of the History Group to discuss the issue of the memorial to remember North Staveley Colliery on Monday, 14 March.
- The Clerk confirmed that she had e-mailed schools in relation to a Memorial Garden at Burgoyne Park and that she awaits their response. She will update members as soon as she receives feedback.
- The floodlights at Burgoyne Park had not yet been replaced because the electricians were awaiting good weather in order for them to get their vehicle onto the ground at the side of the MUGA. As soon as this is possible they will carry out the work required.

22/44 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Cllr Forster had attended the last Ward/CAP meeting but there was nothing to report. All incidents should be reported to '101' or on the website. Members suggested that a greater police presence in the area might be beneficial.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that this Agenda item be carried forward to the April meeting and that the Clerk extend an invitation to the Police Commissioner to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.

22/45 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE - DISKS FOR LIGHTING COLUMNS

It had been agreed at a recent meeting of the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee to purchase platinum jubilee disks to fasten onto the lighting columns around the parish where hanging baskets are displayed.

Following consideration it was agreed that this decision be ratified.

22/46 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE – PICNIC IN THE PARK

The Recreation & Open Spaces Committee put forward a proposal at their last meeting to provide entertainment at the 'Picnic in the Park' event being held to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday, 5 June 2022.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to bring this proposal back to the next meeting of the Parish Council when the Clerk would have a better understanding of the finances available to fund such an initiative.

Cllr Bartholomew confirmed that the choir that she attended had agreed to attend the lighting of the bonfire beacon and sing the 'Jubilee Song' on Thursday, 2 June, at 9.45 pm.

22/47 DISINFECTING PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Clerk informed members that the attendants currently disinfect the play equipment in the parish recreation grounds twice weekly.

Following discussion it was agreed that now all Covid restrictions have been lifted it is only necessary for the attendants to carry out this procedure once a week for the foreseeable future.

22/48 ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL ATTENDANTS UNIFORM

The Clerk reported on the proposed purchasing of Parish Council uniform for the attendants to wear when carrying out their duties around the parish. This will hopefully raise the profile of the work of Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council and show parishioners where their money is being spent.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk firstly sees if she can get some form of sponsorship towards the uniform, if unsuccessful go ahead and purchase it from a supplier.

22/49 APRIL ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to move the April Ordinary Parish Council Meeting to Tuesday, 5 April 2022.

22/50 LETTER FROM AUGHTON EARLY YEARS CENTRE

The Clerk reported a letter received from Aughton Early Years Centre which specified where Parish Council funding had been spent.

Following consideration it was agreed that the Parish Council continue to provide future funding to the Centre going forward.

22/51 RMBC GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Clerk presented the Grounds Maintenance contract provided by RMBC.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to accept the 3 year contract at the reduced rate.

22/52 LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Clerk updated members on the legionella testing that had recently taken place and the findings in the reports received.

Following consideration it was agreed that the company who had carried out the risk assessments be asked to assist in producing the required logbooks and policies that have to be put in place at each of the locations identified.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the company and get on with the necessary actions as soon as possible.

22/53 ITEMS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

- Cllr G Davis asked that meeting times be consistent throughout different committees. Following discussion it was agreed that timing should remain as it is for now but that further consideration is given to this issue after terms of reference have been discussed for each committee at the May Parish Council meeting.
- Cllr G Davis informed members of the increasing number of HGV's and learner HGV's travelling through the parish rather than using Aston By-pass to reach their destinations. Cllr Allen suggested that Ward Councillors working together with the RMBC Road Traffic Team would be the best option to try and alleviate the problem and that they should be asked to come out and carry out a traffic count through the parish.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk ask RMBC to carry out a traffic count in the area and write to the HGV Training School on Mansfield Road to ask if they are able to re-route to the By-pass whenever possible. The Clerk would update members at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

22/54 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

There were no Police Officers present and no update had been received by the Clerk.

22/55 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 7 – 10 (2021/22)**.

At the time there were no comments to record on the applications listed, however it was agreed that the Clerk contact the RMBC planning officer to ascertain whether Lidl were now in direct contact with the borough concerning their application.

22/56 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £18,610.74 be approved.

22/57 CLERK UPDATE

The Clerk updated the meeting as follows:-

- The YLCA conference is on Friday, 25 March 2022. Any members wishing to attend please inform the Parish Council office as soon as possible.
- Nature Recovery Rotherham are contacting local Councils to assist them in the current ‘Nature Emergency for Rotherham’ initiative. Following consideration it was agreed that they be invited to a future Parish Council meeting in order to see what can be done in the Aston-cum-Aughton area.
- There are proposed resurfacing works from the Warren on Worksop Road to the junction with Aughton Lane. As soon as she is made aware of the dates this work is to be carried out she will inform members accordingly.

22/58 TREE BETWEEN HERON HILL LEADING UP TO THE CHASE

The Clerk updated members on the current situation regarding the felling of the tree on parish council land between Heron Hill and The Chase.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk await the report from the complainant’s tree surgeons and carry out her own further investigations prior to a final decision being made on the felling of the tree at the May Parish Council meeting.

22/59 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Clerk requested that any suggestions for future Agenda items be received in the Parish Council office no later than Monday, 28 March 2022.

Cllr Bartholomew - Swallownest Health Centre.

22/60 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 5 April 2022 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.10 PM

L Pitchley

5 April 2022

SIGNED **DATED**