

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2022 IN THE
PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT Cllr L Pitchley (Chairperson)
Cllrs P Amrith B A Bartholomew M Elliott S Forster
D H Gee J Peech

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

IN ATTENDANCE 6 Members of the Public

22/111 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies and reasons for absence from Cllrs G B Davis P Davis D A Knowles H Ratcliffe S Smith and R Taylor be accepted.

22/112 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairperson be authorised to sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 10 May 2022 as being a true record of the business transacted.

22/113 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

22/114 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that Agenda item number 26 be exempt from Press and Public under Public Bodies to Meeting Act, Schedule 2.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public raised the following items:-

- Who is responsible for the maintenance of mileposts throughout the village? The Clerk believed this to be RMBC and she offered to e-mail them accordingly.
- Concern was expressed over the steps separating the car park from the shops at Townend where an elderly gentleman had recently lost his footing and had to go to hospital with his injuries. The Clerk agreed to e-mail RMBC to check whether the area is DDA compliant.
- Compliments were conveyed to the Parish Council and its employees on the work that had been undertaken at Aston Cemetery.
- Thanks were conveyed to the Parish Council over the reduction of litter and the continuance of community litter picks throughout the village.

- The problem over recent road closures for maintenance works was highlighted. The Clerk advised the resident that she would e-mail RMBC Head of Highways to inform them of the disruption caused.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

22/115 ONGOING ISSUES

- The Clerk advised members that she has not received any entries to design the proposed Memorial Garden at Burgoyne Park and suggested that this may be a project for the Parish Council to undertake in 2023?
- The Clerk also confirmed that she has had no further contact from Swallownest Health Centre.

22/116 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2021/2022

The Clerk presented a report she had received from Voluntary Action Rotherham examining the Parish Council's Accounts and Accounting processes for 2021/2022.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the report of the Internal Auditor be noted/accepted.

22/117 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2021/2022

The Clerk asked that consideration be given to the approval of the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2021/22.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's Annual Internal Audit Report for 2021/2022 be formally approved and presented to the external auditor – PKF Littlejohn LLP.

22/118 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/2022 (ANNUAL RETURN, SECTION 1)

The Clerk asked that consideration be given to the approval of the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Return (section 1).

Following consideration of each statement if was agreed to answer 'yes' to numbers 1 to 8 (9 being not applicable).

It was **RESOLVED** that the Annual Governance Statement, section 1 of the Annual Return, be formally approved and appropriately signed for presentation to the external auditor – PKF Littlejohn LLP.

22/119 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2021/2022 (ANNUAL RETURN, SECTION 2)

The Clerk presented the Parish Council's Accounting Statements contained in the Annual Return (section 2).

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Accounting Statements for 2021/2022, section 2 of the Annual Return, be formally approved and

appropriately signed for presentation to the external auditor – PKF Littlejohn LLP.

22/120 APPROVAL OF BACS PAYMENTS

The Clerk asked that consideration be given to the approval of her making BACS payments to specific bodies who receive regular payments from the Parish Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be authorised to make such payments as required on the receipt of invoices.

22/121 LONDON BRIDGE POLICY

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the Parish Council's Operation London Bridge policy.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's Operation London Bridge policy be agreed/confirmed.

22/122 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.

22/123 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the Parish Council's Equal Opportunities policy.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's Equal Opportunities policy be agreed/confirmed.

22/124 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the Parish Council's Complaints Procedure.

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

22/125 APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTARY ACTION ROTHERHAM 2022/23

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the appointment of Voluntary Action Rotherham to carry out an interim and final internal audit on behalf of the Parish Council for 2022/23.

It was **RESOLVED** that Voluntary Action Rotherham be appointed to carry out this work for 2022/23.

22/126 GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Clerk informed members that another member cannot be appointed onto this Committee until the 2 vacancies have been filled.

22/127 SJD SPORTS SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

The Clerk had received an e-mail from SJD Sports requesting the use of Lodge Lane Recreation Ground for the entire 6 week holiday period.

Following discussion it was agreed that SJD Sports be permitted to use Lodge Lane Recreation Ground for their holiday programme but the Parish Council requests that they offer 2 free places each week to the less fortunate families within the parish.

22/128 FEEDBACK FROM THE PARISH LIAISON MEETING

The Clerk updated members on the topics discussed at the last Parish Liaison Meeting in Dinnington:

- Members found the presentation on youth provision to be very informative and requested the Clerk contact Whiston Parish Council to arrange a visit to their youth facility to see how it operates.
- The Wildlife Trust are wanting to speak to parishes to see what can be done to improve the local environment. The Clerk will invite them to attend a future Parish Council meeting.
- The Head of RMBC Green Spaces highlighted that we have a substantial amount of land in the parish therefore a tree policy/audit needs to be put in place.

22/129 PLATINUM JUBILEE DISCS

The Clerk advised members that demand for the platinum jubilee discs was high and that suggestions were welcome for any local charities who might benefit from the donations received from parishioners.

It was **RESOLVED** that all possible contenders would be put into a hat and a draw take place when all of the discs have been collected.

22/130 ITEMS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

- Cllr Forster put forward a suggestion for a one-way system to be put in place on certain roads in the parish.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk e-mail RMBC Traffic Management and Road Safety to see if they are able to suggest other measures that can be implemented to alleviate the traffic congestion during busy periods.

- Cllr Forster also asked about the area of land behind Swift Garage which is not currently being developed as part of the Millstone Park project.

The Clerk believed that the developers were in the process of trying to find out who owned this land with a view to purchasing it from them, but she would seek clarification on this and report back at the next meeting.

22/131 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

There were no Police Officers present however the following points were highlighted from the Ward/CaP meeting held on 9 June 2022:-

- New traffic camera installed on Hall Road.
- Burglaries currently lower than what has been recorded in previous years.
- Smart water is still available to properties.
- Off-road bikers continue to be an issue throughout the parish.
- Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, 7 July 2022.

The Clerk agreed to send details of future meetings to members. She would also try to find out when the Aston/Todwick CaP meetings are due to take place.

22/132 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 20 – 24 (2022/23)**.

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

22/133 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £28,925.43 be approved.

22/134 CLERK UPDATE

The Clerk updated the meeting as follows:-

- A community litter pick from the Parish Hall will take place this Saturday, 18 June, from 10.00 am – 11.00 am.
- The attendants are still putting up hanging baskets throughout the village and planting the flowerbeds.
- The Parish Council have been successful in securing a funding bid for £100,000.00 towards the proposed skatepark at Burgoyne Park. Thanks were conveyed to the Clerk and Cllr Taylor for all of their hard work putting together this bid.
- In view of the proposed projects already committed to during the current financial year the Clerk felt that no further projects should be put forward for the time being.

22/135 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Clerk requested that any suggestions for future Agenda items be received in the Parish Council office no later than Monday, 4 July 2022.

A suggestion for the next meeting was Youth Provision in Aston.

22/136 UPDATE ON THE TREE SITUATED WITHIN THE SNICKET BETWEEN HERON HILL LEADNG UP TO THE CHASE

The Clerk informed members that she had received a quote for felling the tree and was waiting for further quotes. RMBC have agreed to fund the required road closure and the tree surgeon would not require access onto the neighbouring properties to carry out the work if it went ahead.

The Clerk also advised of other works required to trees around the parish and the possible costs involved, and confirmed that a tree audit/policy was a necessity going forward.

22/137 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 12 July 2022 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.40 PM

L Pitchley

12 July 2022

SIGNED DATED