

**ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**  
**TUESDAY 8 JULY 2025 IN THE**  
**PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.30 PM**

**PRESENT** Cllr S Smith (Chairperson)  
Cllrs S Allen B Bartholomew M Elliott S Forster  
D Knowles W Mawson B Mears J Peech H Ratcliffe  
  
K A Butler (Clerk) M Haigh (Assistant Clerk)  
  
5 Members of Public

**25/134 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies and reasons for absence from Cllrs G Davis P Davis D Gee and R Taylor be accepted.

**25/135 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Knowles and Mawson declared an interest in respect of agenda item number 9.

**25/136 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

No items.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident expressed concerns about a serious incident that had occurred in the early hours of Saturday morning where the perpetrators had broken into the home of an elderly couple and stolen valuable items from them. The resident was advised that a public meeting with Jake Richards MP and Oliver Coppard, Mayor of South Yorkshire, to discuss crime prevention and public transport issues in the community is to take place on Friday, 18 July, at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall.

In the meantime, Cllr Allen agreed to raise the issue at the next Ward/CAP meeting if South Yorkshire Police are in attendance and the Clerk advised that she will contact the police separately to request more patrols in the area and to see if they are able to send the Chief Inspector to address a future meeting of the Parish Council.

**END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**25/137 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 June 2025 as being a true record of the business transacted.

**25/138 GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purpose Committee held on 24 March 2025 be received.

**25/139 EVENTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Events & Recreation Committee held on 28 May 2025 be received.

**25/140 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Employment Committee held on 28 May 2025 be received.

**25/141 AUGHTON EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

The Deputy Head of Aughton Early Years Centre introduced herself to the meeting and provided an overview of the protected places programme at the Centre. She advised that they take referrals from a number of bodies in the local community to provide support for struggling families.

Members were advised that although the Centre receives early years funding from the local authority they do not get anything extra for the protected places element, which is specifically targeted at infants under 9 months old. They therefore rely heavily upon the annual contributions from the Parish Council and also from Aston Charities. They do not make any profits from the work that they provide.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Head for the update provided and she then left the meeting.

**25/142 ASTON TARA – GRANT APPLICATION**

It was **RESOLVED** that £322.00 be granted to Aston TARA towards their pie and pea event, which is open to all parishioners and is advertised on Facebook and on the noticeboard outside the Hepworth Drive Centre.

Members also suggested that Aston TARA approach the Borough Councillors to see if further support can be obtained from the Community Leadership Fund. The Clerk will put forward this suggestion when she contacts them about the grant.

**25/143 WILLIAM LAYNE READING ROOM**

The Clerk informed members that a new kitchen is currently being installed in the William Layne Reading Room and that painting should commence later in the week. She will provide an update at the next Parish Council meeting.

**25/144 OLD AUGHTON RECREATION GROUND (SPINNEY PARK)**

The Clerk advised that a surface layer of tarmac will be laid onto the existing plainings on the pathways at Old Aughton Recreation Ground (Spinney Park) during the second week of August 2025.

The Clerk has also contacted RMBC Drainage Department about the area of land that they have dug out for flood relief in Spinney Park, as there are concerns that it remains unsafe for children. She is liaising with Aughton Early Years Centre and has requested a site visit from the officers at RMBC Drainage. She will keep members updated of progress.

**25/145 LODGE LANE RECREATION GROUND – KEYHOLDER POSITION**

The Clerk confirmed that the keyholder position at Lodge Lane Recreation Ground has now been filled and that the successful candidate commences employment on Monday, 14 July 2025.

**25/146 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS**

- The Clerk presented a paper detailing the Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 30 June 2025. Following consideration it was agreed that the report be noted.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £57,706.70 be approved.
- The Clerk presented a report detailing payments she has made on behalf of the Parish Council during the past month. Following consideration it was agreed that the Clerk should be reimbursed as per the list submitted to members.

**25/147 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Mears requested that the Parish Council obtain Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) for the Conservation Area off Church Lane, Aston (area behind Aston Hall Hotel). The Clerk advised that she has emailed the RMBC Tree Officer but is yet to receive a reply. The matter will be brought back to the September Parish Council meeting.

**25/148 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS**

There were no police officers present and no update has been received by the Clerk.

Members reiterated their dissatisfaction with the service being provided by South Yorkshire Police and requested that the Clerk email the Chief Inspector to request their attendance at a future meeting.

**25/149 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 24 – 27 (2025)**.

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

**25/150 WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM**

The Clerk advised that Whitestone Solar Farm are hosting a Community Benefit Workshop at Whiston Parish Hall on Saturday, 19 July, from 1.30 to 3.00pm. She will email members with the details in case anyone is available to attend.

**25/151 PARISH TREE SURVEY**

The Clerk asked that consideration be given to carrying out a tree survey on all trees throughout the parish that fall under the Parish Council's responsibility.

It was agreed that the Clerk obtain quotes for carrying out a tree survey and also investigate the possibility of training the Parish Council Operatives to undertake this work.

**25/152 ROTHER VALLEY LIONS**

The Clerk informed members of the sponsorship package for the Rother Valley Lions community vehicle.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council do not wish to take up this particular sponsorship opportunity.

**25/153 CLERK UPDATE**

The Clerk updated the meeting as follows:-

- A Brass Band Concert with Thurcroft Welfare Band will take place on Sunday, 10 August, at 2.30pm in Lodge Lane Recreation Ground.
- From Friday, 11 July, there will be a hose pipe ban across all of Yorkshire. Parish Council Operatives will cease watering the hanging baskets once the bowser supplies have been depleted. 50 baskets in the compound will not be positioned unless there is a change in circumstances. Watering cans can be used on the flowerbeds. The ban has no effect on commercial businesses and the Clerk will keep members of the public informed on social media platforms.
- As previously advised during public participation there will be a public meeting with Jake Richards MP and Oliver Coppard, Mayor of South Yorkshire, on Friday, 18 July, at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall.
- She will be on annual leave after tonight's meeting until 21 July 2025.

**25/154 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 Chair asked for the Parish Newsletter to be included on the September Agenda.

**25/155 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 9 September 2025 at 6.30 pm.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 7.40 PM**

*S Smith*

**9 September 2025**

**SIGNED .....** **DATED .....**