

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2026 IN THE
PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.30 PM**

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

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

2 Members of Public

26/19 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

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

26/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs G Davis and P Davis declared an interest in respect of agenda item number 19.

26/21 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Agenda item number 19.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Revd Vicky Camber, Priest at Aston All Saints Church introduced herself to members of the Parish Council.

A resident expressed thanks to the Parish Council for the Chatty Cafe initiative, which has been well received by local parishioners.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

26/22 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 13 January 2026 as being a true record of the business transacted.

26/23 MARCH ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting take place on Tuesday, 17 March 2026.

26/24 TREETON CROSSROADS

The Clerk presented the results of the survey that had been published on the Parish Council's social media platforms seeking feedback from parishioners on incidents occurring at Treeton Crossroads. She advised that she would also contact the Clerk at Treeton Parish Council and, jointly, they would share their findings with parishioners on social media.

Ward Councillor Taylor advised that £150,000.00 has been allocated to undertake a feasibility study for improvements at the junction. He further advised that repair works are scheduled to be carried out on the bridge in Treeton, and that temporary traffic lights will be installed at Treeton Crossroads to help alleviate congestion while the works are in progress.

The Clerk advised members that transport officers from the Mayoral Combined Authority will be attending an RMBC Network Meeting on 11 March in the Parish Hall. She will email further details in due course.

The Clerk further advised that she will contact the new Head of Service to invite them to attend and address a future meeting of the Parish Council once they have taken up post.

26/25 SPEED REDUCTION SIGNS – LODGE LANE

The Clerk updated members that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) have carried out strength testing on the lampposts on Lodge Lane, which were intended to support new speed reduction signs. The tests have indicated that the lampposts are not structurally suitable therefore new posts will need to be installed. It is anticipated that the speed reduction signs will be in place by the end of February.

26/26 VEHICLE ACTIVATION SIGN - AUGHTON

The Clerk informed members that she had received conflicting information regarding the replacement of the vehicle activation sign in Aughton. One officer advised that the matter would be considered in the new financial year, while another officer indicated that there is insufficient funding for a replacement.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk investigate the cost for the Parish Council to purchase a replacement using CIL monies. The matter will be brought back to the March meeting of the Parish Council.

26/27 RMBC SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

The Clerk reported information received from RMBC regarding a new grant scheme offering Parish Councils a grant of £500.00 towards the purchase of a new flagpole and flag.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk apply to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council for the grant on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk will keep members updated of progress.

26/28 ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH HALL

The Clerk presented a report on the working arrangements of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk within Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Hall.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will allow the Clerk and Assistant Clerk to continue working for Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Hall in their roles as Parish Hall Manager and Parish Hall Secretary during their contracted 37 hours, paid by the Parish Council. This arrangement will be reviewed annually as a standard agenda item.

It was further noted that the Parish Hall Manager is actively seeking to recruit an additional member of staff specifically to carry out Parish Hall duties.

26/29 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

- The Clerk presented a paper detailing the Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 January 2026. Following consideration it was agreed that the report be noted.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £40,431.48 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.

26/30 ITEMS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Elliott asked that consideration be given to approaching RMBC Transportation Infrastructure Services regarding the traffic danger at Swallownest Crossroads.

The Clerk reminded members of a previous request submitted to RMBC asking that investigations be undertaken at the crossroads. At that time, RMBC had indicated that they would be willing to carry out investigations at the expense of the Parish Council.

It was agreed that this matter be raised for discussion when the new Head of Service attends a future Parish Council meeting.

- Councillor Mawson informed members of the YLCA training sessions and discussion forums he has been attending and reported how informative he has found them.

Members were advised that they should inform the Clerk of any YLCA training courses they wish to attend so that bookings can be arranged accordingly, however permission is not required to attend council discussion forums.

It was noted that there is no remaining provision within the training budget for the current financial year.

26/31 ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL IT POLICY

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the Parish Council's IT Policy. She confirmed that members are permitted to access Council emails on their own equipment, however in the event of a Freedom of Information request, any personal equipment used may also be subject to scrutiny.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's IT Policy be agreed/confirmed.

26/32 ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL BIO-DIVERSITY POLICY

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the Parish Council's Bio-Diversity Policy.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's Bio-Diversity Policy be agreed/confirmed.

26/33 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 there had been no engagement with residents. She will ask them to do a safety stand at a future Cafe day.

26/34 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within lists **03 – 06 (2026)**.

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

26/35 CLERK UPDATE

- The Clerk advised members that there are several changes to the Proper Practices for the current year, including the introduction of a new assertion which Councils are required to comply with as part of the internal audit process. The Clerk reported that she has received guidance from YLCA and SLCC and will also be liaising with other local clerks to ensure a consistent approach is taken to the completion and application of Assertion 10.
- The Clerk also reported that, as part of the audit, the Parish Council's website and compliance with the Transparency Code are being reviewed. Amendments have been made and as a result several policies will be brought forward to future meetings of the Parish Council for consideration and adoption.
- The Valentine Disco is due to take place at the Parish Hall on 17 February 2026, any help will be gratefully received.

- The Clerk advised that, due to an omission from the Agenda to consider Cllr Pakenham’s election onto either the Events & Recreation or General Purpose Committee, this item will be brought forward to the next Parish Council meeting for retrospective resolution.

26/36 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.

26/37 SWALLOWNEST WORKING MEN’S CLUB

The Clerk advised members that she has now spoken with the developers and requested that they draw up a legal agreement confirming that the walkway between King Street and Nursery Road will remain a public right of way, and that the developers will assume full responsibility for the future maintenance and upkeep of the area.

The developers informed the Clerk that, predominantly residents are requesting that the walkway be closed due to concerns relating to anti-social behaviour.

The Parish Council expressed gratitude for the additional information provided by the developers. However, following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council’s decision remains unchanged and that the walkway must remain accessible to the local community. It was further agreed that the issues relating to anti-social behaviour should be addressed separately.

26/38 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 17 March 2026 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.25 PM

S Forster

17 March 2026

SIGNED **DATED**