

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2022 IN THE
PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.30 PM**

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE 3 Members of the Public

22/179 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received.

22/180 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 27 September 2022 as being a true record of the business transacted.

22/181 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

22/182 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:-

- The History Group's Heritage Fair held at the Parish Hall at the beginning of the month had been a great success and thanks were conveyed to the Parish Council and its employees for hosting the event.
- A parishioner enquired if there was any update on having a defibrillator opposite the Reading Room. The Clerk advised that she had contacted BT seeking to adopt a telephone box in which the defibrillator could be sited, but had been informed that there was nothing available within the parish at the present time.
- A discussion took place on the proposed improvements to Rosegarth Shopping Centre. Ward members confirmed that funds had been granted by the Towns & Villages Fund in 2021 for use in specific areas that require an upgrade. The Clerk advised that she had not been informed of the consultation process therefore she would contact RMBC and request an extension. In the meantime the plans and feedback forms would be made available in the Parish Hall for parishioners to view and comment upon.

- A parishioner enquired whether the local PCSO's still hold a surgery for members of the public to attend. The Clerk confirmed that these are held at the Parish Hall on the first Thursday of every month.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

22/183 'WARM SPACE' INITIATIVE

The Clerk informed members that she and Cllr Bartholomew had attended a meeting with the churches to discuss the 'warm space' initiative. She confirmed that each venue had agreed to carry out its own risk assessment and safeguarding measures.

As there was no funding available from RMBC the Clerk agreed to seek donations via social media for books, jigsaws and other board games in order that parishioners may use them whilst attending the 'warm space'.

She would now prepare a poster, on behalf of all parties, advising parishioners when and where the 'warm spaces' are to take place. Details will be posted on social media, in church newsletters, and on parish notice boards. The initiative will be reviewed after the first month of its operation.

22/184 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Clerk advised members that there are now 3 tiers to the local council award status: foundation, quality and quality gold and that Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council were very close to reaching the foundation stage which is equivalent to the old quality status.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk continue to work towards achieving quality status for the council and to make a submission to the National Association of Local Councils when she deems it appropriate.

22/185 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

- Cllr Smith informed members of the inadequate bus services now available throughout the parish following the change in bus timetables at the beginning of October. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk send a letter to Alexander Stafford MP, Travel South Yorkshire and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Authority to express the Council's deep concern about the impact that these changes will have on local parishioners.
- Cllr Amrith updated members following her meeting with the Penny Hill Wind Farm Liaison Committee in September. She informed members of the £22,000.00 community fund that is available to neighbouring parishes for projects to benefit local people. She confirmed that she has invited the representative from Banks Renewables to come along and address the Parish Council at its next meeting on 8 November 2022.

- Cllr G Davis expressed concern over vehicles parking on the grass verges at the entrance to Ulley Country Park and the restricted view this caused when attempting to join the carriageway. A possible explanation for the illegal parking was due to the parking machine now being card only.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to RMBC Highways requesting that the bollards that had been in place prior to an accident several years ago be immediately reinstated. She will also write to the Head of RMBC Green Spaces about the payment system in place and ask how the funds generated from the parking machines are spent.

Ward members noted the above points and agreed to also bring the issue up at their Ward/CaP meeting scheduled for Thursday, 13 October, and push for prompt action on a Borough Council level.

22/186 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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

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

22/187 DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the Parish Council's Dignity at Work Policy.

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

22/188 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

The Clerk presented a paper detailing the Civility and Respect Pledge.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge as outlined.

22/189 VEHICLE THEFTS THROUGHOUT THE PARISH

The Clerk updated members on recent vehicle thefts throughout the parish.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to Alexander Stafford MP and request that he contact the Police Crime Commissioner on behalf of Aston-Cum-Aughton Parish Council to express their belief that not enough police resources are available in this area.

22/190 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

There were no Police Officers present however the Clerk has been informed that police are actively patrolling the area in view of the recent vehicle thefts.

22/191 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 40 – 41 (2022/23)**.

The Clerk advised that she would e-mail a link to members regarding the application from Yorkshire Water to construct two chemical dosing kiosks at the Sewerage Treatment Works at Woodhouse Mill, in order for them to register their own personal objections if they have any.

22/192 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £12,588.54 be approved.

The Clerk agreed to investigate why the water usage at Leonard Kyte Recreation Ground was higher than the other recreation grounds throughout the parish.

22/193 CLERK UPDATE

The Clerk updated the meeting as follows:-

- The attendants have now fitted the new bench in Aston Cemetery.
- The YLCA conference attended by several councillors was found to be very informative and worthwhile, providing an insight into how other local councils operate.
- The Halloween Disco will take place on Thursday, 27 October, between 2.00 and 4.00 pm. All help will be gratefully received.

22/194 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Clerk requested that any suggestions for future Agenda items be received in the Parish Council office no later than Monday, 31 October 2022.

One suggested Agenda Item was to receive feedback from the sports coaches who had used parish council facilities during the summer holiday period.

22/195 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 8 November 2022 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.50 PM

M S Elliott

8 November 2022

SIGNED **DATED**