



## **Burston and Shimpling Parish Council**

### **Members' Code of Conduct**

1. You are a member or co-opted member of Burston and Shimpling Parish Council and hence you shall have regard to the following principles:
  - 1.1. selflessness,
  - 1.2. integrity,
  - 1.3. objectivity,
  - 1.4. accountability,
  - 1.5. openness,
  - 1.6. honesty, and
  - 1.7. leadership.
  
2. Accordingly, when acting in your capacity as a member or co-opted member:
  - 2.1. You must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend or close associate.
  - 2.2. You must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence you in the performance of your official duties.
  - 2.3. When carrying out your public duties you must make all choices, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, on merit.
  - 2.4. You are accountable for your decisions to the public and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.
  - 2.5. You must be as open as possible about your decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of your authority and should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions.
  - 2.6. You must declare any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, that relate to your public duties and must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest, including registering and declaring interests in a manner conforming with the procedures set out in paragraph 3 below.

- 2.7. You must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority, ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and you must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.
- 2.8. You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example.

### **3. Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**

- 3.1. You must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your authority's monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State, where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse's or civil partner's, or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners.
- 3.2. In addition, you must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your authority's monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which your authority has decided should be included in the register.
- 3.3. If an interest has not been entered onto the authority's register, then the member must disclose the interest to any meeting of the authority at which they are present, where they have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a *sensitive interest*.
- 3.4. Following any disclosure of an interest not on the authority's register or the subject of pending notification, you must notify the monitoring officer of the interest within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure.
- 3.5. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State. Additionally, you must observe the restrictions your authority places on your involvement in matters where you have a pecuniary or non pecuniary interest as defined by your authority.
- 3.6. A *sensitive interest* is described in the Localism Act 2011 as a member or co-opted member of an authority having an interest, and the nature of the interest being such that the member or co-opted member, and the authority's monitoring officer, consider that disclosure of the details of the interest could lead to the member or co-opted member, or a person connected with the member or co-opted member, being subject to violence or intimidation.



# Burston and Shimpling Parish Council

## Communications Policy

### 1. Purposes

The purpose of this policy is to establish an agreed framework for communications so that as a Council we are able to:

- Improve the quality of working relationships between all members of the Council team.
- Create opportunities to understand and meet the needs of parishioners.
- Be better informed and share information.
- Strengthen working relationships with other agencies, including SNC, NCC and other Parish Councils.
- Communicate effectively via the media.
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality.

### 2. This will be achieved by:

- Using personal contact or the telephone or email to discuss issues between meetings, but remembering that email may become public.
- Conducting the business of Council at formal meetings of Council only, including amendments to minutes of meetings, and formal resolutions.
- The Clerk to Council distributing a weekly listing of items received between meetings, forwarding copies of relevant emails.
- Making full use, as appropriate, of the range of support available from other agencies, including SNC, NCC, the Norfolk County Association or Parish & Town Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.
- Communicating with the local press and other media via the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice Chairman, or as otherwise decided by Council.
- Publishing a parish newsletter.
- Members taking ownership of key aspects of council business and keeping other members informed.
- Using the notice boards in Burston and Shimpling.
- Using the website and other social media.

***Note: This policy is subject to, and does not replace, the requirements documented by Standing Orders and Code of Conduct***



## **Burston and Shimpling Parish Council**

### **Complaints Policy**

#### **1. General**

- 1.1. The following procedure will be adopted for dealing with complaints about the Council's administration or its procedures. Complaints about a policy decision made by the Council will be referred back to the Council, or relevant Committee, as appropriate, for consideration.
- 1.2. This procedure does not cover complaints about the conduct of a Member of the Parish Council, which will be referred to South Norfolk Council.

#### **2. Making a Complaint.**

- 2.1. If a complaint about procedures, administration or the actions of any of the Council's employees is notified orally to a Councillor, or to the Clerk, a written record of the complaint will be made, noting the name and contact details of the complainant and the nature of the complaint, and the vice record will be passed to the Clerk, or to the Chairman if the complaint relates to the Clerk, or to the Vice Chairman.
- 2.2. The complainant will be asked to put the complaint in writing (letter/email/standard form) to the Clerk, refusal by the complainant to put the complaint in writing does not necessarily mean that the complaint cannot be investigated.
- 2.3. If the complainant prefers not to put the complaint to the Clerk (because the matter relates to the Clerk, for example) he or she should put the complaint to the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

#### **3. Processing a Complaint**

- 3.1. On receipt of a written complaint, the Clerk (except where the complaint is about his or her own actions) or Chairman (if the complaint relates to the Clerk), or the Vice Chairman (if the complaint relates to both the Clerk and the Chairman), will seek to settle the complaint directly with the complainant. This will not be done without first notifying any person complained about and giving him or her the opportunity to comment. Efforts should be made to resolve the complaint at this stage.
- 3.2. The Clerk (or Chairman or Vice Chairman) will report any complaint disposed of by direct action with the complainant to the next meeting of the Council.
- 3.3. The Clerk (or Chairman or Vice Chairman) will report any complaint that has not been resolved to the next meeting of the Council for consideration. The clerk will notify the complainant of the date on which the complainant will be considered and the complainant will be offered an opportunity to explain the complaint to the Council verbally.

- 3.4. The Council may consider whether the circumstances of any complaint warrant the matter being discussed in the absence of the press and public, but any decision on the complaint will be announced at the Council meeting in public.
- 3.5. The Council may consider in the circumstances of any particular complaint whether to make any payment or provide other reasonable benefit to any person who has suffered loss as a result of the Council's maladministration. Any payment may only be authorised by the Council after obtaining legal advice and advice from Council's auditor on the propriety of such a payment.
- 3.6. As soon as possible after the decision has been made (and in any event not later than 10 days after the meeting) the complainant will be notified in writing of the decision and any action to be taken.
- 3.7. The Council may defer deciding on any complaint if it is of the opinion that issues arise on which further advice is necessary. The advice will be considered and the complaint dealt with at the next meeting after the advice has been received.



# **Burston and Shimpling Parish Council**

## **Equal Opportunities Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

Burston and Shimpling Parish Council is committed to providing the highest quality of provision and service and recognises that the implementation of an effective Equal Opportunities Policy is an integral part of such an approach.

However, Burston and Shimpling is a relatively small Parish Council, which currently has only one employee. It is also not responsible for the management of any buildings and its services provision is limited. This scope of this policy is, therefore, designed to reflect this.

The Parish Council, as a corporate body, has responsibilities as an employer, a service provider and a public authority, but both members and employees as individuals also have responsibilities as well as rights. The Parish Council will treat all its employees, members, partners, customers and members of the public with dignity and respect, free from discrimination, victimisation and harassment.

### **2. Legal Position**

Under the Equality Act 2010 it is unlawful to discriminate against an individual on the following grounds:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

These are known as "protected characteristics" in section 4 of the 2010 Act.

Section 149 of the 2010 Act imposes a Duty on Parish Councils to take into account:

- The need to eliminate discrimination and harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- To advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- To foster good relations between those who share protected characteristics and those who do not.

### **3. Our Commitment**

Burston and Shimpling Parish Council understands its obligations under the Equality Act 2010

Burston and Shimpling Parish Council is fully committed to its duty, imposed by Section 149 of the 2010 Act

Burston and Shimpling Parish Council is committed to the principle of equal opportunities and declares its opposition to any form of less favourable treatment, whether through direct or indirect discrimination, on the grounds of the protected characteristics as specified in the Equality Act 2010.

The Council is an Equal Opportunities employer, provider of services and contractor. It is committed to the promotion, maintenance and protection of the rights of individuals. The Council is committed to making full use of the talents and resources of its employees.

The Council will ensure that all recipients of the services delivered directly by the Council are guaranteed the same opportunity.

All policies of the Council will be designed to support the principles and practices of equal opportunity, to foster a fully integrated community and maintain racial harmony.

The Equal Opportunities Policy has the commitment of the Council and the Parish Clerk

### **4. The Council as an Employer**

The Purpose of this policy is to provide equal opportunities to all employees or prospective employees, irrespective of their characteristics (unless there are genuine qualifications or objectively justified reasons for a different approach to be taken). We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination, victimisation or harassment on the grounds of any protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

All employees, whether full-time, part-time, fixed contract, agency workers or temporary, will be treated fairly and equally. Selection for employment, promotion, training, remuneration or any other benefit will be on the basis of aptitude and ability. All employees will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential and the talents and resources of the workforce will be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of the council.

Every employee is entitled to a working environment that promotes dignity and respect to all. No form of intimidation, bullying or harassment will be tolerated.

The Council will encourage employees and members to support and carry out the requirements of the Equal Opportunities Policy.

Breaches of our Equal Opportunities Policy will be regarded as misconduct and could lead to disciplinary proceedings.

The commitment to equal opportunities in the workplace is good management practice and makes sound business sense as it seeks to utilise the talents available from the local community, representing Society as a whole.

This policy is fully supported by all Members of the council and adopts the model contract as devised by the employee professional body in the local government sector (the Society of Local Council Clerks)

## **5. The Council as a Direct Service Deliver**

The Council's clients have the right to expect fair and non-discriminatory treatment whilst participating in or receiving any of the Council's services or activities.

All aspects of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy impact on the manner in which it directly delivers services to and for its residents.

The above requirements apply to all services and activities of the Council.



# Burston and Shimpling Parish Council

## Financial Regulations

### 1. General

- 1.1. These financial regulations govern the conduct of financial management by the Council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the Council. The council is responsible in law for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that the council has a sound system of financial control which facilitates the effective exercise of the council's functions, including arrangements for the management of risk and for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption. These financial regulations are designed to demonstrate how the council meets these responsibilities.
- 1.2. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) is a statutory office and shall be appointed by the council. Alison Wakeham (Vice Chair) has been appointed as RFO for this council and these regulations will apply accordingly. The RFO, acting under the policy direction of the Council, shall administer the Council's financial affairs in accordance with proper practices. The RFO shall determine on behalf of the council its accounting records, and accounting control systems. The RFO shall ensure that the accounting control systems are observed and that the accounting records of the council are maintained and kept up to date in accordance with proper practices. (As defined in 1.6)
- 1.3. The RFO shall produce financial management information as required by the council.
- 1.4. At least once a year, prior to approving the annual return, the council shall conduct a review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control which shall be in accordance with proper practices.
- 1.5. In these financial regulations, references to the Accounts and Audit Regulations shall mean the Regulations issued under the provisions of section 27 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and then in force.
- 1.6. In these financial regulations the term 'proper practice' or 'proper practices' shall refer to guidance issued in Governance and Accountability in local Councils in England and Wales – a Practitioners' Guide which is published jointly by NALC and SLCC and updated from time to time.

## 2. Annual Estimates (Budget)

- 2.1. Each Committee (if any) shall formulate and submit proposals to the Council in respect of revenue and capital including the use of reserves and sources of funding for the following financial year not later than the end of November each year.
- 2.2. 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 RFO in the form of a budget to be considered by the council.
- 2.3. The Council shall review the budget not later than the end of January 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.
- 2.4. The annual budgets shall form the basis of financial control for the ensuing year.
- 2.5. The Council shall consider the need for and shall have regard to a three year forecast of Revenue and Capital Receipts and Payments which may be prepared at the same time as the annual Budget.

## 3. Budgetary Control

- 3.1. Expenditure on revenue items may be incurred up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget.
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. 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 £200. The Clerk shall report the action to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 3.5. 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.
- 3.6. 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.
- 3.7. All capital works shall be administered in accordance with the Council's standing orders and financial regulations relating to contracts.

#### **4. Accounting and Audit**

- 4.1. All accounting procedures and financial records of the Council shall be determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 4.2. The RFO shall complete the annual financial statements of the Council, including the council's annual return, as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year and shall submit them and report thereon to the Council.
- 4.3. The RFO shall complete the Accounts of the Council contained in the Annual Return (as supplied by the Auditor appointed from time to time by the Audit Commission) and shall submit the Annual Return for approval and authorisation by the Council within the timescales set by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 4.4. The RFO shall ensure that there is adequate and effective system of internal audit of the Council's accounting, financial and other operations in accordance with proper practices. Any officer or member of the Council shall, if the RFO or Internal Auditor requires, make available such documents of the Council which appear to the RFO or Internal Auditor to be necessary for the purpose of the internal audit and shall supply the RFO or Internal Auditor with such information and explanation as the RFO or Internal Auditor considers necessary for that purpose.
- 4.5. The Internal Auditor shall be appointed by and shall carry out the work required by the council in accordance with proper practices. The Internal Auditor, who shall be competent and independent of the operations of the Council, shall report to Council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one annual written report in respect of each financial year. In order to demonstrate objectivity and independence, the internal auditor shall be free from any conflicts of interest and have no involvement in the financial decision making, management or control of the council.
- 4.6. The RFO shall make arrangements for the opportunity for inspection of the accounts, books, and vouchers and for the display or publication of any Notices and statements of account required by Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
  - 4.6.1. Councillors and local electors may inspect the accounts on application to the RFO at a mutually convenient time and place.
- 4.7. The RFO shall, as soon as practicable, bring to the attention of all councillors any correspondence or report from the Internal or External Auditor, unless the correspondence is of a purely administrative nature.

#### **5. Banking Arrangements, Cheques and BACs**

- 5.1. The Council's banking arrangements, including the Bank Mandate, shall be made by the RFO and approved by the Council. They shall be regularly reviewed for efficiency.
- 5.2. A schedule of the payments required, forming part of the Agenda for the Meeting, shall be prepared by the Clerk and RFO and, together with the relevant invoices, be presented to Council. If the schedule is in order it shall be authorised by a resolution of the Council and shall be initialled by the Chairman of the Meeting. If more appropriate the detail may be shown in the Minutes of the Meeting.
- 5.3. Cheques drawn on the bank account in accordance with the schedule referred to in paragraph 5.2 or in accordance with paragraph 6.4, shall be signed by two members of Council.
- 5.4. BACs payments in accordance with the schedule referred to in paragraph 5.2 or in accordance with paragraph 6.4, will be authorised via the Bank's online system. Payments are usually setup by the Clerk and authorised by the RFO and another designated member of Council. Invoices or other

supporting documentation will be made available for checking to the second authoriser before confirmation of payment.

## **6. Payment of Accounts**

- 6.1. All payments shall be effected by BACS, cheque or other order drawn on the Council's bankers.
- 6.2. All invoices for payment shall be examined, verified and certified by the Clerk. The Clerk shall satisfy him/herself that the work, goods or services to which the invoice relates shall have been received, carried out, examined and approved.
- 6.3. The RFO shall examine invoices in relation to arithmetic accuracy and shall analyse them to the appropriate expenditure heading. The Clerk shall take all steps to settle all invoices submitted, and which are in order, at the next available Council Meeting.
- 6.4. If a payment is necessary to avoid a charge to interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, and the due date for payment is before the next scheduled Meeting of Council, where the Clerk and RFO certify that there is no dispute or other reason to delay payment, the Clerk may (notwithstanding para 6.3) take all steps necessary to settle such invoices provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council.
- 6.5. The Council will not maintain any form of cash float. All cash received must be banked intact. Any payments made in cash by the Clerk (for example for postage or minor stationery items) shall be refunded on a regular basis, at least quarterly.

## **7. Payment of Salaries**

- 7.1. As an employer, the council shall make arrangements to meet fully the statutory requirements placed on all employers by PAYE and National Insurance legislation. The payment of all salaries shall be made in accordance with payroll records and the rules of PAYE and National Insurance currently operating, and salaries shall be as agreed by Council.
- 7.2. Payment of salaries and payment of deductions from salary such as may be made for tax, national insurance and pension contributions, may be made in accordance with the payroll records and on the appropriate dates stipulated in employment contracts, provided that each payment is reported to and ratified by the next available Council Meeting.

## **8. Loans and Investments**

- 8.1. All loans and investments shall be negotiated in the name of the Council and shall be for a set period in accordance with Council policy.
- 8.2. The council shall consider the need for an Investment Policy which, if drawn up, shall be in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance. Any Policy shall be reviewed at least annually.
- 8.3. All investments of money under the control of the Council shall be in the name of the Council.
- 8.4. All borrowings shall be effected in the name of the Council, after obtaining any necessary borrowing approval. Any application for borrowing approval shall be approved by Council as to terms and purpose. The terms and conditions of borrowings shall be reviewed at least annually.
- 8.5. All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO.

## 9. Income

- 9.1. The collection of all sums due to the Council shall be the responsibility of and under the supervision of the RFO.
- 9.2. Particulars of all charges to be made for work done, services rendered or goods supplied shall be agreed annually by the Council, notified to the RFO and the RFO shall be responsible for the collection of all accounts due to the Council.
- 9.3. The Council will review all fees and charges annually, following a report of the RFO.
- 9.4. Any sums found to be irrecoverable and any bad debts shall be reported to the Council and shall be written off in the year.
- 9.5. All sums received on behalf of the Council shall be banked intact as directed by the RFO. In all cases, all receipts shall be deposited with the Council's bankers with such frequency as the RFO considers necessary.
- 9.6. The origin of each receipt shall be entered on the paying-in slip.
- 9.7. Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the Council.
- 9.8. The RFO shall ensure that any VAT Return that is required is submitted promptly. Any repayment claim due in accordance with VAT Act 1994 section 33 shall be made at least annually coinciding with the financial year end.
- 9.9. Where any significant sums of cash are regularly received by the Council, the RFO shall take such steps as are agreed by the Council to ensure that more than one person is present when the cash is counted in the first instance, that there is a reconciliation to some form of control such as ticket issues, and that appropriate care is taken in the security and safety of individuals banking such cash.

## 10. Orders for Work, Goods and Services

- 10.1. An official order shall be issued for all work, goods and services over the value of £500. For work, goods and services less than £500 written orders shall be issued as the RFO shall determine appropriate. Where an official order is issued, this will be signed by the RFO. Copies of orders shall be retained by the Clerk
- 10.2. Order books shall be controlled by the RFO.
- 10.3. All members and Officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times. An officer issuing an official order shall ensure as far as reasonable and practicable that the best available terms are obtained in respect of each transaction, usually by obtaining three or more quotations or estimates from appropriate suppliers, subject to any de minimis provisions in Regulation 11.1.8 below.
- 10.4. The RFO shall verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before the issue of any order, and in the case of new or infrequent purchases or payments, the RFO shall ensure that the statutory authority shall be reported to the meeting at which the order is approved so that the Minutes can record the power being used.

## 11. Contracts

11.1. Procedures as to contracts are laid down as follows:

11.1.1. Every contract shall comply with these financial regulations, and no exceptions shall be made otherwise than in an emergency provided that these regulations shall not apply to contracts which relate to items (i) to (vi) below:

- (i) for the supply of gas, electricity, water, sewerage and telephone services;
- (ii) for specialist services such as are provided by solicitors, accountants, surveyors and planning consultants;
- (iii) for work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which consist of repairs to or parts for existing machinery or equipment or plant;
- (iv) for work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which constitute an extension of an existing contract by the Council;
- (v) for additional audit work of the external Auditor up to an estimated value of £250 (in excess of this sum the Clerk and RFO shall act after consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council);
- (vi) for goods or materials proposed to be purchased which are proprietary articles and/or are only sold at a fixed price.

11.1.2. Where it is intended to enter into a contract exceeding £50,000 in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services other than such goods, materials, works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (11.1.1) the Clerk shall invite tenders from at least three firms.

11.1.3. When applications are made to waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without competition the reason shall be embodied in a recommendation to the Council.

11.1.4. Such invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Clerk shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases. The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Clerk in the ordinary course of post. Each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract.

11.1.5. All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Clerk in the presence of at least one member of Council.

11.1.6. If less than three tenders are received for contracts above £50,000 or if all the tenders are identical the Council may make such arrangements as it thinks fit for procuring the goods or materials or executing the works.

11.1.7. Any invitation to tender shall contain a statement that any tender submitted by a company or partnership or person must indicate if any councillor or any employee of the council is related to any director of the company, or any partner in the partnership, or the person providing the tender, and also a statement that if the tenderer canvasses in any way any councillor or any member of a committee, sub-committee or advisory committee or group, or employee of the council then the tenderer will be disqualified from tendering.

11.1.8. When it is to enter into a contract less than £50,000 in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services other than such goods, materials,

works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (11.1.1) the Clerk or RFO shall obtain 3 quotations (priced descriptions of the proposed supply); where the value is below £1,000 and above £150 the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain 3 estimates. Otherwise, Regulation 10 (3) above shall apply.

11.1.9. The Council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.

## **12. Payments under Contracts for Building or Other Construction Works**

- 12.1. Payments on account of the contract sum shall be made within the time specified in the contract by the RFO upon authorised certificates of the architect or other consultants engaged to supervise the contract (subject to any percentage withholding as may be agreed in the particular contract).
- 12.2. Where contracts provide for payment by instalments the RFO shall maintain a record of all such payments. In any case where it is estimated that the total cost of work carried out under a contract, excluding agreed variations, will exceed the contract sum by 5% or more a report shall be submitted to the Council.
- 12.3. Any variation to a contract or addition to or omission from a contract must be approved by the Council and Clerk to the Contractor in writing, the Council being informed where the final cost is likely to exceed the financial provision.

## **13. Stores and Equipment**

- 13.1. The officer in charge of each section shall be responsible for the care and custody of stores and equipment in that section.
- 13.2. Delivery Notes shall be obtained in respect of all goods received into store or otherwise delivered and goods must be checked as to order and quality at the time delivery is made.
- 13.3. Stocks shall be kept at the minimum levels consistent with operational requirements.
- 13.4. The RFO shall be responsible for periodic checks of stocks and stores at least annually.

## **14. Assets, Properties and Estates**

- 14.1. The Clerk shall make appropriate arrangements for the custody of all title deeds of properties owned by the Council. The RFO shall ensure a record is maintained of all properties owned by the Council, recording the location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which held in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 14.2. No property shall be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the Council, together with any other consents required by law, save where the estimated value of any one item of tangible movable property does not exceed £50.
- 14.3. The RFO shall ensure that an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date. The continued existence of tangible assets shown in the Register shall be verified at least annually, possibly in conjunction with a health and safety inspection of assets.



# Burston and Shimpling Parish Council

## Grievance Policy

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This policy is based on and complies with the 2009 ACAS Code of Practice.
- 1.2. It aims to encourage and maintain good relationships between the Council and its employees by treating grievances seriously and resolving them as quickly as possible. It sets out the arrangements for employees to raise their concerns, problems or complaints about their employment with the Council. The policy will be applied fairly, consistently and in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
- 1.3. Many problems can be raised and settled during the course of everyday working relationships. Employees should aim to settle most grievances informally with their line manager.
- 1.4. This policy confirms:
  - employees have the right to be accompanied or represented at a grievance meeting or appeal by a trade union representative or work colleague. The companion will be permitted to address the grievance/appeal meetings, to present the employee's case for his /her grievance/appeal and to confer with the employee. The companion cannot answer questions put to the employee, address the meeting against the employee's wishes or prevent the employee from explaining his/her case
  - the Council will give employees reasonable notice of the date of the grievance / appeal meetings. Employees and their companions must make all reasonable efforts to attend. If the employee's companion is not available for the proposed date of the meeting, the employee can request a postponement and can propose an alternative date that is within five working days of the original meeting date.
  - any changes to specified time limits must be agreed by the employee and the Council
  - an employee has the right to appeal against the decision about his/her grievance. The appeal decision is final
  - information about an employee's grievance will be restricted to those involved in the grievance process. A record of the reason for the grievance, its outcome and action taken is confidential to the employee. The employee's grievance records will be held by the Council in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998
  - recordings of the proceedings at any stage of the grievance procedure are prohibited, unless agreed as a reasonable adjustment that takes account of an employee's medical condition
  - if an employee who is already subject to a disciplinary process raises a grievance, the grievance will normally be heard after completion of the disciplinary procedure

- if a grievance is not upheld, no disciplinary action will be taken against an employee if he/she raised the grievance in good faith
- the Council may consider mediation at any stage of the grievance procedure where appropriate, (for example where there have been communication breakdowns or allegations of bullying or harassment). Mediation is a dispute resolution process which requires the Council's and the employee's consent.

## **2. Informal Grievance Policy Procedure**

- 2.1. The Council and its employees benefit if grievances are resolved informally and as quickly as possible. As soon as a problem arises, the employee should raise it with his/her manager to see if an informal solution is possible. Both should try to resolve the matter at this stage. If the employee does not want to discuss the grievance with his/her manager (for example, because it concerns the manager), the employee should contact the chairman of the staffing committee or, if appropriate, another member of the staffing committee.

## **3. Formal Grievance Procedure**

- 3.1. If it is not possible to resolve the grievance informally, the employee may submit a formal grievance. It should be submitted in writing to the chairman of the staffing committee.
- 3.2. The staffing committee will appoint a sub-committee of three members to investigate the grievance. The sub-committee will appoint a Chairman from one of its members. No councillor with direct involvement in the matter shall be appointed to the sub-committee.

### **Investigation**

- 3.3. The sub-committee will investigate the matter before the grievance meeting which may include interviewing others (e.g. employees, councillors or members of the public).

### **Notification**

- 3.4. Within 10 working days of the Council receiving the employee's grievance, the employee will be asked, in writing, to attend a grievance meeting. The sub-committee's letter will include the following:
  - the names of its Chairman and other members
  - a summary of the employee's grievance based on his/her written submission
  - the date, time and place for the meeting. The employee will be given reasonable notice of the meeting which will be within 25 working days of when the council received the grievance
  - the employee's right to be accompanied by a trade union representative or work colleague
  - a copy of the Council's grievance policy
  - confirmation that, if necessary, witnesses may attend on the employee's behalf and that the employee should provide the names of his/her witnesses at least five working days before the meeting
  - confirmation that the employee will provide the Council with any supporting evidence at least five working days before the meeting.

### **The Grievance Meeting**

3.5. At the grievance meeting:

- the Chairman will introduce the members of the sub-committee to the employee.
- the employee (or companion) will set out the grievance and present the evidence.
- the Chairman will ask the employee what action does he/she wants the council to take
- any member of the sub-committee and the employee (or the companion) may question any witness
- the employee (or companion) will have the opportunity to sum up the case
- the Chairman will provide the employee with the sub-committee's decision, in writing, within five working days of the meeting. The letter will notify the employee of the action, if any, that the council will take and of the employee's right to appeal
- a grievance meeting may be adjourned to allow matters that were raised during the meeting to be investigated by the sub-committee.

### **The Appeal**

3.6. If an employee decides that his/her grievance has not been satisfactorily resolved by the sub-committee, he/she may submit a written appeal to the staffing committee. An appeal must be received by the Council within five working days of the employee receiving the subcommittee's decision and must specify the grounds of appeal.

3.7. Appeals may be raised on a number of grounds, eg.:

- a failure by the Council to follow its grievance policy
- the decision was not supported by the evidence the action proposed by the sub-committee was inadequate/inappropriate new evidence has come to light since the grievance meeting.

3.8. The Appeal will be heard by a panel of three members of the staffing committee who have not previously been involved in the case. There may be insufficient members of the staffing committee who have not previously been involved. If so, the appeal panel will be a committee of three council members who may include members of the staff committee. The appeal panel will appoint a Chairman from one of its members.

3.9. The employee will be notified, in writing, within 10 working days of receipt of the appeal of the time, date and place of the appeal meeting. The meeting will take place within 25 working days of the council's receipt of the appeal. The employee will be advised that he/she may be accompanied by a trade union representative or work colleague.

3.10. At the appeal meeting, the Chairman will:

- introduce the panel members to the employee
- explain the purpose of the meeting, which is to hear the employee's reasons for appealing against the decision of the staffing sub-committee
- explain the action that the appeal panel may take.

3.11. The employee (or his/her companion) will be asked to explain the grounds of his/her appeal.

- 3.12. The Chairman will inform the employee that he/she will receive the decision and the panel's reasons, in writing, within five working days of the appeal meeting.
- 3.13. The appeal panel may decide to uphold the decision of the staffing committee or substitute its own decision.
- 3.14. The decision of the appeal panel is final.

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## **Burston and Shimpling Parish Council**

### **Parish Planet – Editorial Policy**

Guidance on the gathering of copy, production and publication of the Parish Planet.

#### **1. Editorial Responsibilities**

- 1.1. The Editor will oversee the publication of the Parish Planet, ensuring that the editorial policy is applied.
- 1.2. The Editor will be responsible for deciding which articles are to be published and for editing all articles.
- 1.3. The Editor will report to the Parish Council as necessary or as requested by the Chairman.
- 1.4. The Editor will submit final copy to the Chairman for review prior to publication.

#### **2. Editorial Policy**

- 2.1. Prior to an edition, the Editor will advise regular contributors of the final copy date and invite them to submit copy.
- 2.2. Copy should be encouraged from as wide a contributor base as possible covering both Burston and Shimpling.
- 2.3. A balance should be struck in the nature and content of submitted copy. Accordingly, copy which is 'protesting' or 'complaining' should be balanced by copy which is 'informative' or 'good news'.
- 2.4. Current contact details should be included with each item to provide further information for readers, if necessary.
- 2.5. Anonymous copy will not be considered for publication.
- 2.6. Classified paid for advertisements will not be accepted.
- 2.7. Commercial or trade copy which is merely advertising products or services will not be accepted unless there would be clear and significant benefits to the community in so doing.
- 2.8. All copy will go to the Editor for collation and initial proofing in the first instance.
- 2.9. Hard copy contributions are acceptable in either handwritten or word processed form and delivered to the Editor.
- 2.10. All items are included entirely at the discretion of the Editor who reserves the right to edit or refuse to print any item submitted.

- 2.11. Items of an overtly political nature will not be accepted and items of a controversial nature will not be presented in a way that could be construed as giving support to a political party.
- 2.12. No charge is made for inclusion of a news item. However the Editor may request reimbursement of printing and collation costs for features or articles to be distributed as an accompaniment to the Parish Planet. The features/articles are subject to the same conditions as the rest of the Parish Planet.
- 2.13. Views expressed in the Parish Planet are not necessarily those of the Editor or Parish Council.
- 2.14. Before printing a critical item the Editor reserves the right to approach the criticized person/group and offer an opportunity to reply, where possible in the same issue.
- 2.15. The Editor cannot accept any liability for omissions, errors or mistakes which occur during production.
- 2.16. Submission of a contribution shall be taken as acceptance of the above Conditions.



# **Burston and Shimpling Parish Council**

## **Recording of Council Meetings Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

This policy is applicable to meetings of this council, its committees and sub-committees.

This council is committed to the principles of openness and transparency and encourages members of the public to attend all meetings of the council, its committees and sub-committees and therefore embraces the rights extended to members of the public by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

### **2. Definition**

For the purpose of this policy the term recording means creating any form of audio, visual or electronic record.

### **3. Recording**

- 3.1 This council will define an area from which recording may be carried out and, if given advance notice, will strive to ensure that reasonable facilities are made available to any person wishing to record, e.g. provision of a table. However the council should point out that the physical layout of any room may restrict the council's ability to make any provision.
- 3.2 All recording will be undertaken from a static point.
- 3.3 A person or persons recording a council meeting are reminded that the "Public Participation" period is not part of the council meeting as such and that they should take legal advice for themselves as to their rights to make any recording during that period. Additionally legislation provides that where a member of the public indicates to the Chairman that he or she wishes to address the council on a point under discussion, that person cannot speak unless Council resolves that the meeting is suspended. A person or persons recording should obtain their own legal advice in order that they understand their rights in law to record during this period of suspension. During the public participation part of the meeting, should a member of the public not wish to be recorded then the person recording, if they still doing so, will be required to refrain from doing so whilst the member of the public is speaking.
- 3.4 A person or persons recording by means of filming should give consideration to the need for the use of additional lighting. The council will have regard to the impact of such lighting on the ability of others present to view the meeting, or for reasons of health, and may require that such lighting is not used or is reduced to a level which does not adversely affect other people.
- 3.5 A person or persons recording has no right to interrupt a council meeting by asking questions or making comments.

- 3.6 Where this council proposes to record all of its own meetings that will not prevent any other person or persons from also recording.
- 3.7 Where this council proposes to record all of its own meetings it will be bound by this policy.
- 3.8 Where this council proposes to record all of its own meetings, it will resolve how long such recordings will be kept and how members of the public may obtain copies. The council will include such recordings within its Scheme of Publication.
- 3.9 The council expresses the hope that where a person or persons makes a recording of a council meeting for the purpose of reproduction elsewhere, that any reproduction of the recording is made without alteration.
- 3.10 Where the press and public are excluded from a meeting owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, recording of that part of the meeting will not be permitted.
- 3.11 This council is not liable for the actions of any person making a recording at a council meeting which identifies a member of the public or for any publication of that recording.
- 3.12 The minutes of a council meeting remain the statutory and legally binding formal record of council decisions.

#### **4. Recording by the Council**

- 4.1 The Clerk or a member of the council may make a recording of a meeting, or have such a recording made, for the purpose of writing correct minutes of the meeting, but any such recording shall be erased as soon as the minutes of the meeting have been approved.



# Burston and Shimpling Parish Council

## Safeguarding Policy

### 1. Policy Statement

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. Burston and Shimpling Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

### 2. Definitions

#### 2.1. Children and Young People

Anyone under the age of 18 years.

#### 2.2. Vulnerable Adult

Anyone over 18 who is:

- Unable to care for themselves
- Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
- or may be in need of Community Care Services.

### 3. Policy Objective

- 3.1. To ensure that where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- 3.2. To promote the general welfare, health and development of children and young people by being aware of child Protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organisation.
- 3.3. To develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.
- 3.4. As the Parish Council does not directly provide care of supervision services to children, young people and vulnerable adults, it expects all children, young people and vulnerable adults using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

#### **4. Aims**

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Burston and Shimpling Parish Council should any child protection issue or any issues with vulnerable adults arise during their work.

#### **5. Responsibilities and Procedures**

5.1. A Safeguarding Officer will be appointed from within the Council and his/her responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring that before any Parish Council organized event with children, young people or vulnerable adults, the Child Protection Officer briefs participants appropriately.
- Ensuring that members are aware of the risk they may face in certain circumstances whilst carrying out their duties.
- Ensuring that whilst Council members are unlikely to be involved with children or young people during the performance of their duties they are mindful of the risk they face.
- Ensuring that before any volunteers or paid members of staff are recruited to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults they are interviewed and two references taken up.

5.2. Decisions on whether any person should be CRB checked will be made by the Council or the Chairman after consultation with the Clerk following a Risk Assessment.

5.3. All new Councillors will be provided with a copy of the Safeguarding Policy and are required to acknowledge they will abide by it.

5.4. Councillors will adhere to the 'List of Recommended Behaviour' namely:

- A minimum of two adults present when supervising children or young people.
- Not to play physical contact games.
- Adults to wear appropriate clothing at all times.
- Ensure that accidents are recorded in an accident book.
- Never do anything of a personal nature for a child or young person.

5.5. The Council will keep records in an incident book of any allegations a child or young person may make to any committee member or volunteer. The Incident book will be available for inspection by any Councillor.

5.6. If there is a child abuse incident it should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and also referred to the Council for further action as appropriate and future risk assessment.

5.7. Facilities offered by the Parish Council will be inspected on a regular basis and at least annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation.

5.8. Sharing information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents and carers.

- 5.9. In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children, young people or vulnerable adults may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Safeguarding Policy.
- 5.10. In the event of an organisation co-operating with the Parish Council which may make contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults, the organisation will be required to show proof of its own appropriate Safeguarding Policy before being allowed to participate in the use of any council owned facilities.

## **6. Declaration**

Burston and Shimpling Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect.

All members of Burston and Shimpling Parish Council will read the Safeguarding Policy.

Having read the Policy they should be proactive in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people who are involved in Parish Council activities.



# **Burston and Shimpling Parish Council**

## **Standing Orders**

# List of standing orders

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## 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 meeting.
- 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 amended motion 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 made only with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- 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.
- j Subject to standing order 1(k) below, 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 of 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. in exercise of a right of reply.

- 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 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 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) above, the contributions or speeches by a Councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the chairman of the meeting.

## **2. Disorderly conduct at meetings**

- a 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.
- b 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 excluded from the meeting. The motion, if seconded, shall be put to the vote without discussion.
- c If a resolution made under standing order 2(b) above 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 generally

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 **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.**
- c **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.**
- d **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.**
- e Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.
- f The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) above shall not exceed 20 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.
- g Subject to standing order 3(f) above, a member of the public shall not speak for more than 5 minutes.
- h In accordance with standing order 3(e) above, 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.
- i 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.
- j A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct his comments to the chairman of the meeting.
- k 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.
- l **Subject to standing order 3(m), a person who attends a meeting is permitted to report on the meeting whilst the meeting is open to the public. To "report" means to film, photograph, make an audio recording of meeting proceedings, use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear the meeting as it takes place or later or to report or to provide oral or written commentary about the meeting so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later to persons not present.**

-  m **A person present at a meeting may not provide an oral report or oral commentary about a meeting as it takes place without permission.**
- 
-  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.**
- 
-  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 (if there is one).**
-  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 there is one) 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.**
-  q **Subject to a meeting being quorate, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the Councillors and non-Councillors with voting rights present and voting.**
- 
- 
-  r **The chairman of a meeting may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may exercise his casting vote whether or not he gave an original vote.**
- 
- 
- See standing orders 5(i) and (j) below for the different rules that apply in the election of the Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council.*
-  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 his 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 **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.
-  u **A Councillor or a non-Councillor with voting rights who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest as set out in the Council's code of conduct 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.**
- 
- 

- v **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.**  
*See standing order 4d(viii) below for the quorum of a committee or sub-committee meeting.*
- w **If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted** and the meeting shall be closed. The business on the agenda for the meeting shall be adjourned to another meeting.
- ▲
- x A meeting shall not exceed a period of 2 hours.

## 4. 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 The Council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, and:
  - i. shall determine their terms of reference;
  - ii. shall determine the number and time of the ordinary meetings of a standing committee up until the date of the next annual meeting of full Council;
  - iii. shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings;
  - iv. shall, subject to standing orders 4(b) and (c) above, appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee;
  - v. may, subject to standing orders 4(b) and (c) above, 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 Proper Officer 3 days before the meeting that they are unable to attend;
  - vi. shall, after it has appointed the members of a standing committee, appoint the chairman of the standing committee;
  - vii. shall permit a committee other than a standing committee, to appoint its own chairman at the first meeting of the committee;
  - viii. 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 three;
  - ix. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a committee;
  - x. shall determine if the public and press are permitted to attend the meetings of a sub-committee and also the advance public notice requirements, if any, required for the meetings of a sub-committee;
  - 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

## 5. Ordinary Council meetings

- a 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.
- b In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of a Council shall be held on such day in May as the Council decides.
- c If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 6pm.
- 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 (if there is one) 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, if there is one, 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 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.
- 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 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.
- j Following the election of the Chairman of the Council and Vice-Chairman (if there is one) of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council, the business of the annual meeting 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. Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council;
  - iii. Receipt of the minutes of the last meeting of a committee;
  - iv. Consideration of the recommendations made by a committee;
  - v. Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff and other local authorities;
  - vi. Review of the terms of reference for committees;
  - vii. Appointment of members to existing committees;

- viii. Appointment of any new committees in accordance with standing order 4 above;
- ix. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations;
- x. Review of arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses.
- xi. Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back;
- xii. 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;
- xiii. Review of inventory of land and assets including buildings and office equipment;
- xiv. Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks;
- xv. Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;
- xvi. Review of the Council's complaints procedure;
- xvii. 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*);
- xviii. Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;
- xix. Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures;
- xx. Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the general power of competence.
- xxi. Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

## **6. Extraordinary meetings of the Council and 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 or refuses to 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 must be signed by the two Councillors.**
- c The chairman of a committee [or a sub-committee] may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee [or the sub-committee] at any time.
- d If the chairman of a committee [or a sub-committee] does not or refuses to call an extraordinary meeting within 3 days of having been requested by to do so by 3 members of the committee [or the sub-committee], any 3 members of the committee [and the sub-committee] may convene an extraordinary meeting of a committee [and a sub-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 4 Councillors to be given to the Proper Officer 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) above has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within 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.

## **9. Agenda Items for a meeting that require written notice to be given to the Proper Officer**

- a An agenda item shall relate to the responsibilities of the meeting which it is tabled for 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 agenda item may be discussed at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of it to the Proper Officer at least 10 clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.
- c The Proper Officer may, before including an item on the agenda received in accordance with standing order 9(b), correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the item.
- d If the Proper Officer 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 Proper Officer at least 5 clear days before the meeting.
- f Subject to standing order 9(c) above, the decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the item on the agenda shall be final.
- g Items received shall be recorded and numbered in the order that they are received.
- h Items rejected shall be recorded with an explanation by the Proper Officer of the reason for rejection.

## 10. Agenda Items at a meeting that do not require written notice

- a The following items may be moved at a meeting without written notice to the Proper Officer;
- i. to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of a meeting;
  - ii. to move to a vote;
  - iii. to defer consideration of an item;
  - iv. to refer an item 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 require a written report;
  - ix. to appoint a committee or sub-committee and their members;
  - x. to extend the time limits for speaking;
  - xi. to exclude the press and public from a meeting in respect of confidential or sensitive information which is prejudicial to the public interest;
  - xii. to not hear further from a Councillor or a member of the public;
  - xiii. to exclude a Councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct;
  - xiv. to temporarily suspend the meeting;
  - xv. to suspend a particular standing order (unless it reflects mandatory statutory or legal requirements
  - xvi. to adjourn the meeting; or
  - xvii. 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 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)
- c 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.
- d 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.”
- e If the Council’s gross annual income or expenditure (whichever is higher) does not exceed £25,000, it shall publish draft minutes on a website which is publicly accessible and free of charge not later than one month after the meeting has taken place.**
- f Subject to the publication of draft minutes in accordance with standing order 12(e) and 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(u).*

- a All councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council.
- 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 Proper Officer** 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 the Proper Officer 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) above, a dispensation request shall be considered by the Proper Officer before the meeting or, if this is not possible, at the start of the meeting 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 or County 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 Proper Officer shall, subject to standing order 11 above, report this to the Council.
- b Where the notification in standing order 14(a) above relates to a complaint made by the Proper Officer, the Proper Officer shall notify the Chairman of Council of this fact, and the Chairman shall nominate a Councillor to assume the duties of the Proper Officer 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) below.
- c The Council may:
  - i. provide information or evidence where such disclosure is necessary to progress an investigation of the complaint or is required by law;

- 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 or County 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. Proper Officer

- a The Proper Officer shall be either (i) the clerk or (ii) a Councillor nominated by the Council to undertake the work of the Proper Officer when the Proper Officer is absent.
- b The Proper Officer 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 Proper Officer 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(b) for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a full council and standing order 3(c) 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 5 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. retain acceptance of office forms from Councillors;
- vii. retain 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. liaise, as appropriate, with the Council's Data Protection Officer;
- x. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary;
- xi. 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);
- xii. arrange for legal deeds to be executed;  
*(see also standing order 23);*
- xiii. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with its financial regulations;

- xiv. record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council's response to the local planning authority
  - xv. refer a planning application received by the Council to the Vice-Chairman or in his absence the Chairman of the Council 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;
  - xvi. manage access to information about the Council via the publication scheme; and
  - xvii 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 appropriate staff member(s) 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 The Responsible Financial Officer 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 for each quarter;
  - ii. the Council's aggregate receipts and payments for the year to date;
  - iii. the balances held at the end of the quarter being reported

and which includes a comparison with the budget for the financial year and highlights any actual or potential overspends.

- d As soon as possible after the financial year end at 31 March, the Responsible Financial Officer shall provide:
  - i. each Councillor with a statement summarising the Council's receipts and payments for the last quarter and the year to date for information; and
  - ii. to the full Council the accounting statements for the year in the form of Section 1 of the annual return, as required by proper practices, for consideration and approval.
- e The year end accounting statements shall be prepared in accordance with proper practices and applying the form of accounts determined by the Council (receipts and payments, or income and expenditure) for a year to 31 March. A completed draft annual return shall be presented to each Councillor before the end of the following month of May. The annual return of the Council, which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to Council for consideration and formal approval before 30 June.

## 18. Financial Controls and Procurement

- 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 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 **£25,000** 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 **A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £25,000 but less than the relevant thresholds in standing order 18(f) is subject to Regulations 109-114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include a requirement on the Council to advertise the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website regardless of what other means it uses to advertise the opportunity.**
- d 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. the invitation to tender shall be advertised in a local newspaper and in any other manner that is appropriate;
  - iv. tenders are to be submitted in writing in a sealed marked envelope addressed to the Proper Officer;
  - v. tenders shall be opened by the Proper Officer in the presence of at least one Councillor after the deadline for submission of tenders has passed;
  - vi. tenders are to be reported to and considered by the appropriate meeting of the Council or a committee or sub-committee with delegated responsibility.
- e Neither the Council, nor a committee or a sub-committee with delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound to accept the lowest value tender.
- f **A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £181,302 for a public service or supply contract or in excess of £4,551,413 for a public works contract (or other thresholds determined by the European Commission every two years**

and published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)) shall comply with the relevant procurement procedures and other requirements in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include advertising the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website and in OJEU

- g **A public contract in connection with the supply of gas, heat, electricity, drinking water, transport services, or postal services to the public; or the provision of a port or airport; or the exploration for or extraction of gas, oil or solid fuel with an estimated value in excess of £363,424 for a supply, services or design contract; or in excess of £4,551,413 for a works contract; or £820,370 for a social and other specific services contract (or other thresholds determined by the European Commission every two years and published in OJEU) shall comply with the relevant procurement procedures and other requirements in the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016.**

## 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 of Council or, if he is not available, the vice-chairman of Council, of absence occasioned by illness or other reason and that person shall report such absence to Council at its next meeting.
- c The chairman of the Council 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 Proper Officer. The reviews and appraisal shall be reported in writing and is subject to approval by resolution 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 Council or in his absence, 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 Council.
- e Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter raised by the Proper Officer relates to the chairman or vice-chairman of the Council, this shall be communicated to another member of the Council, which shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the 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 higher) does not exceed £25,000 The Council shall publish information in accordance with the requirements of the Smaller Authorities (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), any two councillors may sign, on behalf of the Council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.**

*The above is applicable to a Council without a common seal.*

## 24. Communicating with District and County or Unitary 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 every 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 authorised by a resolution, 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.

## 26. Standing orders generally

- a All or part of a standing order, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory 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 requirements, shall be proposed by a special motion, by written notice by at least 5 Councillors to be given to the Proper Officer.
- c The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the Council's standing orders to a Councillor as soon as possible after he has delivered his acceptance of office form.

- d The decision of the chairman of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.



## **Burston and Shimpling Parish Council**

### **Training Policy**

The Parish Council is committed to training its staff and members. It recognises that well trained and informed officers and members promote good practise in its organisation and increase and encourage the activities for community work and enjoyment within its membership. As a voluntary organisation the Council values the time given by its members to their community and this policy is aimed at maximising the rewards from that time by ensuring that its members understand and enjoy the role they undertake in their community.

The Parish Council will ...

- Identify training needs in the light of the overall objectives of the Council and the requirements of the individual.
- Strongly encourage its officers and members to attend training and pay expenses as agreed
- Ensure training offered is undertaken as required by the Institute of the Society of Local Council Clerks
- Ensure that all of its new members receive adequate training as necessary
- Evaluate and assess the impact and effectiveness of all training
- Will keep a record of current reference material concerning all aspects of Local Government
- Remain committed to communicating with and offering support to other local Councils
- Maintain a commitment for its Clerk to be a member of appropriate organisations (for example Norfolk Association of Parish and Town Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks)
- Ensure that training and society membership fees are included in the budget
- Ensure that contracts of employment and job descriptions include details of the Council's commitment to training.