

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE 4 Members of the Public

23/01 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies and reasons for absence from
Cllrs P Amrith G B Davis J Peech L Pitchley and R Taylor be accepted.

23/02 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 6 December 2022 as being a
true record of the business transacted.

23/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

**23/04 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:-

- Are the Warm Spaces being sufficiently advertised and informing people of their purpose? The Clerk informed the parishioner that initially they had been set up for residents who may struggle during the cost of living crisis but that recently some parishes have used them more as a community hub. She suggested that the Parish Council could possibly assess ways to attract more people to attend in the future.
- Are the Parish Council diesel vehicles appropriate for the work the attendants carry out? The Clerk confirmed that she is looking into the possibilities of changing them for either petrol or electric vehicles.
- Is there any update on the siting of the telecommunications mast (planning application RB2022/1655 The Clerk advised the parishioner that the Parish

Council had submitted an objection in December 2022 but as yet she was unaware of the outcome. She will update members at a future meeting.

- Would it be possible for the Clerk to contact RMBC Pest Control about the bins that have been left unemptied adjacent to the shops on Holderness Drive? The Clerk confirmed that she would follow this matter up with RMBC.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

23/05 ONGOING ISSUES

- The Clerk informed members that no one had attended the Warm Space since the last meeting. Members were advised that the churches have also experienced low uptake. The Warm Spaces were set to run until March 2023.

23/06 PARISH COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

The Clerk presented a report on proposed investments of parish council funds.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk make applications to invest funds in the banks listed in her report with the exception of Virgin, whereby she should seek to find an alternative account with a more favourable interest rate.

It was agreed that the Clerk manage all accounts and that Cllrs Bartholomew and Smith become authorised signatories on each account.

23/07 PARISH COUNCIL CEMETERIES PROCESS

The Clerk presented a report on the current practices carried out by the Parish Council at Aston and Swallownest cemeteries when internments are to take place.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that from April 2023 the Parish Council takes the burial system in-house and cancels all prior arrangements held with Rotherham Crematorium and Cemeteries. It was also confirmed that Elliott's Grave Digging Services be employed for interments from that date onwards. The Clerk and Senior Administration Officer would undertake all necessary training to ensure the smooth transition of this process.

23/08 PURCHASE OF NEW LAWN MOWERS

The Clerk informed members of the necessity to purchase new lawn mowers for the attendants to carry out their duties to a high standard over the coming months.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk proceed to purchase new lawn mowers as required.

23/09 **FAIR VIEW DRIVE**

The Clerk advised members that she has recently received complaints from residents on Fair View Drive concerning the entrance being blocked on numerous occasions by people using the local shop/collecting and dropping off children at the nearby school.

Following consideration it was agreed that the Clerk contact the solicitor who holds the deeds for Fair View Drive to ascertain whether the Parish Council is solely responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the road. She should also obtain costings for resurfacing the road and having ‘Keep Clear’ signage implemented. The matter will be brought back to a future meeting for further discussion.

23/10 **REIMBURSEMENT OF PAYMENTS MADE BY THE CLERK ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Clerk presented a report detailing payments she made in January 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.

23/11 **APRIL ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the April Ordinary Parish Council Meeting be held on Tuesday, 18 April 2023, after the Easter holidays.

23/12 **DBS CHECKS FOR COUNCILLORS AND STAFF**

The Clerk advised members that she has now had the opportunity to investigate whether DBS checks are recommended for councillors and staff and at what cost.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that no DBS checks are required at present but if they become compulsory in the future the Parish Council will reconsider the issue.

23/13 **POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS**

There were no Police Officers present and no update had been received by the Clerk.

23/14 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 50 – 01 (2022/23)**.

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

23/15 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £28,295.16 be approved.

23/16 CLERK UPDATE

The Clerk updated the meeting as follows:-

- She will be out of the office on 31 January, 1 & 2 February 2023 due to her attendance at this year’s Practitioners Conference.
- She has applied to Veolia for a grant for the play area at Lodge Lane Recreation Ground. The outcome should be known in March 2023.
- She attended a Clerks’ meeting earlier today with representatives from RMBC Customer Services. The primary discussion point was the ongoing problems encountered by parishioners when attempting to contact various departments within RMBC and trying to find a possible solution, i.e.setting up a webchat facility, to alleviate the problem.

23/17 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Clerk requested that any suggestions for future Agenda items be received in the Parish Council office no later than Monday, 6 February 2023.

23/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.05 PM

L Pitchley

14 February 2023

SIGNED **DATED**