

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 14 JULY 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 S Forster
D Gee D Knowles W Mawson B Mears D Pakenham
J Peech H Ratcliffe R Taylor

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

1 Member of Public

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairperson requested that all Members observe a minute's silence in memory of former Parish and Borough Councillor Gerald Smith and Mrs Linda Maxted, Founder of the Aston-cum-Aughton Neighbourhood Watch, in recognition of their passing and their valued contributions to the local community

26/133 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr M Elliott be accepted.

26/134 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mawson declared an interest in respect of Agenda item number 14, and Cllr Taylor declared an interest in respect of Agenda item number 16.

26/135 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

No items.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the Parish Council's lack of progress in adopting the telephone box situated outside the Yellow Lion Public House. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had contacted British Telecom on several occasions and had requested an extension to the adoption process. However, the matter could not be progressed as the telephone box is situated on land owned by Enterprise Inns. The gentleman suggested that approaching the local newspapers might help to expedite the process.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk continue to pursue the matter with British Telecom and that the item be placed on the agenda for the September Parish Council meeting for further consideration.

The parishioner then left the meeting.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

26/136 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 June 2026 as being a true record of the business transacted.

26/137 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purpose Committee held on 27 April 2026 be received.

26/138 MINUTES OF THE EVENTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Events & Recreation Committee held on 28 April 2026 be received at the September Parish Council meeting.

26/139 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Employment Committee held on 28 April 2026 be received at the September Parish Council meeting.

26/140 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

Cllr G. Davis updated Members on the requirement to appoint a specialist company to undertake investigative works at Swallownest Cemetery prior to submitting a planning application to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council for the proposed cemetery extension.

The required works comprise:

- Intrusive investigations to determine the depth to bedrock and groundwater across the site.
- Preparation of a detailed Groundwater Risk Assessment.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the quotation submitted by CDS Group, in the sum of £5,182.50, be accepted. The Clerk was authorised to instruct the company to commence the works as soon as practicable.

26/141 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EVENTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Members considered a recommendation from the Events & Recreation Committee regarding the installation of temporary car parking at Leonard Kyte Recreation Ground to help alleviate parking issues during the football season.

The Clerk reported that she had investigated the purchase of grass matting, at an estimated cost of £5,000–£6,000, which could be installed by the Parish Council Operatives. She also advised that the football teams using Leonard

Kyte Recreation Ground would be approached to see whether they would be willing to assist with the installation.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the recommendation of the Events & Recreation Committee be approved and that the cost of the project be funded from the Parish Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies.

26/142 PARISH COUNCIL HANGING BASKETS

The Clerk advised members that the Parish Council's hanging baskets were now being installed throughout the village following the completion of the recent lighting column testing.

Although the official test report had not yet been received, the Clerk reported that only two lighting columns had failed the inspection and, subject to confirmation in the final report, it was anticipated that no further testing would be required for a further five years.

The Clerk further advised that separate testing would still be required for the Christmas lighting installations and expressed the hope that the results would also be satisfactory.

26/143 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

- The Clerk advised members that the Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 30 June 2026 would be presented to the Finance and Employment Committee at the end of the month because she had only just returned from annual leave and not had an opportunity to complete the task.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £25,730 be approved.
- The Clerk advised that there were no reimbursements due to the Clerk for the current month.

26/144 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Mawson requested that consideration be given to the introduction of a byelaw prohibiting dogs from entering the Parish Cemeteries.

The Clerk advised members that there is no single national byelaw relating to dogs in cemeteries and that any restrictions are determined by the relevant local authority. Members were informed that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council enforces an outright prohibition on dogs in its cemeteries through its Dog Ownership and Control Policy. However, this restriction does not apply to registered blind persons or individuals who rely on trained assistance dogs.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk investigate the provision of more prominent signage for the Parish Cemeteries reminding visitors that dogs must be kept on short leads at all times.

26/145 DEFINITIVE MAP TRAINING

Cllr Mawson reported on his recent attendance at the Definitive Map Training course. He advised that the training had been informative and could be of relevance in light of the proposed Whitestone Solar Farm development.

Members were informed that not all footpaths are public rights of way; however, there is a process through Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to apply for a footpath to be designated as a public right of way where appropriate.

Cllr Mawson also advised that the Definitive Map is available online for public access.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will contact Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to establish whether the path at the bottom of Burgoyne Park is recorded as a public right of way.

26/146 ASTON CARNIVAL 2026

Members considered a request from the Carnival Committee for assistance with the provision of additional toilet facilities for this year's Carnival.

The Parish Council noted that it supports the Carnival annually through a grant of £200 towards the general running costs of the event. In addition, two Parish Council Operatives usually attend the event and open the Pavilion to provide access to additional toilet facilities.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council provide funding to the Carnival Committee for the provision of additional toilet facilities for this year's event.

26/147 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

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

26/148 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 24 – 28 (2026)**.

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

The Clerk updated members on the Abei Energy Solar Farm development on Piper Lane. Members were advised that, to date the application fails to provide the full route of construction traffic or adequately address the potential impact on the local community. On that basis, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk submit an objection to the development on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Clerk advised members that Whitestone Solar Farm had submitted a Development Consent Order application to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 June 2026 and that all application documents are now available to view online. Members were informed that the Project Team would be hosting an online webinar on 20 July to provide further information about the final application and answer questions. The Clerk agreed to circulate the webinar link to members should they wish to register their attendance.

With regard to the proposed development on Mansfield Road (RB2026/0526) the Clerk advised members that Jake Richards MP had recently held a meeting with local residents to discuss the proposal. Following consideration it was agreed that the Clerk contact the MP's office to establish whether they would be willing to work alongside the Parish Council in opposing this development.

26/149 CLERK UPDATE

The Clerk updated the meeting as follows:-

- One of the Parish Council Operatives is currently on sick leave. It is anticipated that he will be fit to return to work on light duties from the following week.
- The Clerk also advised members that she had attended an RMBC Scrutiny meeting on behalf of the local parish councils to discuss the matter of hanging baskets. Members were informed that action would be taken against any parish councils that had not undertaken the required strength testing of lighting columns prior to the installation and display of hanging baskets.
- The next YLCA Talking Tables event is to be held on 30 September in York. The Clerk will email all members with the details.

26/150 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Clerk reminded members that any suggestions for inclusion on future Parish Council agendas should be submitted to the office no later than the Monday of the week prior to the next parish council meeting.

The following items were suggested for inclusion on next month's agenda:

- Rotherham Local Plan
- Vehicle Nuisance throughout the Parish

26/151 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 8 September 2026 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.40 PM

S Smith

8 September 2026

SIGNED **DATED**