

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2026 IN THE
PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT Cllr P Amrith (Chairperson)
B Bartholomew G Davis P Davis M Elliott S Forster D Gee D Knowles
W Mawson B Mears D Pakenham H Ratcliffe R Taylor

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

4 Members of Public

26/01 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

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

26/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

26/03 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Agenda item number 17.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A parishioner enquired whether notices could be displayed in the shops on Rosegarth Avenue to encourage residents to place litter in the bins provided. The Clerk agreed to speak to the shop owners to establish whether they would be willing to display such notices.

Cllr Bartholomew advised members that the funeral of Jim Nuttall will take place on Tuesday, 20 January, at 1.00pm at Aston All Saints Church.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

26/04 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 9 December 2025 as being a true record of the business transacted.

26/05 CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council were advised that a vacancy was available on the West Ward. Four residents had initially shown an interest; however only three had formally come forward.

The three residents were given the opportunity to address the Council and speak on their suitability for the role of Parish Councillor.

Following a vote, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr D Pakenham be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the remaining vacancy.

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by Cllr D Pakenham.

26/06 SECURITY AT BURGOYNE PARK

The Parish Council currently employ a security company to undertake the locking and unlocking of Burgoyne Park. The Clerk asked members to consider whether a local resident could be utilised to carry out this procedure in order to reduce costs.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk clarify with the security company whether they would be willing to undertake the procedure during holiday periods. Subject to this, members agreed that an advertisement for the role should be drafted and publicised without further delay.

26/07 SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2027/28

The Clerk reported that she had received a consultation from RMBC regarding a proposal to fix the School Easter holidays to the two weeks prior to Good Friday, in order to align with school holiday dates in neighbouring local boroughs.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council supported this initiative and that the Clerk advise RMBC accordingly.

26/08 CHRISTMAS NATIVITIES

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council Operatives had raised concerns that the current Christmas Nativities are no longer fit for purpose and may pose a health and safety risk.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk obtain further information from the Parish Council Operatives and refer the matter back to the Events & Recreation Committee for further consideration.

26/09 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

- The Clerk presented a paper detailing the Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 December 2025. Following consideration it was agreed that the report be noted.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £32,378.00 be approved.
- The Clerk advised that there were no reimbursements due to the Clerk for the current month.

26/10 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

There were no police officers present and no reports received. The Clerk advised members that they had attended the Chatty Cafe on the previous Friday, however attendance had been low due to the inclement weather.

26/11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within lists **50 – 02 (2026)**.

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

The Clerk agreed to email RMBC to find out if the name of the new estate off Worksof Road, next to The Rectory has been decided.

26/12 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2026/27

The Clerk presented a budget which outlined the Council's previously committed/allocated expenditure, and the anticipated general/committed expenditure and income for the ensuing year.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that all the details presented within the budget for 2026/27 be accepted and approved.

26/13 PARISH PRECEPTS AND COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2026/27

The Clerk reported information received from RMBC regarding the Parish Council precept and the associated Council Tax Base for 2026/27

PRECEPT 2026/2027

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that, having considered the financial implications of all the foregoing decisions on income and expenditure, together with the estimated year-end balances, the **PRECEPT for 2026/2027 be set at £479,494 (Band D tax £107.00)**.

It was further noted that the Clerk will prepare an article for publication in the Parish Natter explaining the financial impact on parishioners, including a breakdown of costs on a week/month/year basis.

26/14 ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON RECREATIONAL CHARITY

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Knowles take up the nominated trustee position on behalf of the Parish Council on the Aston-cum-Aughton Recreational Charity.

26/15 CLERK UPDATE

- The Clerk informed members that BT have advised that the adoption of the telephone box at the Yellow Lion Public House cannot proceed until permission is received from the landlord. The Clerk will write to Enterprise Inns to seek approval for the Parish Council's adoption to go ahead.

- Members were advised that the flashing speed reduction signs for Lodge Lane Primary School cannot be installed until RMBC have carried out the appropriate strength testing on the lighting columns in that area.
- The Clerk further reported that RMBC have advised that no funds are available during the current financial year to replace or repair the Vehicle Activation Sign in Aughton. RMBC have indicated that the matter will be reconsidered in the new financial year.

The Clerk will seek clarification from RMBC Traffic Management regarding the issues encountered and will update members on the results of the questionnaire/petition posted on social media at the end of 2024, which requested residents' own experiences of traffic incidents in that area. The matter will be brought back to the February Parish Council meeting.

26/16 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 Elliott requested the Traffic Lights at Swallownest Crossroads be included on next month's Agenda.

26/17 SWALLOWNEST WORKING MEN'S CLUB

The Clerk advised members that she has been approached by the developers of the Swallownest Working Men's Club regarding two separate matters:-

- Firstly, the developers are seeking Parish Council support to take over ownership of the walkway between King Street and Nursery Road, located at the side of the new properties.
- Secondly, they have requested the use of two car parking spaces currently allocated to Swallownest Bowling Club for residents of the new properties.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that, prior to the Parish Council agreeing to either request, the Clerk should ask that a legal agreement be drawn up confirming that the walkway will remain a public right of way and that the developers will assume full responsibility for its future maintenance and upkeep.

The Clerk will also advise the developers that there is no objection in principle to the use of two car parking spaces currently allocated to Swallownest Bowling Club, however as a gesture of goodwill, they will be asked whether they would be willing to level the Parish Council King Street depot to enable the bowlers to use that area for parking over a weekend. The Clerk will keep members updated of progress.

26/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.00 PM

S Smith

10 February 2026

SIGNED **DATED**