



BRAMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

STANDING ORDERS

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These Standing Orders were adopted by Bramley Parish Council under Item 51/17 at the parish council meeting held on:

18th May 2017.

[Note: Items in bold text are statutory requirements and may not be removed or amended.]

1. COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Mandatory for full Council meetings
- Mandatory for Committee meetings
- Mandatory for sub-committee meetings

- a. **Meetings shall not take place in premises, which at the time of the meeting, are used for the supply of alcohol unless no other premises are available free of charge or at a reasonable cost.**

- ● b. **When calculating the 3 clear days for notice of a meeting to councillors and the public (see 5-b-ii), the day on which notice was issued, the day of the meeting, a Sunday, a day of the Christmas break, a day of the Easter break or of a bank holiday or a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning shall not count.**

- ● c. **Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons. The public's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public's exclusion.**

- ● d. **Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's prior (written) consent.**

- ● e. **In accordance with 1-c above, the press shall be provided reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present.**

- f. **Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chairman may in his absence be done by, to or before the Vice-Chairman (if any).**

- g. **The Chairman, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chairman, if present, shall preside. If both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are absent from a meeting, a Councillor as chosen by the Councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.**

- h. The person presiding at a meeting may exercise all the powers and duties of the Chairman in relation to the conduct of the meeting.
- ● ● i. **Subject to standing order 1-p below, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the Councillors present and voting thereon.**
- ● ● j. **The Chairman may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may exercise his/her casting vote whether or not he/she gave an original vote.** (See also standing orders 2-h and 2-i below).
- k. **Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on any question shall be by a show of hands. At the request of a Councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each Councillor present and voting gave his/her vote for or against that question.** Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda.
- ● ● l. **The minutes of a meeting shall record the names of councillors present and absent.**
- m. If prior to a meeting, a Councillors has submitted a reason for his/her absence at the meeting which is then approved by a resolution, such resolution shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the approval was given.
- ● ● n. **The Code of Conduct adopted by the Council shall apply to Councillors in respect of the entire meeting.**
- ● ● o. **An interest arising from the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council, the existence and nature of which is required to be disclosed by a Councillor at a meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.** (See also standing orders 8 and 9 below).
- p. **No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least one third of the whole number of members of the Council are present and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less than three.**
- ● ● q. **If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted** and the meeting shall be adjourned. Any outstanding business of a meeting so adjourned shall be transacted at a following meeting.
- r. Meetings shall not exceed a period of three hours.
- s. Meetings of the full Council shall be held on dates and venue as agreed by the end of November of each year, unless the Council decides otherwise at a previous meeting.
- t. The Chairman of the Council, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman, may, if he/she deems it necessary, alter the date, time or venue of any ordinary meeting of the Council, subject to a minimum of five clear days' notice and provided that the

agenda for any such meeting shall be published at the time the meeting date is altered.

2. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

(See also standing order 1 above)

- 1. In an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the new Councillors elected take office.**
- 2. In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on such day in May as the Council may direct.**
- 3. If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 6pm.**
- 4. In addition to the annual meeting of the Council, at least three other ordinary meetings shall be held in each year on such dates and times as the Council directs.**
- 5. The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (if any) of the Council shall be the first business completed at the annual meeting of the Council.**
- 6. The Chairman of the Council, unless he/she has resigned or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the annual meeting until his successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the Council.**
- 7. The Vice-Chairman of the Council, if any, unless he resigns or becomes disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chairman of the Council at the next annual meeting of the Council.**
- 8. In an election year, if the current Chairman of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, he shall preside at the meeting until a successor Chairman of the Council has been elected. The current Chairman of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chairman of the Council but must give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- 9. In an election year, if the current Chairman of the Council has been re-elected as a member of the Council, he shall preside at the meeting until a new Chairman of the Council has been elected. He may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chairman of the Council and must give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- 10. The Chairman of the Council should not normally be expected to serve as Chairman for more than three consecutive years.**
- 11. Following the election of the Chairman of the Council and Vice-Chairman (if any) of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council, the order of business shall be as**

follows:

- i. In an election year, delivery by Councillors of their declarations of acceptance of office.
- ii. Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council and to receive and note minutes of and/or to determine recommendations made by committees.
- iii. Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, employees and other local authorities.
- iv. Review of the terms of references for committees and/or working groups.
- v. Receipt of nominations to existing committees and/or working groups.
- vi. Appointment of any new committees and/or working groups, confirmation of the terms of reference, the number of members (including, if appropriate, substitute Councillors) and receipt of nominations to them.
- vii. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations.
- viii. Review of arrangements, including any charters, with other local authorities and review of contributions made to expenditure incurred by other local authorities.
- ix. Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back.
- x. In a year of elections, if a Council's period of eligibility to exercise the power of wellbeing expired the day before the annual meeting, to review and make arrangements to reaffirm eligibility.
- xi. Review of inventory of land and assets including buildings and office equipment.
- xii. Review and confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks.
- xiii. Review of the Council's and/or employees' memberships of other bodies.
- xiv. Establishing or reviewing the Council's complaints procedure.
- xv. Establishing or reviewing the Council's procedures for handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.
- xvi. Establishing or reviewing the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media.

3. SPECIAL OR EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Special or Extraordinary Meetings of the Council may be called:

- a. **by the Chairman of the Council at any time; or**
- b. **if the Chairman of the Council does not or refuses to call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within 7 days of having been requested to do so by two Councillors, those two Councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The statutory public notice giving the time, venue and agenda for such a meeting must be signed by two Councillors.**

4. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETINGS

The Council may adjourn at any hour and the consideration of any business not transacted shall be adjourned to either:

- a. the next meeting of the Council; or
- b. at a time fixed by the Chairman at the time the meeting is adjourned, but no business other than that set out in the Agenda shall be discussed at the adjourned meeting.

5. PROPER OFFICER

- a. The Council's Proper Officer shall be either (i) the Clerk or such other employee as may be nominated by the Council from time to time or (ii) such other employee appointed by the Council to undertake the role of the Proper Officer during the Proper Officer's absence. The Proper Officer and the employee appointed to act as such during the Proper Officer's absence shall fulfil the duties assigned to the Proper Officer in standing orders.
- b. The Council's Proper Officer shall do the following:
 - i. **Sign and serve on Councillors by delivery or post at their residences a summons confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda of a meeting of the Council and a meeting of a committee and sub-committee at least 3 clear days before the meeting.**
Alternatively, upon the Council having first resolved that service of summons on Councillors confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda for a meeting by delivery or post at their residences at least 3 clear days before a meeting is not expedient, electronically serve on Councillors a summons confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda of a meeting of the Council and a meeting of a committee and a sub-committee at least 3 clear days before the meeting provided any such email contains the electronic signature and title of the Proper Officer.
 - ii. **Give public notice of the time, date, venue and agenda at least 3 clear days before a meeting of the Council or a meeting of a committee or a sub-committee (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the Council convened by Councillors is signed by them).**
 - iii. **Convene a meeting of full Council for the election of a new Chairman of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his/her office.**
 - iv. Make available for inspection the minutes of meetings.
 - v. **Receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities.**
 - vi. **Receive and retain declarations of acceptance of office from Councillors.**
 - vii. Retain a copy of every Councillor's Register of Interests and any changes to it and keep copies of the same available for inspection.
 - viii. Keep proper records required before and after meetings.

- ix. Process all requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Data Protection Act 1998, in accordance with and subject to the Council's procedures relating to the same.
- x. Receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary.
- xi. Manage the organisation, storage of and access to information held by the Council in paper and electronic form.
- xii. Arrange for legal deeds to be signed by 2 Councillors and witnessed (see also standing orders 16-a and 16-b)
- xiii. Arrange for the prompt authorisation, approval and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with the Council's financial regulations.
- xiv. Record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council's response to the local planning authority in a book for such purpose.
- xv. Refer a planning application received by the Council to the Chairman or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman of a Planning Committee of the Council or to the leader of any relevant Planning Workgroup within 2 working days of receipt to facilitate an extraordinary meeting if the nature of a planning application requires consideration before the next ordinary meeting of the Council, Committee or Working Group.
- xvi. Action or undertake activity or responsibilities delegated or instructed by resolution or contained in standing orders.

6. URGENT BUSINESS

Where urgent business requires action before the next Council meeting, the Council hereby delegates powers to the Proper Officer to transact that business, providing that all of the following criteria are met:

- a. The business is not deemed urgent because it was not notified in time to appear on the agenda.
- b. The business arrived too late to be included on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting.
- c. Action is required before the next ordinary meeting of the Council.
- d. Wherever possible the Proper Officer will action the business after consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and any relevant Committees, Sub-Committees or WorkinGroups.

7. MOTIONS REQUIRING WRITTEN NOTICE

- a. No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is included in the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Council's Proper Officer at least

seven clear days before the next meeting.

- b. The Proper Officer may, before including a motion in the agenda received in accordance with standing order 7-a above, correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.
- c. If the Proper Officer considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 7-a above is not clear in meaning, the motion shall be rejected until the mover of the motion resubmits it in writing to the Proper Officer in clear and certain language at least seven clear days before the meeting.
- d. If the wording or nature of a proposed motion is considered unlawful or improper, the Proper Officer shall consult with the Chairman of the forthcoming meeting or, as the case may be, the Councillors who have convened the meeting, to consider whether the motion shall be included or rejected in the agenda.
- e. Having consulted the Chairman or Councillors pursuant to standing order 7-d above, the decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the motion in the agenda shall be final.
- f. Every motion and resolution shall relate to the Council's statutory functions, powers and lawful obligations or shall relate to an issue which specifically affects the Council's area or its residents.

8. MOTIONS NOT REQUIRING WRITTEN NOTICE

- a. Motions in respect of the following matters may be moved without written notice.
 - i. To appoint a person to preside at a meeting.
 - ii. To approve the absence of Councillors.
 - iii. To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the previous minutes.
 - iv. To correct an inaccuracy in the minutes of the previous minutes.
 - v. To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting.
 - vi. To alter the order of business on the agenda for reasons of urgency or expedience.
 - vii. To proceed to the next business on the agenda.
 - viii. To close or adjourn debate.
 - ix. To refer by formal delegation a matter to a committee or to a sub-committee or an employee.
 - x. To appoint a Committee, Sub-Committee or Working Group or any Councillors (including substitutes) thereto.
 - xi. To receive nominations to a Committee, Sub-Committee or Working Group.
 - xii. To dissolve a Committee, Sub-Committee or Working Group.
 - xiii. To note the minutes of a meeting of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Working Group.

- xiv. To consider a report and/or recommendations made by a Committee, Sub-Committee or Working Group.
 - xv. To consider a report and/or recommendations made by an employee, professional adviser, expert or consultant.
 - xvi. To authorise legal deeds to be signed by two Councillors and witnessed. (See standing orders 16-a and 16-b below).
 - xvii. To authorise the payment of monies up to £5,000.
 - xviii. To amend a motion relevant to the original or substantive motion under consideration which shall not have the effect of nullifying it.
 - xix. To extend the time limit for speeches.
 - xx. To exclude the press and public for all or part of a meeting.
 - xxi. To silence or exclude from the meeting a Councillor or a member of the public for disorderly conduct.
 - xxii. To give the consent of the Council if such consent is required by standing orders.
 - xxiii. To suspend any standing order except those which are mandatory by law.**
 - xxiv. To adjourn the meeting.
 - xxv. To appoint representatives to outside bodies and to make arrangements for those representatives to report back the activities of outside bodies.
 - xxvi. To answer questions from Councillors.
- b. If a motion falls within the terms of reference of a Committee or Sub-Committee or within the delegated powers conferred on an employee, a referral of the same may be made to such Committee, Sub-Committee or employee provided that the Chairman may direct for it to be dealt with at the present meeting for reasons of urgency or expedience.

9. RULES OF DEBATE

- a. Motions included in an agenda shall be considered in the order that they appear on the agenda unless the order is changed at the Chairman's direction for reasons of expedience.
- b. Subject to standing orders 7-a – 7-e above, a motion shall not be considered unless it has been proposed and seconded.
- c. A motion included in an agenda not moved by the Councillor who tabled it, may be treated as withdrawn.
- d. A motion to amend an original or substantive motion shall not be considered unless proper notice has been given after the original or substantive motion has been seconded and notice of such amendment, shall, if required by the Chairman, be reduced to writing and handed to the Chairman who shall determine the order in which they are considered.

- e. A Councillor may move amendments to his own motion. If a motion has already been seconded, an amendment to it shall be with the consent of the seconder.
- f. Any amendment to a motion shall be either:
 - i. to leave out words;
 - ii. to add words;
 - iii. to leave out words and add other words.
- g. A proposed or carried amendment to a motion shall not have the effect of rescinding the original or substantive motion under consideration.
- h. Only one amendment shall be moved and debated at a time, the order of which shall be directed by the Chairman. No further amendment to a motion shall be moved until the previous amendment has been disposed of.
- i. Subject to standing order 9-h above, one or more amendments may be discussed together if the Chairman considers this expedient but shall be voted upon separately.
- j. Pursuant to standing order 9-h above, the number of amendments to an original or substantive motion, which may be moved by a Councillor, is limited to one.
- k. If an amendment is not carried, other amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the Chairman.
- l. If an amendment is carried, the original motion, as amended, shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the substantive motion upon which any further amendment may be moved.
- m. The mover of a motion or the mover of an amendment shall have a right of reply, not exceeding three minutes.
- n. Where a series of amendments to an original motion are carried, the mover of the original motion shall have the right of reply in respect of the substantive motion at the very end of debate and immediately before it is put to the vote.
- o. Subject to standing orders 9-m and 9-n above, a Councillor may not speak further in respect of any one motion except to speak once on an amendment moved by another Councillor or to make a point of order or to give a personal explanation.
- p. During the debate of a motion, a Councillor may interrupt only on a point of order or a personal explanation and the Councillor who was interrupted shall stop speaking. A Councillor raising a point of order shall identify the standing order which he considers has been breached or specify the irregularity in the meeting he is concerned by.

- q. A point of order shall be decided by the Chairman and his decision shall be final.
- r. With the consent of the seconder and/or the Chairman of the meeting, a motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the proposer. A Councillor shall not speak upon the said motion or amendment unless permission for the withdrawal of the motion or amendment has been refused.
- s. Subject to standing order 9-o above, when a Councillor's motion is under debate no other motion shall be moved except:
 - i. to amend the motion;
 - ii. to proceed to the next business;
 - iii. to adjourn the debate;
 - iv. to put the motion to a vote;
 - v. to ask a person to be silent or for him/her to leave the meeting;
 - vi. to refer a motion to a Committee or Sub-Committee for consideration;
 - vii. to exclude the public and press;
 - viii. to adjourn the meeting;
 - ix. to suspend any standing order, except those which are mandatory;
- t. In respect of standing order 9-s-iv above, the Chairman shall first be satisfied that the motion has been sufficiently debated before it is seconded and put to the vote. The Chairman shall call upon the mover or the motion under debate to exercise or waive his/her right of reply and shall put the motion to the vote after that right has been exercised or waived. The adjournment of a debate or of the meeting shall not prejudice the mover's right of reply at the resumption.

10. CODE OF CONDUCT

- a. **All Councillors shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council.**
- b. All Councillors shall undertake training in the code of conduct within 6 months of the delivery of their declaration of acceptance of office.
- c. **If paragraph 12(2) of the code of conduct contained in the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 (SI No. 1159) has been adopted by the Council or pursuant to relevant provisions in a statutory code of conduct in force at the time, Councillors may exercise the rights contained in standing order 10-d below only if members of the public are permitted to (i) make representations, (ii) answer questions and (iii) give evidence relating to the business being transacted.**
- d. **Councillors with a prejudicial interest in relation to any item of business being transacted at a meeting may (i) make representations, (ii) answer questions and (iii) give evidence relating to the business being transacted but must, thereafter, leave the room or chamber.**

11. QUESTIONS

- a. A Councillor may seek an answer to a question concerning any business of the Council provided seven clear days' notice of the question has been given to the Proper Officer.
- b. Questions not relating to items of business on the agenda for a meeting shall only be asked during the part of the meeting set aside for such questions.
- c. Every question shall be put and answered without discussion.

12. MINUTES

- a. If a copy of the draft minutes of a preceding meeting has been circulated to Councillors no later than the day of service of the summons to attend the scheduled meeting they shall be taken as read.
- b. No discussion of the draft minutes of a preceding meeting shall take place except in relation to their accuracy. A motion to correct an inaccuracy in the minutes shall be raised in accordance with standing order 8-a-iv above.
- c. Minutes, including any amendment to correct their accuracy, shall be confirmed by resolution and shall be signed by the Chairman of the meeting and stand as an accurate record of the meeting to which the minutes relate.
- d. If the Chairman of the meeting does not consider the minutes to be an accurate report of the meeting to which they relate, he/she shall sign the minutes and include a paragraph in the following terms or to the same effect:

“The Chairman of this meeting does not believe that the minutes of the meeting of the Bramley Parish Council held on [date] in respect of [item number] were a correct record but his view what not upheld by the majority of the Bramley Parish Council and the minutes are confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.”

- e. Upon a resolution which confirms the accuracy of the minutes of a meeting, any previous draft minutes or recordings of the meeting shall be destroyed.

13. DISORDERLY CONDUCT

- a. No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly.

- b. If, in the opinion of the Chairman, there has been a breach of standing order 13-a above, the Chairman shall express that opinion and thereafter any Councillor (including the Chairman) may move that the person be silenced or excluded from the meeting, and the motion, if seconded, shall be put forthwith and without discussion.
- c. If a resolution made in accordance with standing order 13-b above, is disobeyed, the Chairman may take such further steps as may reasonably be necessary to enforce it and/or he/she may adjourn the meeting.

14. RESCISSION OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

- a. A resolution (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within 6 months except either by a special motion, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least five Councillors of the Council, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the report of recommendation of a Committee.
- b. When a special motion or any other motion moved pursuant to standing order 14-a above has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further 6 months.

15. VOTING ON APPOINTMENTS

- a. Where more than two persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the Council and none of those persons has received an absolute majority of votes in their favour, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken. This process shall continue until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person. Any tie may be settled by exercise of the Chairman's casting vote.

16. EXECUTION AND SEALING OF LEGAL DEEDS

See also standing order 8-a-xvi above

- a. A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the Council unless the same has been authorised by a resolution.
- b. **In accordance with a resolution made under standing order 16-a above, any two members of the Council may sign, on behalf of the Council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.**

17. COMMITTEES

See also standing order 1 above

- a. The Council may, at its annual meeting, appoint standing Committees and may at any other time appoint such other Committees as may be necessary, and:
 - i. shall determine their terms of reference;
 - ii. may permit Committees to determine the dates of their meetings;
 - iii. shall appoint and determine the term of office of Councillor or non-Councillor members of such a Committee (unless the appointment of non-Councillors is prohibited by law) so as to hold office no later than the next annual meeting;
 - iv. may in accordance with standing orders, dissolve a Committee at any time.

18. SUB-COMMITTEES

See also standing order 1 above

- a. Unless there is a Council resolution to the contrary, every Committee may appoint a Sub-Committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by resolution of the Committee.

19. WORKING GROUPS

See also standing order 1 above

- a. The Council may, at its annual meeting, appoint Working Groups and may at any other time appoint such other Working Groups as may be necessary, and:
 - i. shall determine their terms of reference;
 - ii. may permit working groups to determine the dates of their meetings;
 - iii. shall appoint and determine the term of office of Councillor or non-Councillor members of such a Working Group (unless the appointment of non-Councillors is prohibited by law) so as to hold office no later than the next annual meeting;
 - iv. may appoint substitute Councillors to a Working Group whose role is to replace ordinary Councillors at a meeting of a Working Group if ordinary Councillors of the Working Group have confirmed to the Proper Officer seven days before the meeting that they are unable to attend;
 - v. may in accordance with standing orders, dissolve a Working Group at any time.

20. ADVISORY COMMITTEES

See also standing order 1 above

- a. The Council may appoint advisory committees comprised of a number of Councillors and/or non-Councillors.
- b. Advisory committees and any sub-committees of the advisory committee may consist wholly of persons who are non-Councillors.

21. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. The Proper Officer shall, as soon as it is received, record the following particulars of every planning application notified to the Council:
 - i. the date on which it was received
 - ii. the planning reference number
 - iii. the place to which it refers
 - iv. the details of the application
- b. The Proper Officer shall refer every planning application received to the Planning Review Committee within two clear days of the next meeting.
- c. In the case of a decision deadline in advance of the next meeting of the Council or Committee meeting, the Committee may instruct the Proper Officer, in accordance with standing order 6, to make a submission to the planning authority without bringing the application(s) before the Committee.
- d. Submissions made in accordance with 21-c will be notified to the next full Council meeting after the date of submission.

22. EXPENDITURE

- a. Any expenditure incurred by the Council shall be in accordance with the Council's financial regulations.
- b. **The Council's financial regulations shall be reviewed once a year.**
- c. **The Council's financial regulations may make provision for the authorisation of the payment in money in exercise of any of the Council's functions to be delegated to a Committee, Sub-Committee or to an employee.**

23. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- a. The Responsible Financial Officer shall supply to each Councillor as soon as practicable after 31st March, 30th June, 30th September and 31st December in each year a statement summarising the Council's receipts and payments for each quarter and the balances held at the end of a quarter. This statement should include a comparison with the budget for the financial year. A Financial Statement prepared on the receipts and payments accounting basis for a year to 31st March shall be presented to each Councillor before the end of the following month of May. The Statement of Accounts of the Council (which is subject to external audit), including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to Council for formal approval before 30th June.

24. ESTIMATES / PRECEPTS

- a. Any Committee or Working Group desiring to incur expenditure shall give the Proper Officer a written estimate of the expenditure recommended for the coming year no later than 30th November and at least seven days prior to the annual budget setting meeting, whichever is the earlier.
- b. **The Council shall approve written estimates for the coming financial year** at its meeting before 31st January.

25. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a. The Council shall consider and approve financial regulations drawn up by the Responsible Financial Officer, which shall include detailed arrangements in respect of the following:
 - i. the accounting records and systems of internal control;
 - ii. the assessment and management of financial risks faced by the Council;
 - iii. the work of the Internal Auditor and the receipt of reports from the Internal Auditor, which shall be required at least annually;
 - iv. the inspection and copying by Councillors and local electors of the Council's accounts and/or orders of payments;
 - v. procurement policies (subject to standing order 25-b below) including the setting of values for different procedures where the contract has an estimated value of less than £60,000.
- b. **Any proposed contract for the supply of goods, materials, services and the execution of works with an estimated value in excess of £60,000 shall be procured on the basis of a formal tender as summarised in standing order 25-c below.**
- c. Any formal tender process shall comprise the following steps:
 - i. a public notice of intention to place a contract to be placed in a local newspaper;
 - ii. a specification of the goods, materials, services and the execution of works shall be drawn up;
 - iii. tenders are to be sent, in a sealed marked envelope, to the Proper Officer by a stated date and time;
 - iv. tenders submitted are to be opened, after the stated closing date and time, by the Proper Officer and at least one member of the Council;
 - v. tenders are then to be assessed and reported to the appropriate meeting of Council or Committee.

- d. Neither the Council, nor any Committee, is bound to accept the lowest tender, estimate or quotation;
- e. **Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed £138,893 (or other threshold specified by the Office of Government Commerce from time to time) the Council must consider whether the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (SI No 5, as amended) and the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 (SI No 6, as amended) apply to the contract and, if either of those Regulations apply, the Council must comply with EU procurement rules.**

26. CANVASSING OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY COUNCILLORS

- a. Canvassing Councillors of the members of a Committee or Sub-Committee, directly or indirectly, for appointment to or by the Council shall disqualify the candidate from such an appointment. The Proper Officer shall disclose the requirements of this standing order to every candidate.
- b. A Councillor or member of a Committee or Sub-Committee shall not solicit a person for appointment to or by the Council or recommend a person for such appointment or for promotion; but, nevertheless, any such person may give a written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Council with an application for appointment.
- c. This standing order shall apply to tenders as if the person making the tender were a candidate for an appointment.

27. INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Subject to standing orders to the contrary or in respect of matters which are confidential, a Councillor may, for the purpose of his/her official duties (but not otherwise), inspect any document in the possession of the Council or a Committee or a Sub-Committee, and request a copy for the same purpose. The minutes of meetings of the Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees shall be available for inspection by Councillors.

28. UNAUTHORISED ACTIVITIES

- a. Unless authorised by a resolution, no individual Councillor shall in the name of or on behalf of the Council, a Committee, a Sub-Committee, a Working Group or advisory group:
 - i. inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect; or

- ii. issue orders, instructions or directions to any person or body.

29. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

- a. Councillors and employees shall not disclose information given in confidence or which they believe, or ought to be aware is of a confidential nature.
- b. A Councillor in breach of the provisions of standing order 29-a above may be removed from a Committee, a Sub-Committee, a Working Group or advisory group by a resolution of the Council.

30. POWER OF WELL-BEING

- a. **Before exercising the power to promote well-being, a meeting of the full Council shall have passed a resolution to confirm it has satisfied the prescribed statutory criteria required to qualify as an eligible parish council.**
- b. **The Council's period of eligibility begins on the date that the resolution under standing order 30-a above was made and expires on the day before the annual meeting of the Council that takes place in a year of ordinary elections.**
- c. **After the expiry of its preceding period of eligibility, the Council continues to be an eligible council solely for the purpose of completing any activity undertaken in the exercise of power to promote well-being which was not completed before the expiry of the Council's preceding period of eligibility referred to in standing order 30-b above.**

31. MATTERS AFFECTING COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

- a. If a meeting considers any matter personal to a Council employee, it shall not be considered until the Council, the Committee or the Sub-Committee has decided whether or not the press and public shall be excluded pursuant to standing order 1-c above.
- b. Subject to the Council's policy regarding absences from work, the Council's most senior employee shall notify the Chairman of the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairman or the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee or, in the absence of Committees and Sub-Committees, the Vice-Chairman of the Council, of any absence occasioned by illness or urgency and that person shall report such absence to the Committee, Sub-Committee of the Council at its next meeting.
- c. The Chairman of the Committee or the Sub-Committee of the Council or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee or Sub-Committee of the Vice-

Chairman of the Council shall upon a resolution conduct a review of the performance and/or appraisal of the position and shall keep a written record of it. The review and/or appraisal shall be reported back and shall be subject to approval by resolution by the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee or by the Council.

- d. Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the Council's most senior employee, or other employees, shall contact the Chairman of the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairman of the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee or, in the absence of Committees and Sub-Committees, the Vice-Chairman of the Council in respect of an informal or formal grievance matter, and this matter shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee or the Council.
- e. Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance and disciplinary matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter raised by an employee relates to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of a Committee or Sub-Committee or the Council, this shall be communicated to another member of the Committee or Sub-Committee or the Council, which shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the Committee or the Sub-Committee or the Council.
- f. Any persons responsible for all or part of the management of Council employees shall keep written records of all meetings relating to their performance, and capabilities, grievance and disciplinary matters.
- g. The Council shall keep written records relating to employees secure. All paper records shall be secured under lock and electronic records shall be password protected.
- h. Records documenting reasons for an employee's absence due to ill health or details of a medical condition shall be made available only to those persons with responsibility for that employee.
- i. Only persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to employee records referred to in standing orders 31-g and 31-h above if so justified.
- j. Access and means of access by keys and/or computer passwords to records of employment referred to in standing orders 31-g and 31-h above shall be provided only to the line manager and/or the Chairman of the Council or the Chairman of the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee.

32. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

- a. All requests for information held by the Council shall be processed in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of handling requests under the Freedom of

Information Act 2000.

- b. Correspondence from, and notices served by, the Information Commissioner shall be referred by the Proper Officer to the Chairman of the relevant Committee or, in the absence of Committees, to the Chairman of the Council. The said Committee, or the Council, shall have the power to do anything to facilitate compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 including exercising the powers of the Proper Officer in respect of Freedom of Information requests set out in standing order 5-b-x above.

33. RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS/MEDIA

- a. All requests from the press or other media for an oral or written statement or comment from the Council shall be processed in accordance with the Council's policy or a resolution passed in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media.
- b. In accordance with the Council's policy in respect to dealing with the press and/or other media, Councillors shall not, in their official capacity, provide oral or written statements or written articles to the press or other media.

34. LIAISON WITH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a. An invitation to attend a meeting of the Council shall be sent, together with the agenda, to the Councillor(s) of the District and County Council representing its electoral ward.
- b. Unless the Council otherwise orders, a copy of each letter sent to the District or County Council shall be sent to the District or County Council Councillor representing its electoral ward.

35. ALLEGATIONS OF BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

- a. On receipt of a notification that there has been an alleged breach of the code of conduct the Proper Officer shall refer it to the Chairman of the relevant Committee or, in the absence of any relevant Committee, to the Vice-Chairman of the full Council.
- b. Where the notification relates to a complaint made by the Proper Officer, the Proper Officer shall notify the Chairman of the relevant Committee or, in the absence of any relevant Committee, the Vice-Chairman of the full Council, of the fact who, upon receipt of such notification, shall nominate a person to assume the duties of the Proper Officer set out in the remainder of this standing order, who shall continue to act in respect of that matter as such until the complaint is

resolved.

- c. Where a notification relates to a complaint made by an employee (not being the Proper Officer) the Proper Officer shall ensure that the employee in question does not deal with any aspect of the complaint.
- d. The subject matter of notifications shall be confidential and, insofar as it is possible to do so by law, the Council (including the Proper Officer and the Chairman of the relevant Committee, or in the absence of any relevant Committee, the Vice-Chairman of the full Council) shall take the steps set out below, together with other steps considered necessary, to maintain confidentiality:
 - i. Draft the summonses and agendas in such a way that the identity and subject matter of the complaint are not disclosed.
 - ii. Ensure that any background papers containing the information set out in standing order 35-e above are not made public.
 - iii. Ensure that the public and press are excluded from meetings as appropriate.
 - iv. Ensure that the minutes of meetings preserve confidentiality.
 - v. Consider any liaison that may be required with the person or body with statutory responsibility for the investigation of the matter.
- e. Standing order 35-d above should not be taken to prohibit the Council (whether through the Proper Officer or the Chairman of the relevant Committee or otherwise) from disclosing information to members and officers of the Council or to other persons where such disclosure is necessary to deal with the complaint or is required by law.
- f. The relevant Committee or, in the absence of any Committee, the Vice-Chairman of the Council shall have the power to:
 - i. seek documentary and other evidence from the person or body with statutory responsibility for investigation of the matter;
 - ii. seek and share information relevant to the complaint;
 - iii. grant the member involved a financial indemnity in respect of legal costs, which shall be in accordance with the law and subject to approval by a meeting of the full Council.
- g. References in standing order 35 to a notification shall be taken to refer to a communication of any kind which relates to a breach or an alleged breach of the code of conduct by a Councillor.

36. VARIATION, REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- a. Any or every part of the standing orders, except those which are mandatory by law (signified in bold text in these standing orders), may be suspended by resolution in

relation to any specific item of business.

- b. A motion to permanently add to or to vary or to revoke one or more of the Council's standing orders not mandatory by law shall not be carried unless two-thirds of the Councillors at a meeting of the Council vote in favour of the same.

37. STANDING ORDERS TO BE GIVEN TO COUNCILLORS

- a. The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the Council's standing orders to a Councillor upon delivery of his declaration of acceptance of office.
- b. The Chairman's decision as to the application of standing orders at meetings shall be final.
- c. A Councillor's failure to observe standing orders more than 3 times in one meeting may result in him/her being excluded from the meeting in accordance with standing orders.

38. INTERPRETATION OF THESE STANDING ORDERS

- a. The ruling of the Chairman as to the construction or application of any of these standing orders, or as to any proceedings of the Council, shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council or any of its Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Groups or Advisory Groups.
- b. In these standing orders, "the Chairman", unless otherwise described, means the person presiding at a meeting of the Council, except in relation to their application to Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Groups or Advisory Groups, in which case "the Chairman" shall mean the Chairman for the time being of the Committee or Sub-Committee or the Leader of the Working Party or Panel concerned. Any power or duty assigned to the Chairman in relation to the conduct of a meeting may be exercised by the person presiding at the meeting.
- c. In computing time under these standing orders, Saturday, Sunday, Statutory Bank and Public Holidays, the day of the meeting concerned and the day of publication of the notice shall not be counted as clear working days.

THE TEN GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

The general principles governing Councillors' conduct under the *Relevant Authorities (General Principles) Order 2001* are set out below:

1. Selflessness

Members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

2. Honesty and Integrity

Members should not place themselves in situation where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

3. Objectivity

Members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

4. Accountability

Members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular office.

5. Openness

Members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of their authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

6. Personal Judgement

Members may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.

7. Respect for Others

Members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers, and its other employees.

8. Duty to Uphold the Law

Members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.

9. Stewardship

Members should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

10. Leadership

Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

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