

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2022 IN THE
PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT Cllr M Elliott (Chairperson)
Cllrs G B Davis, P Davis D H Gee D A Knowles H Ratcliffe S Smith

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

IN ATTENDANCE 3 Members of the Public

22/158 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies and reasons for absence from
Cllrs B A Bartholomew S Forster L Pitchley and R Taylor be accepted.

22/159 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 12 July 2022 as being a true
record of the business transacted.

22/160 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs G Davis and P Davis declared an interest in respect of Agenda item
number 9.

**22/161 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

No items.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public raised the following items:-

- Who granted permission for the cutting of the trees in Aston Cemetery? The Clerk advised that RMBC had granted planning permission prior to work being carried out. Compliments were conveyed to the Parish Council and its employees on the state of Aston Cemetery being at its best in over 40 years.
- A query over a streetlight on Aughton Lane was highlighted. The Clerk agreed to follow this up with the officers at RMBC.
- Concern was once again expressed about the high volumes of HGV traffic travelling through the parish. The Clerk advised that RMBC were carrying out a traffic count and looking at weight restrictions being put in place throughout the parish because of Aston bypass. The road safety aspect can be put forward for councillors to discuss with RMBC next year.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

22/162 ONGOING ISSUES

- The Clerk informed members that the tender for the Skate Park at Burgoyne Park has been uploaded onto Contract Finder and the deadline is this Friday, 30 September. Following on from this there will be a public consultation and further tenders will be uploaded for the Multi Use Games Area and Playground.
- The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with RMBC about the Mile Stones throughout the parish and identified where these are located. They now have scanned images of all of them.
- The land behind the Bowling Green has now been cleared and the Clerk will obtain valuations for the land before bringing the matter back to a future Parish Council Meeting. The mass of shrubbery that has been taken from the site will be burned closer to bonfire night and local residents will be advised when this is to take place.
- The Clerk has been asked to provide a detailed drawing of what is required for a new entrance at Leonard Kyte Recreation Ground. This work is to be completed in the next two weeks and sent to RMBC Highways and Green Spaces for approval. It was agreed that the current access point is inadequate for local residents and that councillors may look at using some of their CIL money to make improvements.

22/163 PARISH HALL 'WARM BANK'

Due to the likelihood that the cost of living crisis would put unprecedented pressures on local parishioners during the forthcoming winter months a discussion took place on opening the Parish Hall as a 'warm space' for a couple of days a week when the churches are unable to provide such spaces.

Parish councillors would need to volunteer their services to cover the days when the Hall would be open with the possibility of providing hot drinks/soup to anyone using the facility. Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Hall should become a 'warm bank' subject to how much it will cost and that it needs to be kept under review going forward.

22/164 EMERGENCY FOODBANK

The Clerk presented a report on the possibility of the Parish Council opening a foodbank to provide food parcels to local parishioners who do not qualify for entitlement under the existing schemes. Local bodies will be informed of the scheme in order for them to put forward possible candidates who may benefit from receiving this assistance.

Following consideration it was agreed that the Clerk approach Aston Charities and Aston Recreational Charity for support with this initiative and keep the matter under review.

22/165 VIREMENT OF £750 FROM BUDGET 209/4503 TO NEW BUDGET HEADING

It was **RESOLVED** that £500 be allocated to the proposed foodbank and £250 towards the 'warm bank' initiative under a new cost code heading on the current budget. If any further money is required this will be brought back to a full council meeting for discussion before any action is taken.

22/166 REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM REV'D SKEET FOR WARM BANKS

A discussion took place regarding a request from the church for the Parish Council to assist in funding their 'warm banks'.

It was agreed that the Clerk make enquiries to see where they may obtain possible funding from other sources but that the Parish Council were unable to offer any direct assistance to the church for this initiative.

22/167 LOCAL PARISHIONER REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

The Clerk advised members that she had been approached by a local resident to see if the Parish Council could help in providing charging points for mobility scooters throughout the parish. Although she was aware of funding being available for car charging points the Clerk does not believe there are any such funds for scooters. She will, however, send an e-mail to Cllr Roach at RMBC to check if they have made any progress with this request as a borough-wide issue.

With regard to the request that space be made available for a radio station it was agreed that the Parish Council has no capacity to lead on this and does not have anywhere available to host such an initiative at the present time.

22/168 LIME TREES IN ASTON CEMETERY

The Clerk updated members on the problems being encountered by a local resident because of two lime trees in Aston Cemetery encroaching on his garden/fence. Following several investigations into whether the problem could be solved without the actual felling of the tree it has sadly been concluded that there is no other alternative.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk obtain figures for felling one of the trees and vastly reducing the size of the remaining tree.

22/169 APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING BY THE CLERK

It was agreed that the Clerk be given delegated powers to apply for funding, with short application dates, for suitable projects within the parish that may benefit from such funding. If successful the Clerk will bring any such applications back to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

22/170 AUGHTON EARLY YEARS CENTRE SPONSORED PLACES

The Clerk advised members of the proposed price increase for the sponsored places funded by the Parish Council for disadvantaged members of the local community.

It was agreed that the Parish Council continue to provide this funding to the Centre subject to the Clerk ensuring that funds are available within the budget for the current financial year.

22/171 SLCC PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE – FEBRUARY 2023

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk attend the SLCC Practitioners Conference in February 2023 subject to the agenda items being relevant to Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council.

22/172 LETTER OF CONDOLENCE TO HRH KING CHARLES III

It was confirmed that the Clerk submit a letter of condolence to HRH King Charles III on behalf of the Parish Council following the death of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

22/173 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

There were no Police Officers present and no update had been received by the Clerk. However members were aware of several vehicle thefts taking place throughout the parish and it was agreed that she should try to obtain further updates from the police on where the thefts have taken place.

22/174 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 29 – 39 (2022/23)**.

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

22/175 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £21,978.74 be approved.

The Clerk informed members that in future the accounts will also be made available to members of the public. It was further agreed that BACS payments could be made to the payees listed on the September 2022 list.

22/176 CLERK UPDATE

The Clerk updated the meeting as follows:-

- The attendants are currently taking out the summer bedding plants. Further work in Aston Cemetery will take place when time allows.

- This year's bonfire event is due to take place on Thursday, 3 November. Councillors are requested to assist at the event and the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee have asked the Clerk to look into the possibility of obtaining a pedestrian crossing point.

22/177 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Clerk requested that any suggestions for future Agenda items be received in the Parish Council office no later than Monday, 3 October 2022.

Cllr Smith requested that the local bus service be an item for discussion at the October meeting.

22/178 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 11 October 2022 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.30 PM

L Pitchley

11 October 2022

SIGNED **DATED**