

# **GNOSALL PARISH COUNCIL (INCLUDING THE WARDS OF MORETON AND KNIGHTLEY)**

## **Standing Orders**

Adopted 8.12.08 (Minute 08/356)

Amendment to points 12 and 13 – December 2009

All references to Finance Committee amended to Resources Committee – Nov 2010

Amendment to point 51 – January 2011

Amendment to point 78 point 3 (d) - November 2011

Amendment to point 12 i – April 2013

Suspension for a period of 2 years to points 12 (a) and 13 – agreed in April 2014

Amended 13.6.16 (a new point 28 and changes to points 68c, 73,78,79(1e) and 79(2)

Amended November 2017

Amended September 2018 points 13 and 45

Adopted June 2019 (minute 19/083a)

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Note: Unless the contrary intention appears, words importing the masculine gender include the feminine, words importing the feminine gender include the masculine, words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular (The Interpretation Act 1978)

The standing orders printed in bold type are compulsory as they are laid down in Acts of Parliament. These Standing Orders cannot be altered.

## STANDING ORDERS

### 1. Meetings

- a) Meetings of the Council shall be held in each year on such dates and times and at such place as the Council may direct.
- b) If the business of the meeting has not been concluded two hours after the start of the meeting, the Chairman will indicate that time has expired and the Member speaking must immediately sit down. The Chairman will adjourn the meeting immediately unless a motion to continue the meeting is moved and seconded.

A motion to continue the meeting will be voted on without discussion. If the motion is passed the meeting will continue for a further thirty minutes and the procedure in paragraph b) will be repeated. If a second motion to continue the meeting is passed the meeting will continue for a further thirty minutes at the end of which the Chairman must adjourn the meeting and no further motion to adjourn the meeting may be moved.

If, when the meeting is adjourned, there is business on the agenda that has not been dealt with it will be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council. An extra-ordinary meeting of the Council will be called within 20 working days for the purpose of considering the remaining business, if five Members demand it immediately following the adjournment.

### 2. The Statutory Annual Meeting

- a) **In an election year the Annual Parish Council Meeting shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the Councillors elected take office and**
- b) **In a year which is not an election year the Annual Parish Council Meeting shall be held on such day in May as the Council may direct.**

3. **In addition to the Statutory Annual Parish Council Meeting at least three other statutory meetings shall be held in each year on such dates and times and at such place as the Council may direct.**

### 4. Chairman of the Meeting

**The person presiding at a meeting may exercise all the powers and duties of the Chairman in relation to the conduct of the meeting.**

### 5. Proper Officer

Where a statute, regulation or order confers function or duties on the Proper Officer of the Council in the following cases, he shall be the Clerk or nominated officer: -

To receive declarations of acceptance of office.

To receive and record notices disclosing interests at meetings.

To receive and retain plans and documents.

To sign notices or other documents on behalf of the Council.

To receive copies of bylaws made by another local authority.

To certify copies of bylaws made by the Council.

To sign and issue the summons to attend meetings of the Council.

To keep proper records for all Council meetings.

## **6. Quorum of the Council**

**Three members or one-third of the total membership, whichever is the greater, shall constitute a quorum at meetings of the Council.**

7. If a quorum is not present or if during a meeting the number of Councillors present (not counting those debarred by reason of a declared interest) falls below the required quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned and business not transacted shall be transacted at the next meeting or on such other day as the Chairman may fix.
8. For a quorum relating to a committee or sub-committee, please refer to standing order 48.

## **9. Voting**

Members shall vote by show of hands or, if at least two members so request, by signed ballot.

10. **If a member so requires, the Clerk shall record the names of the members who voted on any question so as to show whether they voted for or against it. Such a request must be made before moving on to the next business.**
11. **(1) Subject to (2) and (3) below the Chairman may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in any case of an equality of votes may give a casting vote whether or not he gave an original vote.**  
**(2) If the person presiding at the annual meeting would have ceased to be a member of the council but for the statutory provisions which preserve the membership of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman until the end of their term of office he may not give an original vote in an election for Chairman.**  
**(3) The person presiding must give a casting vote whenever there is an equality of votes in an election for Chairman.**

## **12. Order of Business**

**At each Annual Parish Council Meeting the first business shall be:-**

- a) **To elect a Chairman of the Council** (a Chairman of Council shall hold office for not more than three years consecutively).
- b) **To receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office or, if not then received, to decide when it shall be received.**

- c) **In the ordinary year of election of the Council to fill any vacancies left unfilled at the election by reason of insufficient nominations.**
- d) **To decide when any declarations of acceptance of office which have not been received as provided by law shall be received.**
- e) To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Council.
- f) To appoint representatives to outside bodies.
- g) To appoint committees, sub-committees and working groups.
- h) To consider the payment of any subscriptions falling to be paid annually.
- i) To inspect any deeds and trust investments in the custody of the Council within 6 weeks of the Annual meeting;

and shall thereafter follow the order set out in the Standing Order 15.

**13. At every meeting other than the Annual Parish Council Meeting the first business shall be to appoint a Chairman if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be absent and to receive such declarations of acceptance of office (if any) and undertaking to observe the Council's code of conduct as are required by law to be made or, if not then received, to decide when they shall be received.** A Chairman of Council shall hold office for not more than three years consecutively. The newly elected Chairman will be allowed to determine which mode of address they wish to be used at meetings ie Chair, Chairman, Madam Chairman, Madam Chair, Chairperson or any other suitable alternative.

- 14. In every year, no later than the meeting at which the budget is settled, the Council shall consider the recommendations of the Personnel Committee regarding the annual review of the pay and conditions of service of existing employees. Standing Order 38 must be read in conjunction with this requirement.
- 15. After the first business has been completed, the order of business, unless the Council otherwise decides on the ground of urgency, shall be as follows:-
  - a) To receive declarations of interest in any items of business on the agenda.
  - b) To read and consider the Minutes; provided that if a copy has been circulated to each member not later than the day of issue of the summons to attend the meeting, the Minutes may be taken as read.
  - c) **After consideration to approve the signature of the Minutes by the person presiding as a correct record.**
  - d) **To deal with business expressly required by statute to be done.**
  - e) To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting.
  - f) To receive such communications as the person presiding may wish to lay before the Council.
  - g) To answer questions from Councillors.
  - h) To receive and consider reports and minutes of committees.

- i) To receive and consider reports from officers.
- j) To receive and consider resolutions or recommendations in the order in which they have been notified.
- k) To authorise the sealing of documents.
- l) If necessary, to authorise the signing of orders for payment.

16. Urgent Business

A motion to vary the order of business on the ground of urgency:

- a) May be proposed by the Chairman or by any member and, if proposed by the Chairman, may be put to the vote without being seconded, and
- b) shall be put to the vote without discussion.

17. Resolutions Moved On Notice

Except as provided by these Standing Orders, no resolution may be moved unless the business to which it relates has been put on the Agenda by the Clerk or the mover has given notice in writing of its terms and has delivered the notice to the Clerk at least 10 clear days before the next meeting of the Council.

- 18. The Clerk shall date every notice of resolution or recommendation when received by him, shall number each notice in the order in which it was received and shall enter it in a book which shall be open to the inspection of every member of the Council.
- 19. The Clerk shall insert in the summons for every meeting all notices of motion or recommendation properly given in the order in which they have been received unless the member giving a notice of motion has stated in writing that he intends to move at some later meeting or that he withdraws it.
- 20. If a resolution or recommendation specified in the summons is not moved either by the member who gave notice of it or by any other member, it shall, unless postponed by the Council, be treated as withdrawn and shall not be moved without fresh notice.
- 21. If the subject matter of a resolution comes within the province of a committee of the Council, it shall, upon being moved 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, if he considers it to be a matter of urgency, may allow it to be dealt with at the meeting at which it was moved.
- 22. Every resolution or recommendation shall be relevant to some subject over which the Council has power or duties, which affects its area.

23. Resolutions Moved Without Notice

Resolutions dealing with the following matters may be moved without notice:-

- a) To appoint a Chairman of the meeting.

- b) To correct the Minutes.
- c) To approve the Minutes.
- d) To alter the order of business.
- e) To proceed to the next business.
- f) To close or adjourn the debate.
- g) To refer a matter to a committee.
- h) To appoint a committee or any members thereof.
- i) To adopt a report.
- j) To authorise the sealing of documents.
- k) To amend a motion.
- l) To give leave to withdraw a resolution or amendment.
- m) To extend the time limit for speeches.
- n) To exclude the press and public. (See Order 68 below).
- o) To silence or eject from the meeting a member named for misconduct. (See order 33 below).
- p) To give the consent of the Council where such consent is required by these Standing Orders.
- q) To suspend any Standing Order. (See Order 79 below).
- r) To adjourn the meeting.

24. Questions

A member may ask the Chairman of the Council or the Clerk any question concerning the business of the Council, provided 10 clear days notice of the question has been given to the person to whom it is addressed.

- 25. No questions not connected with business under discussion shall be asked except during the part of the meeting set aside for questions.
- 26. Every question shall be put and answered without discussion.
- 27. A person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer.
- 28. Councillors should refer any questions from members of the public, outside meetings, to the Clerk.

29. Rules of Debate

No discussion of the Minutes shall take place except upon their accuracy. Corrections to the Minutes shall be made by resolution and must be initialled by the Chairman.

30. a) A resolution or amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded, and, unless proper notice has already been given, it shall, if required by the Chairman, be reduced to writing and handed to him before it is further discussed or put to the meeting.
- b) A member when seconding a resolution or amendment may, if he then declares his intention to do so, reserve his speech until a later period of the debate.
- c) A member shall direct his speech to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or to a question of order.
- d) No speech by a mover of a resolution shall exceed 3 minutes and no other speech shall exceed 2 minutes except by consent of the Council.
- e) An amendment shall be either:-
- i) To leave out words.
  - ii) To leave out words and insert others.
  - iii) To insert or add words.
- f) An amendment shall not have the effect of negating the resolution before the Council.
- g) If an amendment be carried, the resolution, as amended, shall take the place of the original resolution and shall become the resolution upon which any further amendment may be moved.
- h) A further amendment shall not be moved until the Council has disposed of every amendment previously moved.
- i) The mover of a resolution or of an amendment shall have a right of reply, not exceeding 2 minutes.
- j) A member, other than the mover of a resolution, shall not, without leave of the Council, speak more than once on any resolution except to move an amendment or further amendment, or on an amendment, or on a point of order, or in personal explanation, or to move a closure.
- k) A member may speak on a point of order or a personal explanation. A member speaking for these purposes shall be heard forthwith. A personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by him, which may have been misunderstood.
- l) A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the proposer with the consent of the Council, which shall be signified without discussion, and no member may speak upon it after permission has been asked for its withdrawal unless such permission has been refused.
- m) When a resolution is under debate no other resolution shall be moved except the following:-
- i. To amend the resolution.
  - ii. To proceed to the next business.
  - iii. To adjourn the debate.

- iv. That the question be now put.
  - v. That a member named be not further heard.
  - vi. That a member named leave the meeting.
  - vii. That the resolution be referred to a committee.
  - viii. To exclude the public and press.
  - ix. To adjourn the meeting.
31. A member shall remain seated when speaking unless requested to stand by the Chairman.
32. a) The ruling of the Chairman on a point of order or on the admissibility of a personal explanation shall not be discussed.
- b) Members shall address the Chairman. If two or more members wish to speak, the Chairman shall decide who to call upon.
- c) Whenever the Chairman speaks during a debate all other members shall be silent.

33. Closure

At the end of any speech a member may, without comment, move “that the question be now put”, “that the debate be now adjourned” or “that the Council do now adjourn”. If such motion is seconded, the Chairman shall put the motion but, in the case of a motion “that the question be now put”, only if he is of the opinion that the question before the Council has been sufficiently debated. If the motion “that the question be now put” is carried, he shall call upon the mover to exercise or waive his right of reply and shall put the question immediately after that right has been exercised or waived. The adjournment of a debate or of the Council shall not prejudice the mover’s right of reply at the resumption.

34. Disorderly Conduct

- a) **All members must observe the Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on 9 July 2007, a copy of which is annexed to these Standing Orders.**
- b) No member shall at a meeting persistently disregard the ruling of the Chairman, wilfully obstruct business, or behave irregularly, offensively, improperly or **in such a manner as to bring the Council into disrepute.**
- c) If, in the opinion of the Chairman, a member has broken the provisions of paragraph (b) of this Order, the Chairman shall express that opinion to the Council and thereafter any member may move that the member named be no longer heard or that the member named do leave the meeting, and the motion, if seconded, shall be put forthwith and without discussion. **If a member reasonably believes another member is in breach of the code of conduct, that member is under a duty to report the breach to the Standards Board.**
- d) If either of the motions mentioned in paragraph (c) is disobeyed, the Chairman may adjourn the meeting or take such further steps as may reasonably be necessary to enforce them.

35. Right of Reply

The mover of a resolution shall have a right to reply immediately before the resolution is put to the vote. If an amendment is proposed the mover of the amendment shall be entitled to reply immediately before the amendment is put to the vote. A member exercising a right of reply shall not introduce a new matter. After the right of reply has been exercised or waived, a vote shall be taken without further discussion.

36. Alteration of Resolution

A member may, with the consent of his seconder, move amendments to his own resolution.

37. Rescission of Previous Resolution

- a) A decision (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special resolution, the written notice whereof bears the names of more than half of the total membership of the Council, or by a resolution moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a committee.
- b) When a special resolution or any other resolution moved under the provisions of paragraph (a) of this Order has been disposed of, no similar resolution may be moved within a further six months.

38. Voting On Appointments

Where more than two persons have been nominated for any position to be filled by the Council and of the votes given there is not an absolute majority in favour of one person, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken, and so on until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person.

39. Discussions and Resolutions Affecting Employees of the Council

If at a meeting there arises any question relating to the appointment, conduct, promotion, dismissal, salary or conditions of service, of any person employed by the Council, it shall not be considered until the Council or committee (as the case may be) has decided whether or not the press and public shall be excluded. (See Standing Order No. 68.).

40. Resolutions on Expenditure

Any resolution (which is moved otherwise than in pursuance of a recommendation of the Resources Committee or of another committee after recommendation by the Resources Committee) and which, if carried, would, in the opinion of the Chairman, substantially increase the expenditure upon any service which is under the management of the Council or reduce the revenue at the disposal of any committee, or which would involve capital expenditure, shall, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council, and any committee affected by it shall consider whether it desires to report thereon (and the Resources Committee shall report on the financial aspect of the matters).

41. Expenditure

**Cheques and other orders for the payment of money drawn on the Council's bankers shall be authorised by resolution of the Council and signed by three people, two of whom must be members of Council, one of whom may be the Clerk/RFO. This Standing**

**Order must be read in conjunction with Standing Order 56 and Terms of Reference of Committees.**

42. Sealing of Documents

Any two members of the Council named in a resolution moved under the provisions of paragraph (a) of this Order may seal, on behalf of the Council, any document required by law to be issued under seal.

43. Committees, Sub Committees and Working Groups

The Council may at its Annual Meeting appoint standing committees and working groups and may at any other time appoint such other committees and working groups as are necessary, but subject to any statutory provision in that behalf:-

- a) Shall not appoint any member of a committee or working group so as to hold office later than the next Annual Meeting.
- b) May appoint persons other than members of the Council to any Committee or working group (except the Resources Committee); and
- c) May subject to the provisions of standing order 36 above at any time dissolve or alter the membership of committee or working group.

44. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, ex-officio, shall be voting members of every committee with the exception of the Appeals Committee.

45. Every committee or working group shall at its first meeting before proceeding to any other business, elect a Chairman and may elect a Vice-Chairman who shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, and shall settle its programme of meetings for the year. The newly elected Chairman will be allowed to determine which mode of address they wish to be used at meetings ie Chair, Chairman, Madam Chairman, Madam Chair, Chairperson or any other suitable alternative.

46. Special Meeting

The Chairman of a committee or working group or the Chairman of the Council may summon an additional meeting of that committee or working group at any time. An additional meeting shall also be summoned on the requisition in writing of not less than a quarter of the members of the committee or working group. The summons shall set out the business to be considered at the special meeting and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting.

47. Sub-Committees

Every committee may appoint sub-committees for purposes to be specified by the committee.

48. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the committee shall be members of every sub-committee appointed by it unless they signify that they do not wish to serve.

49. Except where ordered by the Council in the case of a committee, or by the Council or by the appropriate committee in the case of a sub-committee, the quorum of a committee or sub-committee shall be 3 or one-third of its members.

50. The Standing Orders on rules of debate (except those parts relating to standing and to speaking more than once) and the Standing Order on interests of members in contracts and other matters shall apply to committee and sub-committee meetings.

51. Working Groups

The Council or a committee may create working groups for specific purposes, as it sees fit.

52. Terms of reference for committees sub-committees and working groups

Terms will be set down and made available to every member upon appointment to a committee or group. These terms of reference shall be reviewed from time to time as appropriate. Terms of Reference for working groups may be determined by Council as and when the group is created

53. Advisory Committees

- 1) The Council may create advisory committees, whose name, and number of members and the bodies to be invited to nominate members shall be specified.
- 2) The Clerk shall inform the members of each advisory committee of the terms of reference of the committee.
- 3) An advisory committee may make recommendations and give notice thereof to the Council.
- 4) An advisory committee may consist wholly of persons who are not members of the Council.

Voting in Committees

54. Members of committees and sub-committees entitled to vote, shall vote by show of hands, or, if at least two members so request, by signed ballot.

55. **Chairmen of committees and sub-committees shall in the case of an equality of votes have a second or casting vote.**

56. Presence of Non-Members of Committees at Committee Meetings

A member who has proposed a resolution, which has been referred to any committee of which he is not a member, may explain his resolution to the committee but shall not vote.

57. Accounts and Financial Statement

- 1) Expenditure on revenue items may be incurred up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget.
- 2) No expenditure may be incurred that will exceed the amount provided in the revenue budget for that class of expenditure. During the budget year and with the approval of Council having considered fully the implications for public services, unspent and available amounts may be moved to other budget headings or to an earmarked reserve as appropriate.
- 3) The RFO shall regularly provide the Council with a statement of receipts and payments to date under each head of the budgets, comparing actual expenditure to the appropriate date against that planned as shown in the budget. These statements are to be prepared at least at the end of each financial quarter.

- 4) The Clerk may incur expenditure on behalf of the Council which is necessary to carry out any repair replacement or other work which is of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of £500. The Clerk shall report the action to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter.
  - 5) In an exceptional circumstance, any three members of the Resources Committee may authorise expenditure which is of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once whether or not there is any budget provided for the expenditure, subject to a limit of £2500. The Clerk shall report the action to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter.
  - 6) Unspent provisions in the revenue budget shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year unless placed in an earmarked reserve by resolution of the Council.
  - 7) No expenditure shall be incurred in relation to any capital project and no contract entered into or tender accepted involving capital expenditure unless the Council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available, or the requisite borrowing approval has been obtained.
  - 8) All capital works shall be administered in accordance with the Council's standing orders and financial regulations relating to contracts.
  - 9) When payments cannot be authorised by Council as there is a delay of more than one month between Council meetings, then three of either the Chairman, Vice Chairman or Committee Chairman may authorise normal payments on behalf of Council. Each payment will be reported at all Councillors in writing within 7 days of such approval.
58. The Responsible Financial Officer shall supply to each member as soon as practicable after 31 March in each year a statement of the receipts and payments of the Council for the completed financial year. A Financial Statement prepared on the appropriate accounting basis (receipts and payments, or income and expenditure) for a year to 31 March shall be presented to each member before the end of the following month of May. The Statement of Accounts of the Council (which is subject to external audit) shall be presented to Council for formal approval before the end of the following month of September.
59. Estimates / Precepts
- 1) No later than the end of November each year, each Committee shall formulate and submit proposals to the Resources Committee in respect of revenue and capital including the use of reserves and sources of funding for the following financial year.
  - 2) Detailed estimates of all receipts and payments including the use of reserves and all sources of funding for the year shall be prepared each year by the Resources Committee and the RFO in the form of a budget to be considered by the Council.
  - 3) The Council shall review the budget not later than the January meeting of Council each year and shall fix the Precept to be levied for the ensuing financial year. The RFO shall issue the precept to the billing authority and shall supply each member with a copy of the approved budget.
60. Interests
- If a member has a personal interest as defined by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 9 July 2007 then he shall declare such interest as soon as it becomes apparent, disclosing the existence and nature of that interest as required.**
61. **The Clerk may be required to compile and hold a register of member's interests in accordance with agreement reached with the Monitoring Officer of the Responsible Authority and/or as required by statute.**

62. If a candidate for any appointment under the Council is to his knowledge related to any member of or the holder of any office under the Council, he and the person to whom he is related shall disclose the relationship in writing to the Clerk. A candidate who fails to do so shall be disqualified for such appointment, and, if appointed, may be dismissed without notice. The Clerk shall report to the Council or to the appropriate committee any such disclosure. Where a relationship to a member is disclosed, Standing Orders 57, 58 and 59 shall apply as appropriate.

63. The Clerk shall make known the purpose of Standing Order 61 to every candidate.

64. Canvassing of and Recommendations By Members

- 1) Canvassing of members of the Council or of any committee, directly or indirectly, for any appointment under the Council shall disqualify the candidate for such appointment. The Clerk shall make known the purport of this sub-paragraph of this Standing Order to every candidate.
- 2) A member of the Council or of any committee shall not solicit for any person any appointment under the Council or recommend any person for such appointment or for promotion; but, nevertheless, any such member may give a written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Council with an application for appointment.

65. Standing Order Nos. 61 & 63 shall apply to tenders as if the person making the tender were a candidate for an appointment.

66. Inspection of Documents

A member may for the purpose of his duty as such (but not otherwise), inspect any document in possession of the Council or a committee or working group, and if copies are available shall, on request, be supplied for the like purpose with a copy.

67. **All minutes kept by the Council and by any committee shall be open for the inspection of any member of the Council.**

68. Unauthorised Activities

No member of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee or working group shall in the name of or on behalf of the Council:-

- a) Inspect any lands or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect; or
- b) Issue order, instructions or directions.

Unless authorised to do so by the Council or the relevant committee or sub-committee.

- c) No one member of Council shall meet individuals or parties to discuss matters of concern.

69. Admission of the Public and Press to Meetings

**The public and press shall be admitted to all meetings of the Council and its committees and sub-committees, which may, however, temporarily exclude the public by means of the following resolutions:-**

“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”.

70. The Council shall state the special reason for exclusion.
71. There will be a period of public participation prior to every Council meeting of no longer than 10 minutes, for the purpose of making representations, giving evidence or answering questions. Questions are to be dealt with individually and up to a maximum of three questions per person within the 10 minutes allocated.
72. At all meetings of the Council the Chairman may at his discretion and at a convenient time in the transaction of business, adjourn the meeting so as to allow any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting.
73. The Clerk shall afford to the press reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of any proceedings at which they are entitled to be present. Members of the public may film/record Parish Council meetings without prior permission being sought from the Parish Council apart from confidential business, as long as filming or recording is not disruptive to the business of the meeting. *Ref The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.*
74. If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any meeting, the Chairman may, after warning, order that he be removed from the meeting and may adjourn the meeting for such period as is necessary to restore order.
75. Confidential Business
  - 1) No member of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee shall disclose to any person not a member of the Council any business declared to be confidential by the Council, the committee or the sub-committee as the case may be.
  - 2) Any member in breach of the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order shall be removed from any committee or sub-committee of the Council by the Council.
76. Liaison with County and District Councillors

A summons and Agenda for each meeting shall be sent, together with an invitation to attend, to the County, Borough, Unitary or District Councillor for the appropriate division or ward.
77. Unless the Council otherwise orders, a copy of each letter ordered to be sent to the County or District Council shall be transmitted to the County Councillor for the division or to the District Councillor for the ward as the case may require.
78. Planning Applications

The Clerk shall, as soon as it is received, enter in a book kept for the purpose the following particulars of every planning application notified to the Council:-

  - (a) the date on which it was received
  - (b) the name of the applicant
  - (c) the place to which it relates
  - (d) members of the Council and Officers must adhere to the Developer Liaison Policy
79. Financial Matters

The Council shall consider and approve Financial Regulations drawn up by the Resources Committee.

- 1) Such Regulations shall include detailed arrangements for the following:
  - a) the accounting records and systems of internal control;
  - b) the assessment and management of risks faced by the Council;
  - c) the work of the Internal Auditor and the receipt of regular reports from the Internal Auditor which shall be required at least annually;
  - d) the financial reporting requirements of members and local electors and
  - e) Procurement policies (subject to (2) below) including the setting of values for different procedures where the contract has an estimated value less than £25,000.
- 2) Any proposed contract for the supply of goods, materials, services and the execution of works with an estimated value in excess of £25,000 shall be procured on the basis of a formal tender, as defined by The Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 3) Any formal tender process shall comprise the following steps:
  - a) a public notice of intention to place a contract to be placed in a local newspaper;
  - b) a specification of the goods, materials, services and the execution of works shall be drawn up;
  - c) Tenders are to be sent, in a sealed marked envelope, to the Clerk by a stated date and time;
  - d) Tenders submitted are to be opened, after the stated closing date and time, by the Clerk and at least one member of Council;
  - e) Tenders are then to be assessed and reported to the appropriate meeting of Council or Committee.
- 4) The Council, nor any Committee, is not bound to accept the lowest tender, estimate or quote. Any tender notice shall contain a reference to the standing orders 61, 63 & 64 regarding improper activity.
- 5) The Financial Regulations of the Council shall be subject to regular review, at least once every four years.

{ Council is reminded that the European Union Public Sector Procurement Rules are likely to apply to contracts with a value in excess of £140,000 and advice should be sought at this level }

80. Code of Conduct on Complaints

The Council shall deal with complaints of maladministration allegedly committed by the Council or by any officer or member in such manner as adopted by the Council except for those complaints which should be properly directed to the Standards Board.

81. Variation, Revocation and Suspension of Standing Orders

Any or every part of the Standing Orders except those printed in **bold type** may be suspended by resolution in relation to any specific item of business.

82. A resolution permanently to add, vary or revoke a Standing Order shall when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

83. Standing orders should be reviewed annually.

84. Standing Orders to be given to Members

A copy of these Standing Orders shall be given to each member by the Clerk upon delivery to him of the member's declaration of acceptance of office and written undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.