

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 12 MAY 2026 IN THE
PARISH HALL ROSEGARTH AVENUE AT 6.45 PM

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE 3 Members of Public

26/80 APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRPERSON FOR 2026/27

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Smith be appointed Chairperson for 2026/27.

26/81 APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2026/27

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Peech be appointed Vice-Chairperson for 2026/27.

26/82 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies and reasons for absence to record.

26/83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in respect of Agenda item number 27.

26/84 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

No items.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A parishioner raised concerns regarding the poor state of repair of Wetherby Drive and queried why improvement works were being undertaken on neighbouring roads while Wetherby Drive had not been included.

Councillor Taylor, in his capacity as RMBC Ward Councillor, explained that there is a limit to the number of roads that can be nominated for repair each year and that the final decision regarding highway improvement schemes rests with RMBC. Councillor Taylor offered to request that RMBC Highways undertake a site visit to assess the condition of Wetherby Drive and consider the issues raised.

It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact RMBC Highways by email to highlight the concerns and request that the matter be investigated.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

26/85 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 14 April 2026 as being a true record of the business transacted.

26/86 PARISH COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Clerk presented the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's Code of Conduct be formally accepted and adopted.

26/87 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026/2027

The Clerk presented a schedule of proposed meeting dates for the Parish Council and its Committees for 2026/27.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting dates be formally accepted and approved.

26/88 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- **Events & Recreation Committee**
- **General Purpose Committee**
- **Finance & Employment Committee**

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference for each Committee be formally accepted and approved.

26/89 MEMBERSHIP OF THE EVENTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE FOR 2026/27

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Events & Recreation Committee for 2026/27 would increase to 11 members; being Councillors Bartholomew, P Davis, Elliott, Forster, Gee, Mawson, Pakenham, Peech, Ratcliffe, Smith and Taylor.

26/90 MEMBERSHIP OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE FOR 2026/27

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the General Purpose Committee would continue with 8 members for 2026/27; being Councillors Amrith, G Davis, Elliott, Knowles, Mawson, Mears, Pakenham and Smith.

26/91 MEMBERSHIP OF THE FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2026/27

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Finance and Employment Committee would continue with 8 members for 2026/27; being Councillors Bartholomew, G Davis, Elliott, Gee, Knowles, Peech, Smith and Taylor.

26/92 APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRPERSON FOR THE EVENTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE FOR 2026/27

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Taylor be appointed Chairperson of the Events & Recreation Committee for 2026/27.

26/93 APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRPERSON FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE FOR 2026/27

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor G Davis be appointed Chairperson of the General Purpose Committee for 2026/27.

26/94 APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRPERSON FOR THE FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2026/27

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Gee be appointed Chairperson of the Finance and Employment Committee for 2026/27.

26/95 PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL & EARMARKED RESERVES POLICY

The Clerk tabled the Parish Council General & Earmarked Reserves Policy.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council establish general & earmarked reserves as presented.

26/96 PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S PERSONAL ALLOWANCE

The Clerk advised that the Chairperson's Personal Allowance for 2026/27 had been allocated towards student achievement awards at the parish schools.

She further advised that any future monetary payment made directly to the Chairperson would need to be processed through the PAYE system.

26/97 PARISH COUNCIL'S INSURANCE 2026/2027

The Clerk advised members that the insurance quotation received from Zurich Insurance did not include cyber cover. She reported that a revised quotation had been requested prior to renewal of the policy.

Following discussion it was agreed that delegated powers be granted to the Clerk to authorise renewal of the insurance policy premium, subject to agreement from the Finance & Employment Committee.

26/98 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

- The Clerk presented a paper detailing the Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 30 April 2026. Following consideration it was agreed that the report be noted.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £29,307.28 be approved.
- The Clerk presented a report detailing payments she had 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.

26/99 APPOINTMENT OF FH ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES 2026/27

The Clerk asked that confirmation be given to the appointment of FH Accountancy Services to carry out an interim and final internal audit on behalf of the Parish Council for 2026/27.

It was **RESOLVED** that FH Accountancy Services be appointed to carry out this work for 2026/27.

26/100 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Clerk advised members that the consultation period for the Community Governance Review would run from 1 May to 26 June 2026.

Following discussion it was agreed that no changes be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk would also publish details of the consultation on the Parish Council website and social media platforms.

26/101 WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

The Clerk updated members on the current position regarding the Whitestone Solar Farm project.

Following discussion, it was resolved that the Clerk submit a letter on behalf of the Parish Council expressing concern regarding the lack of consultation undertaken in relation to the project. The letter will also seek further clarification on the potential impact of the development on local infrastructure, together with details of the proposed HGV traffic routes associated with the construction and operation of the scheme.

The Clerk will keep members informed of any responses received.

26/102 ASTON AND TODWICK WARD MEMBERS

The Clerk reported that a request had been received on behalf of the Ward Councillors for Aston and Todwick seeking suggestions for sites suitable for the installation of new multi-generational gym equipment.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the Ward Councillors thanking them for the offer, however the Parish Council does not currently require any additional gym equipment. It was suggested that assistance towards improvements to the basketball area at Lodge Lane Recreation Ground would be welcomed should this be something the Ward Councillors would be willing to consider.

26/103 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

Councillor G. Davis asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to support the Friends of Ulley Country Park in making representations to RMBC Highways to either reduce the speed limit outside Ulley Country Park to 50 mph or install 'Concealed Entrance' warning signs in the vicinity of the park entrance.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would fully support the proposal to improve road safety in that particular area.

26/104 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

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

26/105 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Clerk reported that she had been reviewing the requirements for achieving the Bronze and Silver Awards under the NALC Local Council Award Scheme.

Members were advised that, in order to meet the criteria for these awards, additional information would need to be published on the Parish Council website on a regular basis, including monthly receipts and payments information. It was also noted that a short biography for each Parish Councillor would be required to accompany their profile photograph on the website.

The Clerk agreed to circulate a template to members outlining the type of information to be included within their biographies.

26/106 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 16 – 19 (2026)**.

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

RB2026/0526 – Erection of 189 residential dwellings, public open space, pumping station and associated works – Land South of Mansfield Road, Swallownest

Members were reminded that the site in question had been identified as a development allocation within the 2018 Local Plan. The Clerk reported that she had spoken with the RMBC Planning Officer and had been advised that a number of key reports, including those relating to drainage and traffic management, had not yet been received.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk request an extension to the consultation period to allow sufficient time for all relevant reports to be received and properly scrutinised.

It was further agreed that the Clerk would inform parishioners of this action to ensure they were aware of the Parish Council's position on the application. The matter will be considered further at the next Parish Council meeting.

26/107 CLERK UPDATE

The Clerk informed members of correspondence received from RMBC concerning the display of hanging baskets in 2026.

RMBC has agreed to fund 75% of the costs associated with the strength testing of the lighting columns this year. The Parish Council will be responsible for the remaining 25% of the costs.

The strength testing certification will remain valid for a period of three years. Thereafter, the costs of future testing on year 4 will be shared between RMBC and the Parish Council on a 50/50 basis. Members acknowledged that these future costs would need to be factored into the Council's budget planning.

The estimated cost of the testing programme (132 lighting columns) is between £13,000 and £14,000. The Clerk advised that, if necessary, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds could be utilised during the current financial year to meet the Parish Council's contribution.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk notify RMBC that the Parish Council wishes all relevant lighting columns to be strength tested to ensure that hanging baskets can be displayed throughout summer 2026.

26/108 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.

26/109 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 9 June 2026 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.00 PM

SIGNED **DATED**

DRAFT