

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2023 IN THE
PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT Cllr L Pitchley (Chairperson)
Cllrs P Amrith G B Davis M Elliott S Forster D A Knowles
H Ratcliffe S Smith R Taylor

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

IN ATTENDANCE 3 Members of the Public
Alexander Stafford, MP for Rother Valley
Ian Sanderson, Caseworker for Alexander Stafford MP

23/44 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies and reasons for absence from
Cllrs B A Bartholomew P Davis D H Gee and J Peech be accepted.

23/45 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairperson be authorised to sign the minutes
of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14 February 2023 as being a
true record of the business transacted.

23/46 MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairperson be authorised to sign the minutes
of the Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 28 February 2023 as
being a true record of the business transacted.

23/47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr G Davis declared an interest in respect of Agenda item number 8.
Cllr M Elliott declared an interest in respect of Agenda item number 8

**23/48 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

No items.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public raised the issue of dog litter being left on footpaths close to
Marlborough Rise, Aston.

Cllr Pitchley advised that she would bring the matter up with Aston and Todwick
Ward members, Cllrs Josh Bacon and Aaron Barker, to see whether a replacement
dog bin could be provided for that area.

The Chairperson then invited Alexander Stafford MP to address the meeting.

Following his introduction, Alexander Stafford MP highlighted the concerns of his constituents over road safety on the A57, Chesterfield Road, near Elmwood Farm Public House. He informed members of his campaign to get a pedestrian crossing installed there and asked that the parish council work in collaboration with him to gain the support of RMBC in securing funding for this initiative.

The Clerk advised that the ePetition is now live on the parish council website and also on the Facebook page. She advised that the parish council's approach to raising the profile of this issue and progressing the matter further would be discussed at next month's full Parish Council meeting. It was agreed that Alexander Stafford MP be sent a copy of the Minutes from the next meeting so that he is aware of any resolutions made.

Councillors Taylor & Pitchley in their capacity of RMBC Ward Members advised Mr Stafford that they had been requesting a pedestrian crossing at that point with RMBC Traffic Department for several years.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

23/49 ONGOING ISSUES

- The Clerk informed members that work has commenced on the improvements to the Rosegarth shopping area. It is anticipated that this work will continue for the next 15 weeks.
- The Clerk advised that she has now attended training regarding Martyn's Law. RMBC will also be providing training sessions for parish councillors to attend and as soon as these dates are known she will email all members.
- Unfortunately, the Parish Council have been unsuccessful in their bid to secure funding from the Veolia Grant for Lodge Lane Recreation Ground.

23/50 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

- The Clerk presented a paper detailing the Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 28 February 2023. Following consideration it was agreed that the report be noted.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £25,349.51 be approved.
- The Clerk presented a report detailing payments she has made in March 2023 on behalf of the Parish Council. Following consideration it was agreed that the Clerk should be reimbursed as per the list submitted to members.

23/51 SWALLOWNEST BOWLING CLUB

The Clerk advised members that she has been informed of a worm infestation on the bowling green and that they have received costings in excess of £1,000.00 to rectify the problem. They are requesting the parish council assist them in paying this amount.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk obtain more information from the Bowling Club about the likely recurrence of the problem in the future and ask that going forward they submit any requests for funding from the parish council prior to having the work undertaken. The matter will be discussed further at next month's Parish Council meeting.

23/52 GRIEVANCE POLICY

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the Parish Council's Grievance Policy.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's Grievance Policy be agreed/confirmed.

23/53 DISCIPLINARY POLICY

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the Parish Council's Disciplinary Policy.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's Disciplinary Policy be agreed/confirmed.

23/54 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the Parish Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's Equality and Diversity Policy be agreed/confirmed.

23/55 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the Parish Council's Freedom of Information Policy.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's Freedom of Information Policy be agreed/confirmed.

23/56 MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the Parish Council's Model Publication Scheme.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's Model Publication Scheme be agreed/confirmed.

23/57 SWALLOWNEST COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Clerk advised members that the lease for Swallownest Community Centre with RMBC is due for renewal imminently. The Committee are attempting to obtain an asset transfer for the building however they are finding it extremely difficult to contact officers at RMBC.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk speak to RMBC on behalf of Swallownest Community Centre with a view to progressing the matter further. She will update members on the outcome of her negotiations at the next meeting.

23/58 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Knowles advised that he had been approached by a parishioner asking why the noticeboard in Aughton is in situ on the outskirts of the village rather than being located in a more central position, i.e. on the land adjacent to Oceans Fish bar?

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk endeavour to find out who owns the land in question and that if councillors know of any other area that requires a noticeboard, that they inform her prior to her submitting a planning application to RMBC. The matter will be discussed again at next month's Parish Council meeting.

23/59 REQUEST FOR BENCHES AT BURGOYNE PARK

The Clerk reported correspondence from a resident seeking to have a couple of metal benches installed lower down on the field at Burgoyne Park.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk obtain quotes for purchasing new benches and bring the matter forward for approval at the next meeting of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee.

23/60 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

There were no police officers present and no reports received. However, members were advised that a new police officer would be commencing duties in Aston-cum-Aughton in the very near future.

23/61 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 07 – 10 (2022/23)**.

At the time there were no comments to record on the applications listed.

23/62 CLERK UPDATE

The Clerk updated the meeting as follows:-

- The fitness equipment has now been removed from Burgoyne Park. The cost for removal was £500.00 less than originally quoted.
- The site visit for the Skatepark was postponed last week due to the weather, hopefully it will take place next week.
- The tree on the snicket between Heron Hill and The Chase has now been felled. All parties are happy with the outcome.
- The Aston and Todwick Ward/CaP meeting is to take place via Teams on Thursday, 16 March, at 4.00 pm. It was agreed that the Clerk attend on behalf of the parish council.
- An Emergency Planning Session will take place with RMBC via Teams on Tuesday, 25 April 2023. The Clerk will email the link to members when she has the information available.
- Cllr Elliott and herself have recently met with the new Climate Change Officer for RMBC. At the meeting it was agreed that Aston-cum-Aughton be the first parish council they work with on climate change.
- End of year closedown is scheduled for Friday, 14 April 2023. The Internal Auditor is due to attend some time week commencing 24 April.

23/63 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Clerk requested that any suggestions for future Agenda items be received in the Parish Council office no later than the Monday of the week prior to the next parish council meeting.

23/64 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 18 April 2023 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.20 PM

L Pitchley

18 April 2023

SIGNED **DATED**