

**ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**  
**TUESDAY 13 JUNE 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** 1 Member of the Public

**23/126 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies and reasons for absence from  
Cllr P Amrith be accepted.

**23/127 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairperson be authorised to sign the minutes  
of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 9 May 2023 as being a true  
record of the business transacted.

**23/128 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr R Taylor declared an interest in respect of Agenda item number 20.

**23/129 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF**  
**MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Agenda item number 23.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Josh Bacon introduced himself as RMBC Ward Member for Aston and Todwick.  
The Clerk informed him that 2 parishioners had attended earlier concerning a TPO in  
that ward. She asked whether it would be possible to obtain dates and times of his  
borough council surgeries when members of the public can come along and speak to  
him direct.

**END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

### **23/130 RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee held on 24 April 2023 be received.

### **23/131 GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purpose Committee held on 30 January 2023 be received.

### **23/131(a) ONGOING ISSUES**

- The Clerk advised members that she has spoken with the Diocese of Rotherham and they have informed her that there are 2 interested parties in the land at Christchurch, Swallownest. The Diocese are seeking a buyer for the land rather than leasing it and are aware that only temporary planning permission was granted.
- A new Parish Council vehicle has been acquired and will be sign-written with the council logo/contact information as soon as possible.
- The lease at Swallownest Community Centre is to be renewed and RMBC have noted their interest in acquiring the land behind the building. Swallownest Miners Welfare have been requested to replace the fencing previously taken down.

### **23/132 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS**

- The Clerk presented a paper detailing the Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 May 2023. Following consideration it was agreed that the report be noted.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £66,507.65 be approved. The Clerk advised that VAT is to be reclaimed on the new vehicle.
- The Clerk presented a report detailing payments she has made in May 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.

### **23/133 CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Council were advised that two vacancies were currently available, three residents had shown interest but two had withdrawn.

Mr W Mawson spoke to the Council on why he would like to be a Parish Councillor.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that Mr W Mawson be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill one of the vacancies.

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by W Mawson.

**23/134 LANDSCAPE DESIGN – OLD AUGHTON RECREATION GROUND**

Cllr Taylor advised members that the Clerk and Cllr Bartholomew have already met with officers from RMBC Landscaping Department regarding the feasibility of improving the landscape at Old Aughton Recreation Ground.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk employ the Landscape Design Team to further develop this project and look into other means for securing extra funding. The matter will be brought back to the Events & Recreation Committee for further consideration as matters progress.

**23/135 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2022/2023**

The Clerk asked that consideration be given to the approval of the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2022/2023.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's Annual Internal Audit Report for 2022/2023 be formally approved and presented to the external auditor – PKF Littlejohn LLP.

**23/136 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/2023 (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).

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.

**23/137 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2022/2023 (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 2022/2023, section 2 of the Annual Return, be formally approved and appropriately signed for presentation to the external auditor – PKF Littlejohn LLP.

**23/138 MEETING WITH RMBC HEAD OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICE**

The Clerk advised members that the Head of Transportation Infrastructure Service at RMBC has requested a meeting with councillors to discuss the proposed A57 crossing.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that Ward Councillors Pitchley and Taylor attend the meeting, together with Cllrs Bartholomew, Elliott and Mawson. The Clerk will advise the date of the meeting as soon as it has been confirmed.

**23/139 LEVELLING UP FUND**

The Clerk advised members that she has contacted the officer with responsibility for levelling up at RMBC and has been informed that currently there is no information available from the Government as to whether there will be a third round of levelling up funding, nor whether Rotherham will be eligible to bid again.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk bring this matter back to a future meeting of the Parish Council should the situation change.

**23/140 PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S PERSONAL ALLOWANCE**

The Chairperson's personal allowance is currently £500 per year. Cllr Elliott has requested that during his term of office the money is spent on purchasing gifts for parishioners celebrating milestone birthdays, i.e. 100 years, or any other significant anniversaries. The Clerk will email the nursing homes in the parish to make them aware of this proposal.

**23/141 CCTV – LODGE LANE RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk informed members that there have been a number of anti-social behaviour incidents at Lodge Lane Recreation Ground recently. The attendants will re-paint anti-climb paint onto the railings to act as a deterrent however it may be advisable to install new CCTV equipment.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk obtain quotes for the installation of new CCTV and speak to Andrea Peers, Senior Neighbourhood Coordinator for this area, about similar initiatives she has underway. The matter will be taken back to the Events & Recreation Committee for finalisation.

**23/142 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Pitchley updated members about the youth provision being provided to children of primary school age and asked whether funds are available to engage outreach workers on the streets for older children in the parish.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk speak to RMBC to ascertain how much it will cost and what availability they have. She will update members of the outcome at the next Parish Council meeting.

### **23/143 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS**

There were no police officers present however the Clerk has received a report as follows:-

- 8 residential burglaries in the area.
- 1 car theft in the period 1-31 May 2023.
- Crime Prevention Stalls have been held at Swallow Wood Road, Swallownest on 12 May and at All Saints Way, Aston on 31 May 2023.
- They are currently conducting a survey in the area to gather parishioners' feedback and priorities. Survey QR codes can be found at Swallownest Health Centre, Swallownest Library, Co-op Petrol Station on Worksop Road, Co-op Food Store in Swallownest, Oceans Fish Bar in Aughton, Family Shopper on Worksop Road, Kaleido Hair & Beauty on Worksop Road and Swallownest Aldi.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **23/144 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 19 – 23 (2023)**.

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

### **23/145 CLERK UPDATE**

The Clerk updated the meeting as follows:-

- Work on the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) commences on 19 June. She will inform parishioners on social media that the work is taking place.
- The survey distributed at this year's Annual Parish Meeting is now online, it will be brought back to a future meeting of the Parish Council when more responses have been received.

### **23/146 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. Cllr Bartholomew suggested the problem of litter outside Swallownest Health Centre be considered. The Clerk offered to follow this issue up with RMBC.

### **23/147 SWALLOWNEST CEMETERY**

The Clerk advised councillors of an issue at Swallownest Cemetery whereby a number of graves have now been enclosed with borders making it difficult for the grasscutter to cut the grass in the cemetery to the high standard required.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the families concerned asking them to remove such borders as per the Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council Cemetery Regulations for Memorials in ‘Lawn Cemeteries’. A copy of which is issued with the Exclusive Rights of Burial when purchasing a plot.

**23/148    DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 11 July 2023 at 6.30 pm.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 7.20 PM**

*M S Elliott*

**11 July 2023**

**SIGNED .....**      **DATED .....**