

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2025 IN THE
PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.30 PM**

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

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

2 Members of Public

25/156 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies and reasons for absence from Cllrs S Allen
P Amrith B Bartholomew and D Gee be accepted.

25/157 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

**25/158 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Agenda Item No 11.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Concerns were raised regarding the overgrown condition of the pathway between Skipton Road and Main Street, Swallownest. The Clerk reported that RMBC had confirmed responsibility lies with Streetpride and Public Rights of Way, whose officers had inspected the site and found no issues. The Clerk will make further contact with RMBC, and Ward Councillor Taylor agreed to pursue the matter on behalf of the residents.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

25/159 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 8 July 2025 as being a true record of the business transacted.

25/160 EVENTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Events & Recreation Committee held on 24 June 2025 be received.

25/161 FINANCE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Employment Committee held on 24 June 2025 be received.

25/162 WILLIAM LAYNE READING ROOM

The Clerk reported that work on the William Layne Reading Room is nearing completion. The History Group will arrange the display cabinets in preparation for the Heritage Weekend scheduled for 12–13 September 2025.

25/163 OLD AUGHTON RECREATION GROUND (SPINNEY PARK)

The Clerk confirmed that a surface layer of tarmac has now been laid onto the pathways at Old Aughton Recreation Ground (Spinney Park). The contractor will be adding topsoil and re-seeding the sides of the pathways before the end of the month. New benches and trees have been ordered and will be installed as soon as they are received.

It was further noted that RMBC Drainage Department have now completed works in Spinney Park, having filled the area of land previously dug out for flood relief and replaced it with pipework.

25/164 EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Clerk informed members that all information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements. No matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements are not being met.

A vote of thanks was conveyed to the Clerk for the work that she has undertaken in relation to the Annual Audit.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Closure Notice be published for one month.

25/165 PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARDS

The Clerk advised members that the Parish Council Operatives have installed new noticeboards at four sites around the parish. In addition to the usual notices, the Clerk proposed including the contact information of all Parish Councillors, Ward Councillors and the local MP.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be granted permission to display the details of the Parish Councillors, subject to obtaining their final approval before the information is shared.

25/166 SUMMER BEDDING PLANTS

The Clerk presented a report highlighting the difficulties encountered this year due to the hosepipe ban enforced by Yorkshire Water and outlined possible alternative arrangements for the future.

Following consideration it was agreed that in 2026 the Parish Council would commission Hobsons Nurseries to provide and maintain the hanging baskets throughout the parish. The service will be reviewed annually.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council would replace the current planting schemes in specific areas to improve resilience against future climate pressures. The beds on the Warren and Main Street, Swallownest, will be replanted with box hedging after the winter plants are removed next year. The beds on Church Corner will be replaced with new pots and planters.

The Clerk will contact RMBC to enquire about the provision of a new road sign for Aughton.

25/167 BANK ACCOUNTS – COOPERATIVE BANK

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be granted permission to close two unused bank accounts with the Cooperative Bank and to transfer the funds into the Business Select 14-Day Account.

25/168 TREE PROTECTION ORDERS

Following Cllr Mears' request at the July meeting that the Parish Council seek Tree Protection Orders for the Conservation Area off Church Lane, Aston, it was agreed that the Clerk contact RMBC to request an appraisal of the area to determine if this would be possible.

25/169 CHATTY CAFE

The Clerk updated members that a Chatty Cafe will run weekly in the Parish Hall from Friday, 3 October, between 10:00am and 12:00 noon. The Cleaner/Caretaker has completed her Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate and volunteered her services. Members were advised that additional volunteers would be welcomed. Posters will be displayed on parish noticeboards and the Parish Council's social media pages to advertise the event.

25/170 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

- The Clerk presented a paper detailing the Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 August 2025. Following consideration it was agreed that the report be noted.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £53,953.47 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.

25/171 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

The Chair requested that consideration be given to reintroducing a parish newsletter, such as the Parish Natter, which was previously produced seasonally but ceased due to Covid. The newsletter could include reports from schools and churches and serve as a platform for updating parishioners on community events.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a meeting with the Newsletter Editorial Group to progress the matter further.

25/172 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

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

25/173 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 28 – 36 (2025)**.

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

RB2025/1101 – Erection of two stable blocks – Land Adjacent A57, Chesterfield Road, Swallownest

Members noted that this was a retrospective planning application and had not followed the correct procedures. The Clerk advised that she would contact Andrew West at RMBC to clarify accessibility issues regarding the Stable Blocks, and if any problems are identified she will submit an objection on behalf of the Parish Council.

25/174 CLERK UPDATE

The Clerk updated the meeting as follows:-

- The Parish Council Operatives are now removing the summer bedding plants around the parish and will commence taking down the hanging baskets in the next week or so.
- The Clerk reported that she has received several emails regarding the erection of flags on lampposts, with views both for and against the practice. She proposed posting a message on the Parish Council Facebook page advising parishioners that the Union Flag is flown at the William Layne Reading Room on most days and is only changed on specific occasions to fly other flags. A message from the leader of RMBC on the issue will also be included with her Facebook message.

25/175 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.

25/176 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 14 October 2025 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.30 PM

R Taylor

14 October 2025

SIGNED DATED