

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2024 IN THE
PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT Cllr S Smith (Chairperson)
Cllrs S Allen P Amrith B A Bartholomew G B Davis P Davis S Forster
D H Gee D A Knowles W Mawson B Mears H Ratcliffe R Taylor

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

IN ATTENDANCE 2 Members of the Public

24/200 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies and reasons for absence from Cllrs M Elliott and J Peech be accepted.

24/201 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 10 September 2024 as being a true record of the business transacted.

24/202 GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purpose Committee held on 22 July 2024 be received.

24/203 EVENTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Events & Recreation Committee held on 23 July 2024 be received.

24/204 FINANCE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Employment Committee held on 23 July 2024 be received.

24/205 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in respect of agenda item number 16.

24/206 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Agenda item numbers 12, 19 and 20.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public raised various items which included:-

- Why does Aston not have a pit wheel in recognition of the old colliery site? The Clerk agreed to include this as an Agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.
- Are the Parish Council able to do anything about several properties within the village that are stood empty and in a state of disrepair? Cllr Allen advised the resident that she will inform the RMBC Empty Homes Officer about the properties of concern and see if they are able to trace the owners and make any progress with them.
- Can the Parish Council assist residents in dispute about overgrown trees at their properties? The parishioner was informed that if the trees are on private land very little can be done, however they may be able to gather further advice from the tree surgeons at RMBC.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

24/207 CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council were advised that a vacancy on the South Ward was available,

Mr B Mears spoke to the Council on his suitability for the role of Parish Councillor

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that Mr B Mears be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the remaining vacancy.

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by B Mears.

24/208 ONGOING ISSUES

- The Clerk advised members that she has received the conclusion to the External Auditor's Report and Certificate for 2023/24. 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. The Clerk was thanked for the work she has undertaken on the Annual Audit.
- With regard to the trees on Southlands Way, the Clerk has been asked by the tree surgeons whether they are to quote for pollarding or pruning?

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that quotes be obtained for both options before making a final decision on the way forward.

- The Uniform Bank has now been transferred back to Swallownest Community Centre. Cllr Forster advised members of a plot of land adjacent to the Community Centre, bordering the Millstone Park housing development, which, if acquired, could become a potential base to house the Uniform Bank. The Clerk agreed to contact the developers to see what their intentions are with the plot of land in question.
- The Clerk advised members that funding has been awarded for improvements to Lodge Lane Play Area. Contractors are expected to commence work on 11 November and are hoping for completion by 6 December 2024.

24/209 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

- The Clerk presented a paper detailing the Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 30 September 2024. Following consideration it was agreed that the report be noted.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £21,648.70 be approved.
- The Clerk presented a report detailing payments she has made in the past month on behalf of the Parish Council. Following consideration it was agreed that the Clerk be reimbursed as per the list submitted to members.

24/210 REQUEST TO CHANGE TIMING OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** to change the start time of the Events and Recreation Committee to 6.15 pm and the Finance and Employment Committee to 7.00 pm with immediate effect.

24/211 YOUTH CLUB

The Clerk presented a report from Youth Work Works highlighting the work being undertaken to engage with the younger members of the parish and the benefits of continuing with the Youth Club in the future.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to continue with the Youth Club however Parish Councillors would like more involvement and more input into the activities being provided for the young people. It was agreed that the Clerk speak to other Clerks and Whiston Youth Club Leader to gain further ideas and bring the matter back to the next meeting for further consideration.

A zero-tolerance approach to unruly behaviour is in place at the Parish Hall and any troublesome behaviour will be reported to South Yorkshire Police on 101.

Cllr Taylor advised that the boxing sessions have now been confirmed with another provider and they are due to start at the beginning of November.

24/212 FUTURE PROJECTS/EVENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Clerk asked that consideration be given to future projects/events that members wished to put forward which needed to be factored into the budgeting process for 2025.

It was confirmed that the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and the annual Bonfire and Fireworks event at Burgoyne Park will be included in the budgeting process. The Clerk requested that any further projects/events should be emailed to her before the January budget meeting.

24/213 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

There were no matters requested by Councillors.

24/214 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

There were no police officers present and no reports received.

Cllr Mawson cited articles from Rotherham Advertiser identifying Aughton Road as an area of concern for speeding vehicles, plus an increase in crime reported around Holderness Drive in Swallownest. It was acknowledged that the data provided in the newspapers differs vastly from the official data given at the Ward/Cap meetings, which is considered to be due to a lack of reporting of local incidents.

Cllr Allen advised that a new Divisional Commander is due to take up office at South Yorkshire Police in the next few weeks and suggested that a collective approach from the local councils might provoke a positive response. The Clerk agreed to contact the Parish Liaison Officer at RMBC, to progress the matter further.

24/215 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 37 – 40 (2024)**.

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

RB2024/1366 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Request under The Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017. Development of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Farm with Associated Infrastructure on the Yorkshire Water Services land on the north side of West Lane, Aughton

The Clerk advised that this was not a Planning Application and that RMBC Planning Department have advised that Yorkshire Water have a lot of permitted development, therefore there is a possibility that it will never reach the planning application process.

24/216 CLERK UPDATE

- The Clerk advised that the attendants are in the process of removing the summer bedding plants from around the parish.
- The Halloween Disco will take place between 2.00-4.00 pm on Thursday, 31 October 2024. Any help will be gratefully received.
- The Parish Bonfire and Fireworks Display at Burgoyne Park will be at 6.30 pm on Tuesday, 5 November 2024.
- The Probation Service are due to commence work this month repainting the gates and railings at Swallownest Cemetery.

24/217 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. The Pit Wheel suggestion will be included on the November Agenda.

24/218 FLOODLIGHTS AT BURGOYNE PARK

The Clerk informed members of an ongoing complaint from a resident of Ulley about the glare towards the rear of his property from the floodlights at Burgoyne Park. The lights were changed to LED's in 2022 and directed onto the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area), RMBC Environmental Health do not view them as a statutory nuisance however there appears to be a fault with the timing mechanism at present.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk rectify the timing fault and switch the floodlights back on as soon as possible. The matter will be kept under review.

24/219 MEMORIAL AT THE END OF ALEXANRA ROAD

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council have received complaints about the memorial site located on the public highway at the end of Alexandra Road.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contacts the parents, on behalf of Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council, to see if they would like to purchase a memorial bench for their son and locate it on a specific area of land close to Burgoyne Park which looks out towards Ulley. The Clerk will keep parish councillors informed of all negotiations.

24/220 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.50 PM

M S Elliott

12 November 2024

SIGNED DATED