

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2023 IN THE
PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.30 PM

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

K A Butler (Clerk) M Haigh (Assistant Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE 3 Members of the Public

23/189 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

23/190 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 12 September 2023 as being a true record of the business transacted.

23/191 GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purpose Committee held on 17 July 2023 be approved/confirmed.

23/192 EVENTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Events & Recreation Committee held on 18 July 2023 be approved/confirmed.

23/193 FINANCE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Employment Committee held on 18 July 2023 be approved/confirmed.

23/194 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

23/195 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Agenda Item No 20.

23/196 ONGOING ISSUES

- The Clerk informed members that she has prepared a Statement in response to Alexander Stafford MP's article in Rother Valley News about the campaign to get a crossing installed on the A57, near to Elmwood Farm Public House. She advised that she is still awaiting input from RMBC on the timeline for this project, however if nothing is received imminently she will obtain approval from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council prior to releasing the Statement in the public domain.

Cllr Pitchley was able to update members that all surveys have now been carried out for the crossing and that RMBC are working on the preliminary stages of the design. Despite complexities and escalating costs of materials the project is still expected to go ahead.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk email the Head of Green Spaces at RMBC to see if they have any comments to make on the Statement prior to release and also for her to contact RMBC Head of Transportation Infrastructure Service to request an update on the surveys that have been carried out. She will update members at the next meeting.

23/197 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

- The Clerk presented a paper detailing the Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 30 September 2023. Following consideration it was agreed that the report be noted.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £106,730.91 be approved. The Clerk will reclaim VAT on the invoice from Lightmain for the Skatepark.
- The Clerk presented a report detailing payments she has made during September on behalf of the Parish Council. Following consideration it was agreed that the Clerk should be reimbursed as per the list submitted to members.

23/198 PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYOR

The Clerk advised that the public meeting with the South Yorkshire Mayor was well attended however there was no favourable outcome for parishioners wanting to get the No. 27 bus reinstated. Ward members will continue to campaign for a better bus deal for Rotherham.

23/199 EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Clerk presented the External Auditor's Report and Certificate for 2022/23. All information contained in the Annual Return was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the External Audit Report be approved and accepted. A vote of thanks was conveyed to the Clerk for the work she has undertaken in relation to the Annual Audit.

23/200 ‘WARM SPACE’ INITIATIVE

A discussion took place about resurrecting the ‘Warm Space’ initiative in 2023. Members suggested that a ‘Chatty Café’ scheme might be a better option and could possibly attract more parishioners to attend.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk investigate what the local churches and other parishes are putting in place in 2023 and bring the matter back for further discussion at the November meeting.

23/201 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2023

The Clerk advised that she has contacted Aston Churches Together to discuss arrangements for this year’s Remembrance Service. This will take place on Sunday, 12 November, commencing at approximately 10.45 am.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council arrange for the cornet player to attend and also to open the William Layne Reading Room for warm drinks following the service. The Clerk will contact Aughton Early Years Centre to see what plans they have in place for this year and she will inform members of the details. Poppy crosses will be placed on the war graves in Aston Cemetery as in previous years.

23/202 PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE – 2024

The Clerk asked that approval be given for her attendance at the Practitioners Conference in January/February 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** that approval be granted for the Clerk to attend next year’s Practitioners Conference in Kenilworth.

23/203 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

There were no matters requested by Councillors.

23/204 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

There were no police officers present and no reports received. However the Clerk advised members that she has contacted the local PCSO’s on behalf of parishioners recently and has received a swift response to her queries.

23/205 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 37 – 40 (2023/24)**.

At the time comments were made on the following application only:-

RB2023/1323 – Erection of a battery energy storage facility including storage containers and other support infrastructure and equipment – Land off Chesterfield Road, Swallownest

Members asked if the above application was the same area where the gas generators were previously sited; which caused extensive noise pollution to local residents?

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk request an extension on this Planning Application in order to gather further information about the development and to obtain residents views prior to submitting the Parish Council's position on the application.

23/206 CLERK UPDATE

- The Clerk thanked members for their attendance at the official opening of the Skatepark and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at the weekend. She is now tasked with producing evidence of the expenditure incurred and claiming it all back.
- She is submitting a further funding application for £100,000 to FCC Communities Foundation. She will keep members updated of the outcome.
- Nothing has been received back from the Police Crime Commissioner in respect of the application submitted for £10,000 towards youth work in the parish. However, she has found another possible funding source for detach work and is looking into eligibility to apply.
- The interim internal audit will take place in November.
- The Parish Bonfire and Firework Display will be held on Thursday, 2 November from 6.30 pm at Burgoyne Park.

Members thanked the Clerk for all of the diligent work she has carried out on the various funding bids on behalf of the Parish Council.

23/207 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.

One possible item for inclusion is a Pedestrian Crossing near to Burgoyne Park now that the Skatepark/MUGA is up and running.

Other items in relation to the parish cemeteries (i.e. Postboxes to Heaven/Christmas trees/ribbons/cemetery extension) will be brought forward to the next meeting of the General Purpose Committee in November.

23/208 CHRISTMAS 2023

The Clerk presented information on proposals for displaying Christmas illuminations within the parish in 2023. The proposals have already been considered by the Events & Recreation Committee but require finalisation by the full council in order to meet the deadlines for this year.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk purchase a 25 foot Christmas Tree (together with feeder pillar and Christmas Tree Sleeve) and that she be authorised to purchase lights to illuminate the tree from The Festive Lighting Company. It was further agreed that pole mounted decorations be purchased from Blachere Illumination UK (Set 1 illustration), and that sockets only are installed by Acorn Lighting. She will inform members of progress at the next Parish Council meeting.

23/209 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 14 November 2023 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.20 PM

M S Elliott

14 November 2023

SIGNED DATED