



PEVENSEY
PARISH COUNCIL

Pevensey Parish Council Standing Orders

CONTENTS

1. RULES OF DEBATE AT A MEETING	3
2. DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT A MEETING	5
3. MEETINGS	5
4. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS	9
5. COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES	11
6. EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES	12
7. PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS	13
8. VOTING ON APPOINTMENT	13
9. MOTIONS FOR A MEETING THAT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE TO BE GIVEN TO THE CLERK	13
10. MOTIONS AT A MEETING THAT DO NOT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE	14
11. MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION	15
12. DRAFT MINUTES	16
13. CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISPENSATIONS	17
14. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS	18
15. THE PROPER OFFICER/CLERK	18
16. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER	20
17. ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS	20
18. FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND PROCUREMENT	21
19. HANDLING STAFF MATTERS	23
20. RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION	23
21. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION	23
22. RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS/MEDIA	23
23. EXECUTION AND SEALING OF LEGAL DEEDS	24
24. COMMUNICATING WITH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR	24
25. RESTRICTIONS ON COUNCILLORS ACTIVITIES	24
26. STANDING ORDERS GENERALLY	25

1. RULES OF DEBATE AT MEETINGS

- a Motions on the agenda shall be considered in the order that they appear unless the order is changed at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting.
- b A motion (including an amendment) shall not be progressed unless it has been moved and seconded.
- c A motion on the agenda that is not moved by its proposer may be treated by the Chairman of the meeting as withdrawn.
- d If a motion (including an amendment) has been seconded, it may be withdrawn by the proposer only with the consent of the seconder and the Council.
- e An amendment is a proposal to remove or add words to a motion. It shall not negate the motion.
- f If an amendment to the original motion is carried, the original motion (as amended) becomes the substantive motion upon which further amendment(s) may be moved.
- g An amendment shall not be considered unless early verbal notice of it is given at the meeting and, if requested by the Chairman of the meeting, is expressed in writing to the Chairman.
- h A councillor may move an amendment to his own motion if agreed by the meeting. If a motion has already been seconded, the amendment shall be with the consent of the seconder and the Council.
- i If there is more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion, the amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- j Subject to standing order 1(k), only one amendment shall be moved and debated at a time, the order of which shall be directed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- k One or more amendments may be discussed together if the Chairman of the meeting considers this expedient but each amendment shall be voted upon separately.
- l A councillor may not move more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion.
- m The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the end of debate on it.
- n Where a series of amendments to an original motion are carried, the mover of the original motion shall have a right of reply either at the end of debate on the first amendment or at the very end of debate on the final substantive motion immediately before it is put to the vote.
- o Unless permitted by the Chairman of the meeting, a councillor may speak once in the

debate on a motion except:

- i. to speak on an amendment moved by another councillor;
 - ii. to move or speak on another amendment if the motion has been amended since he last spoke;
 - iii. to make a point of order;
 - iv. to give a personal explanation; or
 - v. to exercise a right of reply.
- p During the debate on 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 other irregularity in the proceedings of the meeting he is concerned by.
- q A point of order shall be decided by the Chairman of the meeting and his decision shall be final.
- r When a 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 no longer heard or 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; or
 - ix. to suspend particular standing order(s) excepting those which reflect mandatory statutory or legal requirements.
- s Before an original or substantive motion is put to the vote, the Chairman of the meeting shall be satisfied that the motion has been sufficiently debated and that the mover of the motion under debate has exercised or waived his right of reply.
- t Excluding motions moved under standing order 1(r), the contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed (3) minutes without the consent of the Chairman of the meeting.

2. **DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT MEETINGS**

- a. **The person presiding at a meeting may exercise all the powers and duties of the Chairmain in relation to the conduct of the meeting.**
- b. No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If this standing order is ignored, the Chairman of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct.
- c. If person(s) disregard the request of the Chairman of the meeting to moderate or improve their conduct, any councillor or the Chairman of the meeting may move that the person be no longer heard or be excluded from the meeting. The motion, if seconded, shall be put to the vote without discussion.
- d. If a resolution made under standing order 2(c) is ignored, the Chairman of the meeting may take further reasonable steps to restore order or to progress the meeting. This may include temporarily suspending or closing the meeting.

3. **MEETINGS**

- a. Meetings of the Council shall be held in each year on such dates and times at such places as the Council may direct. Meetings will normally be held on the first Tuesday of every month at St. Wilfrid's Hall at 7:00PM unless the Council otherwise decide a previous meeting.
- b. **Full Council and Committees will normally alternate on the first Tuesday of each month following the May meeting:**

Council: May, June, July, September, October, November, December, January, February, March and April. There be no meetings held in August.

Full Council meetings	FC
Committee meetings	CM
Sub-committee meetings	S-CM

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| FCM
CM | c. 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. Smoking is not permitted at any meeting of the Council. |
| FCM | d. The minimum three clear days for notice of a meeting does not include 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. |
| CM | e. The minimum three clear days' public notice for a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued or the day of the meeting unless the meeting is convened at shorter notice |

- FCM CM
- f. Meetings shall be open to the public and press 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. See Below**
"That in view of the (special) (confidential) nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the Press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw"
- g.** Members of the public may make representations and address the Council, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.
- h.** The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(g) shall not exceed (10) minutes unless directed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- i.** Subject to standing order 3(g), a member of the public shall not speak for more than (2) minutes.
- j.** In accordance with standing order 3(g), a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
- k.** A person shall raise his hand when requesting to speak and stand when speaking (except when a person has a disability or is likely to suffer discomfort). The Chairman of the meeting may at any time permit a person to be seated when speaking.
- l.** A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct his comments to the Chairman of the meeting.
- m.** Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wants to speak, the Chairman of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking. If person interrupts the proceedings at any meeting, the Chairman may, after warnings order that person to be removed from tge meeting and may adjourn the meeting for such period as us necessary to restore order.
- FCM CM
- n. The press shall be provided with reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present.**
- FCM
- o. Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chairman of the Council may in his absence be done by, to or before the Vice-Chairman of the Council.**
- FCM
- p. The Chairman of the Council, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the**

Chairman is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Council 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.

FCM q. **Subject to a meeting being quorate, all questions at a meeting shall be decided
CM by a majority of the councillors and non-councillors with voting rights present
SCM and voting.**

FCM r. **The Chairman of a meeting may give an original vote on any matter put to the
CM vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may exercise his casting vote
SCM whether or not he gave an original vote.**

See standing orders 4(h) and (i) for the different rules that apply in the election of the Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council.

FCM s. **Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on a 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 their
vote for or against that question. Such a request shall be made before moving on
to the next item of business on the agenda.**

t. **Members of Committee and Sub Committee entitled to vote, shall vote by show of
hands. The Chairman of Committees and Sub Committees shall in the case of an
equality of votes have a second or casting vote.**

u. **The minutes of a meeting shall include an accurate record of the following:**

- i. the time and place of the meeting;
- ii. the names of councillors who are present and the names of councillors who are absent;
- iii. interests that have been declared by councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
- iv. the grant of dispensations (if any) to councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
- v. whether a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered;
- vi. if there was a public participation session; and
- vii. the resolutions made.

FCM v. **A councillor or a non-councillor with voting rights who has a disclosable
CM pecuniary interest or another interest as set out in the Council's code of conduct
SCM in a matter being considered at a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or**

restrictions under the code on his right to participate and vote on that matter.

- FCM w. **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 Five.**

See standing order 5e(vi) for the quorum of a committee or sub-committee meeting.

- FCM x. **If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted** and the
CM meeting shall be closed. The business on the agenda for the meeting shall be
SCM adjourned to another meeting.

- y. **A meeting shall not exceed a period of (3) hours.**

- z. The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 (“the 2014 Regulations”) provides that **a person may** not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if he is present at the meeting of a parish council or its committees but otherwise may [*Applicable to: Full Council, Committee & Sub-committee meetings*]:

- a. **film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting;**
- b. **use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later;**
- c. **report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting or orally report or comment after the meeting.**

4. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a **In an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on the Tuesday following the fourth day after the ordinary day of elections.**
- b **In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on the first Tuesday in May.**
- c **If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 7pm.**
- d **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 decides.**
- e **The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the Council shall be the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council.**
- f **The Chairman of the Council, unless he 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.**
- g **The Vice-Chairman of the Council, 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.**
- h **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 annual 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 shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- i **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 annual 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 shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- j **Following the election of the Chairman of the Council and Vice-Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting, the business shall include:**
 - i. **In an election year, delivery by the Chairman of the Council and councillors of their acceptance of office forms unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date. In a year which is not an election year, delivery by the Chairman of the Council of his acceptance of office form unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date;**
 - ii. **In the ordinary year of election of the Council to fill any vacancies left unfilled at the election by Co-options.**
 - iii. **To decide when any declarations of acceptance of office and written**

undertakings to observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council which have not been received as provided by law, shall be received.

iv. To appoint representative to outside bodies.

v. Committees appointed shall be:

Finance and General Purposes – consists of total of 7 members. This MUST included the Chairman of Finance and General Purposes the Chairs of the other three Committees and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council. If a Chairman of one of the other three Committees is already on this Committee, then the Vice Chairman of that Committee will take the seat. There will also be one councillor.

vi. Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council;

vii. Receipt of the minutes of the last meeting of a committee;

viii. Consideration of the recommendations made by a committee;

ix. Deal with business expressly required by statute to be done;

x. Dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting;

xi. Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff and other local authorities;

xii. Review of the terms of reference for committees;

xiii. To answer questions from Councillors

xiv. Appointment of any new committees in accordance with standing order 5;

xv. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations;

xvi. Review of arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses.

xvii. Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back;

xviii. In an election year, to make arrangements with a view to the Council becoming eligible to exercise the general power of competence in the future;

xix. Review of inventory of land and other assets including buildings and office equipment;

xx. Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks;

xxi. Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;

- xxii. Review of the Council's complaints procedure;
- xxiii. Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (*see also standing orders 11, 20 and 21*);
- xxiv. Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;
- xxv. Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures with Croner.
- xxvi. Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the general power of competence.
- xxvii. To authorise the sealing of documents
- xxviii. To authorise the signing of orders for payments

5. COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- a **Unless the Council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by the committee.**
- b **The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the Council.**
- c **Unless the Council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee and a sub-committee of the advisory committee may be non-councillors.**
- d Chairman of each committee will be elected at the first committee meeting in June. Every Committee shall at its first meeting before proceeding to any other business, elect a Vice Chairman who shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting of Committee, and shall settle its programme of meetings for the year.
- e The Council may at the Annual Parish Council Meeting appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, but subject to any statutory provisions in that behalf:
 - i. shall determine their terms of reference;
 - ii. shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings;
 - iii. shall, subject to standing orders 5(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee;
 - iv. may, subject to standing orders 5(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of the substitute members to a committee whose role is to replace the ordinary members at a meeting of a committee if the ordinary members of the

committee confirm to the Clerk (7) days before the meeting that they are unable to attend;

- v. shall permit a committee other than a standing committee, to appoint its own Chairman at the first meeting of the committee;
- vi. shall determine the place, notice requirements and quorum for a meeting of a committee and a sub-committee which, in both cases, shall be no less than five Committee members for each Committee.
- vii. The Chairman and Vice Chairman ex-officio shall be voting members of every Committee.
- viii. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council shall be members of every Committee, unless they signify that they do not wish to serve.
- ix. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a committee;
- x. **The press shall be provided with reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present;**
- xi. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a sub-committee that they are permitted to attend; and
- xii. may dissolve a committee or a sub-committee;
- xiii. Council form working groups to address specified issues or topic, which define the terms of reference and for a period of time.

6. EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- a **The Chairman of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.**
- b **If the Chairman of the Council does not call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within seven days of having been requested in writing to do so by two councillors, any two councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The public notice giving the time, place and agenda for such a meeting shall be signed by the two councillors.**
- c The Chairman of a committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee at any time.
- d If the Chairman of a committee does not call an extraordinary meeting within (7) days of having been requested to do so by (5) members of the committee, any (5) members of the committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee.

7. PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

- a A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least (7) councillors to be given to the Clerk in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.
- b When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 7(a) has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved for a further six months.

8. 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. A tie in votes may be settled by the casting vote exercisable by the Chairman of the meeting.
- b Voting in a Committee: Memembers of committee and sub committees entitled to vote, shall vote by show of hands.

9. MOTIONS FOR A MEETING THAT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE TO BE GIVEN TO THE CLERK

- a A motion shall relate to the responsibilities of the meeting for which it is tabled and in any event shall relate to the performance of the Council's statutory functions, powers and obligations or an issue which specifically affects the Council's area or its residents.
- b No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Clerk at least (14) clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.
- c The Clerk shall insert in the summons of every meeting all notices of motions properly given in the order in which they have been received, unless the member that has given the notice in writing that the motion is to be moved to a later meeting or the motion has been withdrawn.
- d The Clerk may, before including a motion on the agenda received in accordance with standing order 9(b), correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.
- e If the Clerk considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 9(b) is not clear in meaning, the motion shall be rejected until the mover of the motion resubmits it, so that it can be understood, in writing, to the Clerk at least (14) clear days before the meeting.
- f If the wording or subject of a proposed motion is considered improper, the Clerk 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 in the agenda or rejected.

- g The decision of the Clerk as to whether or not to include the motion on the agenda shall be final.
- h Motions received shall be recorded and numbered in the order that they are received, which shall be open to the inspection of every member of Council.
- i Motions rejected shall be recorded with an explanation by the Clerk of the reason for rejection.
- j Every motion shall be relevant to some subject over which the Council has power or duties which affects its area.
- k If the subject matter of a motion comes within the area of a Committee of the Council, it shall, upon being proposed and seconded, stand referred without discussion to such Committee or to such other Committee as the Council may determine for report, provided that the Chairman considers it a matter of urgency, to allow it to be dealt with at a meeting at which it was moved.

10. MOTIONS AT A MEETING THAT DO NOT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE

- a The following motions may be moved at a meeting without written notice to the Clerk:
 - i. to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of a meeting;
 - ii. to move to a vote;
 - iii. to defer consideration of a motion;
 - iv. to refer a motion to a particular committee or sub-committee;
 - v. to appoint a person to preside at a meeting;
 - vi. to change the order of business on the agenda;
 - vii. to proceed to the next business on the agenda;
 - viii. to close or adjourne the debate;
 - ix. to require a written report;
 - x. to adopt a report;
 - xi. to authorise the sealing of documents;
 - xii. to appoint a committee or sub-committee or working groups and their members;
 - xiii. to extend the time limits for speaking;

- xiv. to exclude the press and public from a meeting in respect of confidential or other information which is prejudicial to the public interest;
- xv. to not hear further from a councillor or a member of the public;
- xvi. to exclude a councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct;
- xvii. to temporarily suspend the meeting;
- xviii. to suspend a particular standing order (unless it reflects mandatory statutory or legal requirements);
- xix. to adjourn the meeting; or
- xx. to close the meeting.

11. MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION

See also standing order 20.

- a **The Council shall have in place and keep under review, technical and organisational measures to keep secure information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. Such arrangements shall include deciding who has access to personal data and encryption of personal data.**
- b **The Council shall have in place, and keep under review, policies for the retention and safe destruction of all information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. The Council's retention policy shall confirm the period for which information (including personal data) shall be retained or if this is not possible the criteria used to determine that period (e.g. the Limitation Act 1980).**
- c **The agenda, papers that support the agenda and the minutes of a meeting shall not disclose or otherwise undermine confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**
- d **Councillors, staff, the Council's contractors and agents shall not disclose confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**

12. **DRAFT MINUTES**

Full Council meetings
Committee meetings
Sub-committee meetings

- a If the draft minutes of a preceding meeting have been served on councillors with the agenda to attend the meeting at which they are due to be approved for accuracy, they shall be taken as read.
- b Draft minutes will be made available to the public via the publication schemes (by placing them on the Councils website.) Minutes will be replaced by the approved minutes when these are available. Care must be taken to clearly mark draft minutes as a draft.
- c There shall be no discussion about the draft minutes of a preceding meeting except in relation to their accuracy. A motion to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes shall be moved in accordance with standing order 10(a)(i).
- d The accuracy of draft minutes, including any amendment(s) made to them, 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.
- e If the Chairman of the meeting does not consider the minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting to which they relate, he 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 () held on [date] in respect of () were a correct record but his view was not upheld by the meeting and the minutes are confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.”
- f Subject to the publication of draft minutes in accordance with standing order 20(a) and following a resolution which confirms the accuracy of the minutes of a meeting, the draft minutes or recordings of the meeting for which approved minutes exist shall be destroyed.

13. **CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISPENSATIONS**

See also standing order 3(v).

- a All councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council on 14th May 2024.
- b Unless he has been granted a dispensation, a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which he has a disclosable pecuniary interest. He may return to the meeting after it has considered the matter in which he had the interest.
- c Unless he has been granted a dispensation, a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which he has another interest if so required by the Council's code of conduct. He may return to the meeting after it has considered the matter in which he had the interest.
- d **Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Clerk** as soon as possible before the meeting, or failing that, at the start of the meeting for which the dispensation is required.
- e A decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made by a meeting of the Council with guidance from the Clerk for which the dispensation is required and that decision is final.
- f A dispensation request shall confirm:
 - i. the description and the nature of the disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest to which the request for the dispensation relates;
 - ii. whether the dispensation is required to participate at a meeting in a discussion only or a discussion and a vote;
 - iii. the date of the meeting or the period (not exceeding four years) for which the dispensation is sought; and
 - iv. an explanation as to why the dispensation is sought.
- g Subject to standing orders 13(d) and (f), a dispensation request shall be considered by the Clerk before the meeting or, if this is not possible, at the start of the meeting for which the dispensation is required OR [at the beginning of the meeting of the Council, or committee or sub-committee for which the dispensation is required.
- h **A dispensation may be granted in accordance with standing order 13(e) if having regard to all relevant circumstances any of the following apply:**
 - i. **without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in the particular business would be so great a proportion of the meeting transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business;**

- ii. **granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Council's area; or**
- iii. **it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.**

14. **CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

- a Upon notification by the District Council that it is dealing with a complaint that a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Clerk shall, subject to standing order 11, report this to the Council.
- b Where the notification in standing order 14(a) relates to a complaint made by the Clerk, the Clerk shall notify the Chairman of Council of this fact, and the Chairman shall nominate another staff member to assume the duties of the Clerk in relation to the complaint until it has been determined and the Council has agreed what action, if any, to take in accordance with standing order 14(d).
- c The Council may:
 - i. provide information or evidence where such disclosure is necessary to investigate the complaint or is a legal requirement;
 - ii. seek information relevant to the complaint from the person or body with statutory responsibility for investigation of the matter;
- d **Upon notification by the District Council that a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Council shall consider what, if any, action to take against him. Such action excludes disqualification or suspension from office.**

15. **THE PROPER OFFICER/CLERK**

- a The Proper Officer shall be the Clerk or other staff member(s) nominated by the Council and will undertake the work of the Proper Officer.
- b The Clerk shall:
 - i. **at least three clear days before a meeting of the council, a committee or a sub-committee,**
 - **serve on councillors by delivery or post at their residences or by email authenticated in such manner as the Clerk thinks fit, a signed summons confirming the time, place and the agenda (provided the councillor has consented to service by email), and**
 - **Provide, in a conspicuous place, public notice of the time, place and**

agenda (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the Council convened by councillors is signed by them).

See standing order 3(d) for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a full council and standing order 3(e) for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a committee;

- ii. subject to standing order 9, include on the agenda all motions in the order received unless a councillor has given written notice at least (7) days before the meeting confirming his withdrawal of it;
- iii. **convene a meeting of the Council for the election of a new Chairman of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his office;**
- iv. **facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors;**
- v. **receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities;**
- vi. hold acceptance of office forms from councillors;
- vii. hold a copy of every councillor's register of interests;
- viii. assist with responding to requests made under freedom of information legislation and rights exercisable under data protection legislation, in accordance with the Council's relevant policies and procedures;
- ix. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary;
- x. assist in the organisation of, storage of, access to, security of and destruction of information held by the Council in paper and electronic form subject to the requirements of data protection and freedom of information legislation and other legitimate requirements (e.g. the Limitation Act 1980);
- xi. arrange for legal deeds to be executed;
(see also standing order 23);
- xii. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with its financial regulations;
- xiii. record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council's response to the local planning authority in a book for such purpose;
- xiv. refer a planning application received by the Council to the Chairman or in his absence the Vice-Chairman of the Council OR Chairman or in his absence Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee within two 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 OR Planning committee;

- xv. manage access to information about the Council via the publication scheme;
and
- xvi. retain custody of the seal of the Council (if there is one) which shall not be used without a resolution to that effect.
(*see also standing order 23*).

16. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

- a The Council shall appoint an appropriate Councillor from the Finance and General Purpose Committee to undertake the work of the Responsible Financial Officer when the Responsible Financial Officer is absent.

17. ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

- a "Proper practices" in standing orders refer to the most recent version of "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – a Practitioners' Guide".
- b All payments by the Council shall be authorised, approved and paid in accordance with the law, proper practices and the Council's financial regulations.
- c Where it is necessary to make a payment before it has been authorised by the Council, such payment shall be certified as to its correctness and urgency by the Clerk. Such payment shall be authorised by the Clerk for payment with the approval of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of Council.
- d The Clerk shall supply to each councillor as soon as practicable after 30 June, 30 September and 31 December in each year a statement to summarise:
 - i. the Council's receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) for each month;
 - ii. the Council's aggregate receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) for the year to date;
 - iii. the balances held at the end of the month being reported and
which includes a comparison with the budget for the financial year and highlights any actual or potential overspends.
- e As soon as possible after the financial year end at 31 March, the Clerk shall provide:
 - i. each councillor with a statement summarising the Council's receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) for the last quarter and the year to date for information; and

- ii. to the Council the accounting statements for the year in the form of Section 2 of the annual governance and accountability return, as required by proper practices, for consideration and approval.
- f The year-end accounting statements shall be prepared in accordance with proper practices and apply the form of accounts determined by the Council (receipts and payments, or income and expenditure) for the year to 31 March. A completed draft annual governance and accountability return shall be presented to all councillors at least 14 days prior to anticipated approval by the Council. The annual governance and accountability return of the Council, which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to the Council for consideration and formal approval before 30 June.
- g Financial estimates are not available to the Council until after the December Meeting.
- h Although a Committee Chair will supply the Clerk with a draft written estimate by 31st October the committee will not meet and discuss the estimate and make changes, additions and deletions until the December meeting.

18. FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND PROCUREMENT

- a. The Council shall consider and approve financial regulations drawn up by the Clerk, which shall include detailed arrangements in respect of the following:
 - i. the keeping of accounting records and systems of internal controls;
 - ii. the assessment and management of financial risks faced by the Council;
 - iii. the work of the independent internal auditor in accordance with proper practices and the receipt of regular 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; and
 - v. whether contracts with an estimated value below **£50,000** due to special circumstances are exempt from a tendering process or procurement exercise.
- b. Financial regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for fitness of purpose.
- c. Subject to additional requirements in the financial regulations of the Council, the tender process for contracts for the supply of goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall include, as a minimum, the following steps:
 - i. a specification for the goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall be drawn up;

- ii. an invitation to tender shall be drawn up to confirm (i) the Council's specification (ii) the time, date and address for the submission of tenders (iii) the date of the Council's written response to the tender and (iv) the prohibition on prospective contractors contacting councillors or staff to encourage or support their tender outside the prescribed process;
 - iii. tenders are to be submitted in writing in a sealed marked envelope addressed to the the Clerk;
 - iv. tenders shall be opened by the Clerk in the presence of at least one councillor after the deadline for submission of tenders has passed;
 - v. tenders are to be reported to and considered by the appropriate meeting of the Council or a committee or sub-committee with delegated responsibility.
- d. Neither the Council, nor a committee or a sub-committee with delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound to accept the lowest value tender.
- e. **Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed the threshold specified by the Government from time to time, the Council must consider whether the contract is subject to the requirements of the current procurement legislation and, if so, the Council must comply with procurement rules. NALC's procurement guidance contains further details.**

19. **HANDLING STAFF MATTERS**

- a A matter personal to a member of staff that is being considered by a meeting of Council is subject to standing order 11.
- b Subject to the Council's policy regarding absences from work, the Council's most senior member of staff shall notify the Chairman, if he is not available, the vice-Chairman of absence occasioned by illness or other reason and that person shall report such absence.
- c The Chairman or in his absence, the vice-Chairman shall upon a resolution conduct a review of the performance and annual appraisal of the work of The Clerk. The reviews and appraisal shall be reported to Council.
- d Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the Clerk shall contact the Chairman or in his absence, the vice-Chairman in respect of an informal or formal grievance matter, and this matter shall be reported back to Council.
- e Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter raised by the Clerk relates to the Chairman or vice-Chairman this shall be communicated to another Council member which shall be reported back to Council.
- f Any persons responsible for all or part of the management of staff shall treat as confidential the written records of all meetings relating to their performance,

capabilities, grievance or disciplinary matters.

- g In accordance with standing order 11(a), persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to staff records referred to in standing order 19(f).

20. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION**

See also standing order 21.

- a **In accordance with freedom of information legislation, the Council shall publish information in accordance with its publication scheme and respond to requests for information held by the Council.**
- b *If gross annual income or expenditure (whichever is the higher) exceeds £200,000 The Council, shall publish information in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015.*

21. **RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

(Below is not an exclusive list).

See also standing order 11.

- a The Council may appoint a Data Protection Officer.
- b **The Council shall have policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning his personal data.**
- c **The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.**
- d **The Council shall keep a record of all personal data breaches comprising the facts relating to the personal data breach, its effects and the remedial action taken.**
- e **The Council shall ensure that information communicated in its privacy notice(s) is in an easily accessible and available form and kept up to date.**
- f **The Council shall maintain a written record of its processing activities.**

22. **RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS/MEDIA**

- a Requests from the press or other media for an oral or written comment or statement from the Council, its councillors or staff shall be handled in accordance with the

Council's policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media.

23. **EXECUTION AND SEALING OF LEGAL DEEDS**

See also standing orders 15(b)(xii) and (xvii).

- a A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the Council unless authorised by a resolution.
- b **[Subject to standing order 23(a), the Council's common seal shall alone be used for sealing a deed required by law. It shall be applied by the Clerk in the presence of two councillors who shall sign the deed as witnesses.]**

The above is applicable to a Council with a common seal.

24. **COMMUNICATING WITH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

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

25. **RESTRICTIONS ON COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES**

- a. Unless duly authorised no councillor shall:
 - i. inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect;
or
 - ii. issue orders, instructions or directions.
 - iii. Unless authorised to do so by the Council or the relevant Committee or Sub Committee. This should not discourage Councillors from taking an active interest in day to day matters relating to such lands or premises or reporting any requirements to Council for discussion and /or appropriate action.

26. STANDING ORDERS GENERALLY

- a All or part of a standing order, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements, may be suspended by resolution in relation to the consideration of an item on the agenda for a meeting.
- b A motion to add to or vary or revoke one or more of the Council's standing orders, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements, shall be proposed by a special motion, the written notice by at least (7) councillors to be given to the Clerk in accordance with standing order 9.
- c The Clerk shall provide a copy of the Council's standing orders to a councillor as soon as possible.
- d The decision of the Chairman of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.