

ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 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 Gee W Mawson B Mears D Pakenham
H Ratcliffe R Taylor

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

3 Member of Public

26/152 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

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

26/153 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in respect of Agenda item numbers 10 & 15.

**26/154 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

No items.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public expressed concerns regarding the proposed Whitestone and Abei solar farms, which are to be located in the vicinity of Aston Conservation Area.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had lodged objections to both proposals. It was noted that all objections and representations can be viewed on the RMBC Planning Portal.

END OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

26/155 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 July 2026 as being a true record of the business transacted.

26/156 MINUTES OF THE EVENTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Events & Recreation Committee held on 23 June 2026 be received.

26/157 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Employment Committee held on 23 June 2026 be received.

26/158 SWALLOWNEST CEMETERY EXTENSION

The Clerk advised that she had received a report from CDS Group following the investigative work undertaken at the site.

The report concluded that the proposed extension is viable for burial purposes, with a strong preference for single-depth graves rather than double-depth graves. It was noted that there is potential for double-depth graves; however, a different permit would be required. The estimated capacity of the extension is between 1,000 and 1,300 burial plots.

It was agreed that the findings of the report would be considered at the next General Purpose Committee meeting on 28 September, with the matter being reported back to Full Council in due course.

The Clerk will circulate the report by email to any interested parties.

26/159 WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

The Clerk informed members that the deadline for registering as an interested party in relation to the Whitestone Solar Farm proposal had been extended to 23:59 on 11 September 2026. The Parish Council is already registered as an interested party.

Members were advised that Whitestone Warriors would hold their next meeting in the Parish Hall between 6-8pm on Wednesday, 9 September 2026.

The Clerk reported that she had been unable to progress the matter of a petition, as she had not received any further communication from the office of Jake Richards MP following his previous meeting.

26/160 ROTHERHAM EVENTS SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

The Clerk reported receipt of an email from RMBC requesting further information in relation to this year's Parish Bonfire and Firework Display at Burgoyne Park and extending an invitation for her to attend their next meeting.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would attend the meeting and provide the information required for this year's event.

26/161 ROSEGARTH AVENUE PLANTERS/PLANTING SCHEME

The Clerk informed members that RMBC had advised that they could no longer maintain the planters/planting scheme, installed through the Towns and Villages Fund, outside the Rosegarth shops and within the grounds of the Parish Hall.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would assume responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the planters and planting scheme.

RMBC Ward Cllr Taylor advised that financial assistance towards the maintenance could be available through the Community Leadership Fund.

It was further noted that the planters would remain an RMBC asset and, therefore, any damage to them would remain the responsibility of RMBC.

26/162 CAR PARKING ARRANGEMENTS – SWALLOWNEST CO-OP

The Clerk advised members that she had been contacted by several residents regarding the new parking charges and restrictions introduced at the Swallownest Co-op car park. The Clerk reported that she had reviewed the original planning application and had found no clause stating that the car park was intended to be a public car park or that charges could not be imposed for parking.

Members noted that the new parking restrictions currently permit free parking for up to one hour.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the Co-op Head Office to request that the period of free parking be extended to two hours.

In the meantime, the Clerk will prepare a poster informing parishioners of the new parking regulations applicable to the Co-op car park.

26/163 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

- The Clerk presented a paper detailing the Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 August 2026. Following consideration it was agreed that the report be noted.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts at Appendix I amounting to £61,942.82 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.

26/164 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Forster requested that consideration be given to the formation of a Bio-Diversity Group, with the aim of encouraging and involving members of the community in undertaking various actions identified within the Clerk's Bio-Diversity Policy.

The Clerk advised members that she would investigate the proposal further and make recommendations to the Events & Recreation Committee for consideration and further discussion.

- Councillor Mawson raised the possibility of informing Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council that the Parish of Aston-cum-Aughton is already substantially developed and has limited, if any, remaining sites available for further development. This followed RMBC's request for suggestions of sites that could potentially be included in the revised Rotherham Local Plan.

The Clerk advised members that all available land within the parish had already been identified and earmarked in the previous Local Plan and that it was unlikely that consideration would be given to amending this position.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would investigate the preparation of its own Neighbourhood Plan in 2027.

- Councillor Mears asked whether the Parish Council had any powers to address or limit vehicle noise nuisance throughout the village.

The Clerk advised members that the Parish Council did not have powers to prevent vehicle noise nuisance and that the Borough Council was similarly unable to take direct action in relation to individual vehicles.

Members were advised that where a vehicle is causing excessive noise, the vehicle registration number should be obtained and the matter reported to the police. The police would then be able to investigate whether the vehicle had been modified in a manner that resulted in excessive or unlawful noise.

26/165 POLICING INFORMATION/REPORTS

No police representatives were present at the meeting. The Clerk advised members that she had been informed that the police had no update to provide to the Parish Council at this time.

26/166 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications contained within **lists 29 – 36 (2026)**.

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

26/167 CLERK UPDATE

The Clerk updated the meeting as follows:-

- She advised members that she had spoken with a representative of the Stonegate Group and had subsequently contacted the Estates Team to request permission for the Parish Council to adopt the telephone box located outside the Yellow Lion Public House. The Clerk reported that the Estates Team had advised that they were currently dealing with a high volume of work and would not be able to respond until the end of September. The Clerk had relayed this information to British Telecom.

- The Parish Council would be hosting several events in the lead-up to the end of the year. Members noted that volunteers to assist with the running of these events would be greatly appreciated.

26/168 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.

26/169 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 13 October 2026 at 6.30 pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.20 PM

S Smith

13 October 2026

SIGNED **DATED**