

## **STANDING ORDERS**

These Standing Orders were reviewed & adopted by the Council at its Meeting held on

7th August 2018

### **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.

### **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 1(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**

- 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 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.
- g **Filming, photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of any meeting of Council should be conducted in accordance with the Council's Protocol for Reporting at Meetings.**
- h **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.**
- i **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 any).**
- j **The Chairman, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chairman (if any), if present, shall preside. If both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman (if any) are absent from a meeting, a councillor as chosen by the councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.**
- k **Subject to a meeting being quorate, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the councillors or councillors with voting rights present and voting.**
- l **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.**
- m **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.
- n 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 present and absent;
  - iii. interests that have been declared by councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
  - iv. *The grant of dispensations (if any) to councillors*
  - v. whether a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered and;
  - vi. *If there was a public participation session; and*
  - vii. the resolutions made.

- o 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.**
- p No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least one-third of the whole number of members of the council are present and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less than three.**
- q If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted and the meeting shall be closed. The business on the agenda for the meeting shall be adjourned to another meeting.**

#### **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.**

#### **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 may direct.**
- c If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the council shall take place at 7.30pm.**
- 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 directs.**
- e The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the council shall be the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (if any) 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. No person may hold the office of Chairman for more than five consecutive years but may be considered for re-election after a period of at least one year away from office.**

- g The Vice-Chairman of the Council, if any, unless he resigns or becomes disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chairman of the Council at the next annual meeting of the council.**
- 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 any) 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. Responsibilities of Parish Councillors;
  - iv. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations;
  - v. Review of inventory of land and assets including buildings and office equipment;
  - vi. Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks;
  - vii. Review of the council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;
  - viii. Review of the council's complaints procedure;
  - ix. Review of the council's procedures for handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998;
  - x. Review of the council's policy for dealing with the press/media; and
  - xi. Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the full council up to and including the next annual meeting of full 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.**

## **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 2 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 8 below.
- b When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 6(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 & 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. Motions for a meeting that require written notice to be given to the Proper Officer**

- a A motion 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 motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least 5 clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.

## **10. Motions at a meeting that do not require written notice**

- a The following motions may be moved at a meeting without written notice to the 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 a motion;
  - iv. to refer a motion to a particular committee or sub-committee;
  - v. to appoint a person to preside at a meeting;
  - vi. to change the order of business on the agenda;
  - vii. to proceed to the next business on the agenda;

- viii. to 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 requirements);
- xvi. to adjourn the meeting; or
- xvii. to close a meeting.

## **11. Management Of Information**

a The Council to put 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 to put 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**

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) above.

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 Upon 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**

- 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 a meeting of the council for which the dispensation is required and that decision is final.
- f A dispensation request shall confirm:
- i. the description and the nature of the disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest to which the request for the dispensation relates;
  - ii. whether the dispensation is required to participate at a meeting in a discussion only or a discussion and a vote;

- iii. the date of the meeting or the period (not exceeding four years) for which the dispensation is sought; and
  - iv. an explanation as to why the dispensation is sought.
- g Subject to standing orders 12(d) and (f) above, dispensations requests shall be considered at the beginning of the meeting of the council for which the dispensation is required.
- h A dispensation may be granted in accordance with standing order 12(e) above if having regard to all relevant circumstances the following applies:**
- 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 or**
  - 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 Unitary 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 12 above, report this to the council.
- b Where the notification in standing order 13(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 another person 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 13(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 Unitary 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) other such person appointed 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).**
  - ii. **convene a meeting of full council for the election of a new Chairman of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his office;**
  - iii. **facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors;**
  - iv. **receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities;**
  - v. retain acceptance of office forms from councillors;
  - vi. retain a copy of every councillor's register of interests;
  - vii. assist with responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information legislation and Data Protection legislation, in accordance with and subject to the council's policies and procedures relating to the same;
  - viii. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the council except where there is a resolution to the contrary;
  - ix. manage the organisation, storage of, access to and destruction of information held by the council in paper and electronic form;
  - x. arrange for legal deeds to be executed;
  - xi. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the council in accordance with the council's financial regulations;
  - xii. record every planning application notified to the council and the council's response to the local planning authority in a book for such purpose;
  - xiii. refer a planning application received by the council to the Chairman or in his absence the Vice-Chairman (if any) 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
  - xiv. manage access to information about the council via the publication scheme;

## **16. Responsible Financial Officer**

- a The Responsible Financial Officer shall be either (i) the clerk or (ii) other such person appointed by the council 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. procurement policies].
- 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.

## **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 10 above.

- b Subject to the council's policy regarding absences from work, the Clerk shall notify the chairman or, if he/she is not available, the vice-chairman (if any) of absence occasioned by illness or other reason and that person shall report such absence at its next meeting.
- c The chairman or in his absence, the vice-chairman (if any) shall upon a resolution conduct a review of the performance and annual appraisal of the work of the Clerk. The reviews and appraisal shall be reported 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 Clerk shall contact the chairman or in his/her absence, the vice-chairman (if any) 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 Clerk relates to the chairman or vice-chairman (if any), this shall be communicated to another member of the Council, which shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the Council.
- f The council shall keep all written records relating to employees secure. All paper records shall be secured and locked and electronic records shall be password protected and encrypted.
- g 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.
- h 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).
- i Access and means of access by keys and/or computer passwords to records of employment referred to in standing orders 18(f) and (g) above shall be provided only to the Clerk and the Chairman of the Council

## **20. RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION**

- 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. 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**

- a The Council shall put in policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning his personal data.
- b The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.
- c 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.
- d 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.
- e 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**

- a A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the council unless authorised by a resolution.
- b **Subject to standing order 21(a) above, any two councillors may sign, on behalf of the council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.**

## **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 councillors of New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council 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, the written notice by at least 2 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 8 above.
- 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.

## **27. Electronic Communications**

Notwithstanding anything stated above, correspondence other than that requiring an original signature may be supplied by electronic means unless the recipient opts to receive printed papers.

# PROTOCOL FOR REPORTING AT MEETINGS

[Annex to Standing Order No: 3G]

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This Protocol provides guidance to members of the public or press who wish to photograph or record proceedings at any of Woodgreen Parish Council's public meetings.

1.2 The Council supports the principles of openness and transparency in the way it conducts its meetings. Sound recording, photographing, filming, and use of social media at meetings which are held in public is permitted:

(a) subject to the provisions of this Protocol; and

(b) provided that the Chairman is satisfied that it will not be disruptive or distracting to the good order and conduct of the meeting.

1.3 No restrictions will be placed on anyone using social media at a public meeting subject to the limitations regarding photography and audio/visual recording set out in this Protocol.

1.4 Meetings which take the form of hearings or which discuss sensitive employment or contractual information may not be suitable for recording due to the nature of some of the evidence given at the meeting. It will be at the Chairman's discretion to determine whether the recording of a particular meeting will be permitted.

1.5 Failure to follow the provisions within this Protocol may result in the Chairman refusing to allow the proceedings to be photographed or recorded.

1.6 For the purposes of this Protocol 'recording' includes sound recording, photographing, filming, and use of social media. Social media includes, but is not limited to Twitter, Facebook and blogs.

## 2. Before the meeting

2.1 Those wishing to record proceedings at a meeting are recommended to contact the Clerk as early as possible before the start of the meeting so that arrangements can be discussed and the agreement of the Chairman be sought.

2.2 The name, organisation (if applicable) and contact details of the person wishing to record proceedings are required and should be provided before the meeting if possible.

## 3. At the meeting

3.1 Notices will be displayed in the meeting room advising that proceedings may be recorded, and the Chairman will make an announcement to this effect at the beginning of the meeting if a request has been received.

3.2 Members of the public attending a meeting to ask a question will be deemed to have given consent to being photographed or recorded.

3.3 Members of the public seated in the public seating area who actively object, should not be photographed, filmed or recorded as long as this does not undermine the broader transparency of the meeting.

3.4 Photography or filming must take place from a fixed position in the meeting room approved by the Chairman, to ensure that the view of Councillors, officers, public and press, is not obstructed.

3.5 The use of flash photography or additional lighting will only be permitted if agreed in advance with the Clerk and the Chairman.

3.6 Photography or audio/visual recording will be stopped if the Chairman feels it is disrupting or inhibiting the meeting in any way.

3.7 If someone refuses to stop recording when requested to do so the Chairman will ask the person to leave the meeting. If the person refuses to leave, the Chairman will adjourn the meeting or make other appropriate arrangements for the meeting to continue without disruption.

3.8 Anyone asked to leave a meeting because they have refused to comply with the Chairman's request to do so, may be refused permission to record future meetings.

#### **4. After the meeting**

4.1 Photographs and audio/visual recordings must not be edited in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes refraining from editing the views being expressed in a way that may ridicule or show lack of respect towards those being photographed or recorded.

4.2 If someone fails to comply with this Protocol the Chairman may refuse to allow this person to record any future meetings.

4.3 The responsibility for how any photographs or audio/visual recording is used rests with the person who made the recording and not the Council.



# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## PROTOCOL FOR REPORTING AT MEETINGS

1. The Council supports the principles of openness and transparency in the way it conducts its meetings.

**Sound recording, photographing, filming, and use of social media** at meetings which are held in public is permitted:

(a) subject to the provisions of the Protocol for Reporting at Meetings;

and

(b) provided that the Chairman is satisfied that it will not be disruptive or distracting to the good order and conduct of the meeting.

2. Where recording has been confirmed by the Chairman an announcement will be made at the start of the meeting to advise all participants of the presence and location of any recording devices.

3. If you enter the room after the meeting has started please ensure that any recording does not disrupt the meeting. If there is such disruption, the Chairman may adjourn the meeting or make other appropriate arrangements for the meeting to continue without disruption.

4. Only the official signed minutes of the council and its committees will be recognised as the formal, statutory and legally binding record of a meeting.

Victoria Eden

Proper Officer to Woodgreen Parish Council

Date \_\_\_\_\_