

Standing orders

Sible Hedingham Parish Council

These standing orders were adopted by Sible Hedingham Parish Council in April 2015 and supersede those adopted in June 2013

1 Meetings

Bold type indicate mandatory requirement

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

a	■	Meetings shall not take place in premises which at the time of the meeting are used for the supply of alcohol, unless no other premises are available free of charge or at a reasonable cost.
b	■ ■	When calculating the three clear days for notice of a meeting to councillors and the public, the day on which notice was issued, the day of the meeting, a Saturday or Sunday, a day of the Christmas break, a day of the Easter break or of a bank holiday or a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning shall not count.
c	■ ■	Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons. The press and public's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for said exclusion and the minutes shall record any resolution passed in such private session.
d		Subject to Standing order 1c above, members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item.
e		The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 1(d) above shall not exceed 15 minutes.

f		Subject to standing order 1(e) above, a member of the public is entitled to speak only once and shall not speak for more than 5 minutes, unless otherwise directed by the chairman.
g		In accordance with standing order 1(d) above, a question asked by a member of the public during a public participation session at a meeting shall not require a response or debate until the next meeting of the Council or appropriate committee. In accordance with 1(g) above, the chairman may direct that a response to a question posed by a member of the public be referred to a councillor for an oral response or to an employee for a written or oral response.
i		A record of a public participation session at a meeting shall be included in the minutes of that meeting.
j		A person speaking at a meeting shall direct his comments to the chairman.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting, is permitted within the following guidelines: ■ i) Children and vulnerable adults have the right not to be filmed or photographed and any other member of the public may request alternative seating. ii) Recording should follow prior notification, be overt and non-disruptive. iii) The Human Rights Act, The Data Protection Act, laws of defamation and other relevant legislation must be observed. 	
m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In accordance with 1(c) above, 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. 	
n	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chairman may in his absence be done by, to or before the Vice-Chairman of the Council. 	
o	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Chairman, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chairman, if present, shall preside. If both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are absent from a meeting, a councillor as chosen by the councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting. 	

p	<p>■ Subject to standing order 1(w) below, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the councillors present and voting thereon.</p> <p>■</p> <p>■</p>
q	<p>■ 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.</p> <p><i>See also standing orders 2(i) and (j) below</i></p>
r	<p>■ 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.</p>
s	<p>■ The minutes of a meeting shall record the names of councillors present and absent and apologies received, and reasons given recorded in the minutes.</p> <p>■</p>
t	<p>■ The code of conduct adopted by the Council shall apply to councillors in respect of the whole meeting.</p> <p>■</p>
u	<p>■ An interest arising from the code of conduct adopted by the Council, the existence and nature of which is required to be disclosed by a councillor at a meeting shall be recorded in the minutes. (See also Standing Orders 7 & 8 below.</p>
v	<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.</p>
w	<p>■ If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted and the meeting shall be adjourned. Any outstanding business of a meeting so adjourned shall be transacted at a following meeting.</p>
x	<p>Meetings shall not exceed a period of 2.5 hours unless agreed by resolution to continue longer.</p>
y	<p>Meetings of the Council shall be held on the second Monday of every month in the Village Hall, Sible Hedingham unless otherwise resolved.</p>

2 Ordinary council meetings

See also Standing Order 1 above

a	<p>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, and in accordance with 1(a) above no sooner than three clear days from the day of the election.</p>
b	<p>In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of a cCouncil shall be held on such day in May as the council may direct.</p>
c	<p>If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the council shall take place at 6 pm.</p>
d	<p>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.</p>
e	<p>The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (if any) of the Council shall be the first business.</p>
f	<p>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.</p>
g	<p>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.</p>
h	<p>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.</p>
i	<p>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.</p>

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 order of business shall be as follows:
	(i)	In an election year, delivery by councillors of their declarations of acceptance of office.
	(ii)	Declarations of interest
	(iii)	Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council and to receive and note minutes of and/or to determine recommendations made by committees.
	(iv)	Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, employees and other local authorities.
	(v)	Review of the terms of reference for committees, such references having been previously circulated.
	(vi)	Receipt of nominations to existing committees. Potential nominees should be available at the meeting to accept the nomination or to have indicated in writing to the Clerk (email notification acceptable) 3 clear working days before the meeting that they are willing to serve, giving details of the appropriate committees. This procedure also applies to casual vacancies throughout the year.
	(vii)	Appointment of any new committees, confirmation of the terms of reference, the number of members (including, if appropriate, substitute councillors) and receipt of nominations to them.
	(viii)	Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations.
	(ix)	Review of arrangements, including any charters, with other local authorities and review of contributions made to expenditure incurred by other local authorities, and review of contributions made to expenditure incurred by other local authorities, appropriate documents having been previously circulated.
	(x)	Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back.
	(xi)	In a year of elections, if a Council's period of eligibility to exercise the power of well-being expired before the annual meeting, to review and make arrangements to re-affirm eligibility.
	(xii)	Review of the Council's and/or employees membership of other bodies.
	(xiii)	Review of the Council's complaints procedure.

	(xiv)	Establishing or reviewing the Council's procedures for handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.
	(xv)	Establish or review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media.
	(xvi)	Setting the dates, times and place and place of ordinary meetings of the full council for the year ahead.

3 Proper Officer

a	(i) (ii)	The Proper Officer shall be either The clerk or Such other employee appointed by the council to undertake the role of the Proper Officer during the Proper Officer's absence.
b		The Council's Proper Officer shall do the following:
	(i)	Upon the Council having first resolved that service of summons on councillors confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda for a meeting by delivery or post at their residences at least 3 clear days before a meeting is not expedient, electronically serve on councillors a summons confirming the time, date, venue and agenda of a meeting of the council or a meeting of a committee at least three clear days before the meeting , provided that any such email contains the electronic signature and title of the Proper officer and proof of receipt is requested. <i>See standing order 1(b) above for the meaning of clear days for a meeting.</i>
	(ii)	Give public notice of the time, place and agenda at least three clear days before a meeting of the council or a meeting of a committee (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the council convened by councillors is signed by them) <i>See standing order 1(b) above for the meaning of clear days for a meeting.</i>
	(iii)	Subject to standing order 4 (a) - (e) below, include on the agenda all motions in the order received unless a councillor has given written notice at least 3 days before the meeting confirming his withdrawal of it.

	(iv)	Convene a meeting of full council for the election of a new Chairman of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his office in accordance with with standing order 3 (b) i Or 3(b) 11 above.
	(v)	Make available for inspection, minutes of meetings.
	(vi)	Receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities.
	(vii)	Receive and retain acceptance of office forms from councillors.
	(viii)	Retain a copy of every councillor's register of interests and any changes to it and keep copies of the same available for inspection.
	(ix)	Keep proper records required before and after meetings.
	(x)	Process all requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Data Protection Act 1998, in accordance with and subject to the council's policies and procedures relating to the same.
	(xi)	Receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the council except where there is a resolution to the contrary.
	(xii)	Manage the organisation, storage of, access to and destruction of information held by the council in paper and electronic form.
	(xiii)	Arrange for legal deeds to be signed by two councillors and witnessed (see also Standing Orders 14(a) and (b).
	(xiv)	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.
	(xv)	Record every planning application notified to the council and the council's response to the local planning authority in a book for such purpose.
	(xvi)	Refer a planning application received by the council to the Chairman or in his absence the Vice-Chairman (if any) of the Planning Committee within two working days of receipt to facilitate an extraordinary meeting if the nature of a planning application requires consideration before the next ordinary meeting of the Planning Committee.
	(xvii)	Action or undertake activity or responsibilities instructed by resolution or contained in Standing Orders.

4 Motions requiring written notice

a	In accordance with Standing Order 3(b) (iii) above 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 3 clear days before the next meeting.
b	The Proper Officer may, before including a motion on the agenda received in accordance with standing order 9(b) above, correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.
c	If the Proper Officer considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 4(a) above is not clear in meaning, the motion shall be rejected until the mover of the motion resubmits it in writing to the Proper Officer so that it can be understood at least 3 clear days before the meeting.
d	If the wording or subject of a proposed motion is considered improper, the Proper Officer shall consult with the chairman of the forthcoming meeting or, as the case may be, the councillors who have convened the meeting, to consider whether the motion shall be included in the agenda or rejected.
e	Having consulted the Chairman or counsellors pursuant to Standing Order 4(d) above, the decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the motion on the agenda shall be final.
f	Notice of every motion received in accordance with the Council's standing orders shall be numbered in the order received and shall be open to inspection by all councillors.
g	Every motion rejected in accordance with the Council's standing orders shall be duly recorded with a note by the Proper Officer giving reasons for its rejection, electronically or in a book for that purpose which shall be open to inspection by all councillors.

5 Motions not requiring written notice

a		Motions in respect of the following matters may be moved without written notice.
	(i)	To appoint a person to preside at a meeting.
	(ii)	To approve the absence of councillors.
	(iii)	To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting.
	(iv)	To correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of a meeting.
	(v)	To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting.

(vi)	To alter the order of business on the agenda for reasons of urgency or expedience.
(vii)	To proceed to the next business on the agenda.
(viii)	To close or adjourn debate.
(ix)	To refer by formal delegation a matter to a committee or to a sub-committee or an employee.
(x)	To appoint a committee or sub-committee or any councillors (including substitutes) thereto.
(xi)	To receive nominations to a committee or sub-committee.
(xii)	To dissolve a committee or sub-committee.
(xiii)	To note the minutes of a meeting of a committee or sub-committee.
(xiv)	To consider a report and/or recommendations made by a committee or a sub-committee or an employee.
(xv)	To consider a report made and/or recommendations made by an employee, professional advisor, expert or consultant.
(xvi)	To authorise legal deeds to be signed by two councillors and witnessed (see standing order 14(a) and (b) below.
(xvii)	To authorise payment of monies up to £500.
(xviii)	To amend a motion relevant to the original or substantive motion under consideration which shall not have the effect of nullifying it.
(xix)	To extend the time limit for speeches.
(xx)	To exclude the press and public from all or part of a a meeting.
(xxi)	To silence or exclude from the meeting a councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct.
(xxii)	To give the consent of the Council if such consent is required by standing orders.
(xxiii)	To suspend a particular standing order except those which are mandatory by law.
(xxiv)	To adjourn the meeting.
(xxv)	To appoint representatives to outside bodies and to make arrangements for those representatives to report back the activities of outside bodies.
(xxvi)	To answer questions from councillors.
(xxvii)	To extend the meeting beyond 2.5 hours

b		If a motion falls within the terms of reference of a committee or sub-committee or within the delegated powers conferred on an employee, a referral of the same may be made to such committee or sub-committee or employee provided that the Chairman may direct for it to be dealt with at the present meeting for reasons of urgency or expedience.
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6 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 Chairman's discretion for reasons of expedience.
b		Subject to standing orders 4 (a) -(e) above, a motion shall not be considered unless it has been moved and seconded.
c		A councillor may move amendments to his own motion. If a motion has already been seconded, an amendment to it shall be with the consent of the seconder.
d		Any amendment to a motion shall be either:
	(i)	To leave out words
	(ii)	To add words
	(iii)	To leave out words and add other words
e		A proposed or carried amendment to a motion shall not have the effect of rescinding the original or substantive motion under consideration.
f		Only one amendment shall be moved and debated at a time, the order of which shall be directed by the Chairman. No further amendment to a motion shall be moved until the previous amendment has been disposed of.
g		Subject to standing order 6 (f) above, one or more amendments may be discussed together if the Chairman considers this expedient, but shall be voted on separately.
h		Pursuant to standing order 6(f) above, the number of amendments on to an original or substantive motion which may be moved by a councillor, is limited to one.

i		If an amendment is not carried, other amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the chairman.
j		If an amendment is carried, the original motion, as amended, shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the substantive motion upon which any further amendment may be moved.
k		The mover of a motion or the mover of an amendment shall have the right of reply.
l		Where a series of amendments to an original motion are carried, the mover of the original motion shall have a right of reply in respect of the substantive motion at the very end of debate and immediately before it is put to the vote.
m		During the debate of a motion a councillor may interrupt only on a point of order or a personal explanation and the councillor who was interrupted shall stop speaking. A councillor raising a point of order shall identify the standing order which he considers has been breached or specify the irregularity in the meeting he is concerned by.
n		A point of order shall be decided by the chairman and his decision shall be final.
o		When a councillor's motion is under debate, no other motion shall be moved except:
	(i)	To amend the motion
	(ii)	To proceed to the next business
	(iii)	To adjourn the debate
	(iv)	To put the motion to a vote
	(v)	To ask a person to be silent or for him to leave the room
	(vi)	To refer a motion to a committee or sub-committee for consideration;
	(vii)	To exclude the public and press
	(viii)	To adjourn the meeting
	(ix)	To suspend any standing order, except those which are mandatory.
p		In respect of standing order 6 (o) (iv) above, the Chairman shall first be satisfied that the motion has been sufficiently debated before it is seconded and put to the vote. The Chairman shall call upon the mover of the motion under debate to exercise or waive his right of reply and shall put the motion to the vote after that right has been exercised or waived. The adjournment of a debate or of the meeting shall not prejudice the mover's right of reply at the resumption.

7 Code of conduct England

a		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All councillors shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the council.
b			All councillors shall undertake training, including training in the code of conduct within 12 months of the delivery of their declaration of acceptance of office.
c		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paragraph 12(2) of the code of conduct contained in the local authorities (Model) code of conduct Order 2007 (SI No. 1159) having been adopted by the Council pursuant to relevant provisions in a statutory code of conduct in force at the time, councillors may exercise the rights contained in standing order 7(d) below only if members of the public are permitted to:
	(i)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make representations.
	(ii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Answer questions.
	(iii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Give evidence relating to the business being transacted.
d		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Councillors with a prejudicial interest in relation to any item of business being transacted at a meeting may:
	(i)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	make representations
	(ii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	answer questions
	(iii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	give evidence relating to the business being transacted
			but must thereafter leave the room or chamber

8 Questions

a	A councillor may seek an answer to a question concerning any business off the council provided 3 clear days notice of the question has been given to the proper officer
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b	Questions not related to items of business on the agenda for a meeting shall only be asked during the part of the meeting set aside for such questions.
c	Every question shall be put and answered without discussion.

9 Minutes

a	If a copy the draft minutes of a preceding meeting has been circulated to councillors no later than the day of service of the summons to attend the scheduled meeting they shall be taken as read.
b	No discussion of the draft minutes of a preceding meeting shall take place except in relation to their accuracy. A motion to correct an inaccuracy in the minutes shall be raised in accordance with standing order 5(a)(iv) above.
c	Minutes, including any amendments to correct their accuracy, shall be confirmed by resolution and shall be signed by the chairman of the meeting and stand as an accurate record of the meeting to which the minutes relate. Amended minutes must be circulated as if they were new minutes and draft (unconfirmed) minutes destroyed and removed from computer storage. Unconfirmed minutes should be clearly headed "Draft".
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	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.

10 Disorderly conduct

a	No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly.
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b	If, in the opinion of the Chairman, there has been a breach of standing order 10(a) above, the Chairman shall express that opinion and thereafter any councillor (including the Chairman) may move that the person be silenced or excluded from the meeting, and the motion, if seconded shall be put forthwith and without discussion.
c	If a resolution made under standing order 10(b) above is disobeyed, the Chairman may take such further steps as may reasonably be necessary to enforce it and/or he may adjourn the meeting.

11 Rescission of previous resolutions

a	A resolution (whether affirmative or negative) of the council shall not be reversed within 6 months except either by a special motion, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least 3 councillors of the council, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a committee.
b	When a special motion or any other motion moved pursuant to standing order 11(a) above has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further 6 months.

12 Voting on appointments

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 Chairman's casting vote.

13 Expenditure

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

14 Execution and sealing of legal deeds

See also standing order 5(a)(xvi) above

a	A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the council unless the same has been authorised by resolution.
b	In accordance with a resolution made under standing order 14(a) above, any two members of the council may sign, on behalf of the council, any deed required by law and the Proper officer shall witness their signatures.

15 Committees

See also standing order 1 above

a		The council may, at its Annual Parish Council Meeting, appoint standing committees and may at any other time appoint such other committees as may be necessary and:
	(i)	shall determine their terms of reference;
	(ii)	require committees to determine the dates of their meetings and publish such dates within 14 days of the Annual Parish Council Meeting for the full council year;
	(iii)	shall appoint and determine the terms of office of councillor or non-councillor members of such a committee (unless the appointment of non-councillors is prohibited by law) so as to hold office no later than the next annual meeting;
	(iv)	may appoint substitute councillors to a committee whose role is to replace ordinary councillors at a meeting of a committee if ordinary councillors of the committee have confirmed to the Proper Officer 3 days before the meeting that they are unable to attend;
	(v)	an ordinary member of a committee who has been replaced at a meeting by a substitute In accordance with standing order 15(a) (iv) above shall not be permitted to participate in debate or vote on business at that meeting and may only speak during any public participation session during the meeting;
	(vi)	may, in accordance with standing orders, dissolve a committee at any time.
b		The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council ex officio shall be a voting member of every committee.

16 Sub-committees

See also standing order 1 above

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

17 Extraordinary meetings

See also standing order 1 above

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.
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 councillors, those three councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of a committee [and a sub-committee]. The statutory public notice giving the time, place and agenda for such a meeting must be signed by 3 councillors.

18 Advisory committees

See also standing order 1 above

a	The Council may appoint advisory committees comprised of a number of councillors and non-councillors.
b	Advisory committees and any sub-committee may consist entirely of persons who are non-councillors.

19 Accounts and Financial Statement

a	All payments by the Council shall be authorised, approved and paid in accordance with the Council's financial regulations which shall be reviewed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting
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b	The Responsible Office shall supply to each councillor as soon as practicable after 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December in each year a statement summarising the Council's receipts and payments for each quarter and the balances held at the end of a quarter. This statement should include a comparison with the budget for the financial year. A Financial Statement prepared on the appropriate accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure for a year to 31 March shall be presented to each councillor before the end of the following month of May. The Statement of Accounts of the Council (which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement shall be presented to Council for formal approval before 30 June.
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20 Estimates/precepts

a	The Council shall approve written estimates for the coming financial year at its meeting before the end of January.
b	Any committee desiring to incur expenditure shall give the Proper Officer a written estimate of the expenditure recommended for the coming year no later than November.

21 Canvassing of and recommendations by councillors

a	Canvassing councillors or the members of a committee or sub-committee directly or indirectly, for appointment to or by the Council shall disqualify the candidate from such an appointment. The Proper Officer shall disclose the requirements of this standing order to every candidate.
b	A councillor or a member of a committee or sub-committee shall not solicit a person for appointment to or by the Council or recommend a person for such appointment or for promotion.
c	This standing order shall apply to tenders as if the person making the tender were a candidate for appointment.

22 Inspection of documents

Subject to standing orders to the contrary or in respect of matters which are not confidential, a councillor may, for the purpose of his official duties (but not otherwise), inspect any document in the possession of the Council or a committee or a sub-committee, and request a copy for the same purpose. The minutes of meetings of the Council, its committees or subcommittees shall be available for inspection by councillors.

23 Unauthorised activities

a		Unless authorised by a resolution, no individual councillor shall in the the name or on behalf of the Council, a committee or a sub-committee.
	(i)	inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect; or
c	(ii)	issue orders, instructions or directions.

24 Confidential business

a	Councillors shall not disclose information given in confidence or which they believe, or ought to be aware is of a confidential nature.
b	A councillor in breach of the provisions of standing order 24(a) above may be removed from a committee or a sub-committee by a resolution of the Council.

25 Power of well-being

a	Before exercising the power to promote well-being, a meeting of the full council shall have passed a resolution to confirm it has satisfied the prescribed statutory criteria required to qualify as an eligible parish council.
b	The Council's period of eligibility begins on the date that that the resolution under standing order 25(A) above was made and expires on the day before the annual meeting of the Council that takes place in a year of ordinary elections.

c	After the expiry of its preceding period of eligibility, the Council continues to be an eligible council solely for the purpose of completing any activity undertaken in the exercise of the power to promote well-being which was not completed before the expiry of the Council's preceding period of eligibility referred to in standing order 25(b) above.
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26 Matters affecting Council employees

a	If a meeting considers any matter personal to a Council employee, it shall not be considered until the Council or the Personnel committee has decided whether or not the press and public shall be excluded pursuant to standing order 1(c) above
b	Subject to the Council's policy regarding absences from work, the Council's most senior employee shall notify the Chairman of any absence occasioned by illness or urgency and that person shall report such absence to the relevant committee at its next meeting.
c	The chairman of the relevant committee or, in his absence, the vice-chairman shall, upon a resolution, conduct a review of the performance and/or appraisal of the employee and shall keep a written record of it. The review and/or appraisal shall be reported back and shall be subject to approval by resolution of the full Council (subject to pre-existing contracts of employment).
d	Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the Council's most senior employee shall contact the Chairman of the Personnel committee in respect of the informal or formal grievance matter and this matter shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the full Council
e	Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance and disciplinary matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter raised by an employee relates to the chairman or vice-chairman of the Personnel committee, this shall be communicated to another member of the Personnel committee, which shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the full Council.
f	Any persons responsible for all or part of the management of Council employees shall keep written records of all meetings relating to their performance and capabilities, grievance and disciplinary matters.
g	The Council shall keep written records relating to employees secure. All paper records shall be secured under lock and key and electronic records shall be password protected.
h	Records documenting reasons for an employee's absence due to ill health or details of a medical condition shall be made available only to those persons with responsibility for the same.

i	Only persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to employee records referred to in standing orders 26 (g) and (h) above if so justified.
j	Access and means of access by keys and/or computer passwords to records of employment referred to in standing orders 26(g) and (h) above shall be provided only to the chairman of the Council and the chairman of the Personnel committee.

27 Freedom of Information Act 2000

a	All requests for information held by the Council shall be processed in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of handling requests made under the freedom of Information Act 2000.
b	Correspondence from, and noticed served by, the Information Commissioner shall be referred by the Proper Officer to the chairman of the relevant committee. The said committee shall have the power to do anything to facilitate compliance with the freedom of Information Act 2000 including exercising the powers of the Proper Officer in respect of Freedom of Information requests set out under standing order 3(b) (x) above.

28 Liaison 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 [(England) [District and County Council] OR [Unitary Council]] [(Wales) [County Borough] OR [County Council]] representing the area of the council.
b	Unless the council determines otherwise, a copy of each letter sent to the [(England) [District and County Council] OR [Unitary Council]] [(Wales) [County Borough] OR [County Council]] shall be sent to the ward councillor(s) representing the area of the council.

29 Financial matters

a		The council shall consider and approve financial regulations drawn up by the Responsible Financial Officer, which shall include detailed arrangements in respect of the following:
	(i)	the accounting records and systems of internal 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
	(v)	procurement policies (subject to standing order 29(b) below) including the setting of values for different procedures where a contract has an estimated value of less than £60,000.
b		Financial regulations shall confirm that a proposed contract for the supply of goods, materials, services and the execution of works with an estimated value in excess of £60,000 shall be procured on the basis of a formal tender as summarised in standing order 29(c) below.
c		Any formal tender process shall comprise the following steps:
	(i)	A public notice of intention to place a contract to be placed in a local newspaper;
	(ii)	A specification of the goods, materials, services and execution of works shall be drawn up;
	(iii)	Tenders are to be sent, in a sealed marked envelope to the Proper Officer by a stated date and time;
	(iv)	Tenders submitted are to be opened, after the stated closing date and time, by the Proper Officer and at least one member of the Council;
	(v)	Tenders are then to be assessed and reported to the appropriate meeting of Council or committee

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

30 Allegations of breaches of the code of conduct

a	On receipt of a notification that there has been an alleged breach of the code of conduct, the Proper Officer shall refer it to a committee known as the Personnel committee.
b	Where the notification in standing relates to a complaint made by the Proper Officer, the Proper Officer shall notify the Chairman of the Personnel committee of that fact, who, upon receipt of such notification, shall nominate a person to assume the duties of the Proper Officer set out in the remainder of this standing order, who shall continue to act in respect of that matter as such until the complaint is resolved.
c	Where a notification relates to a complaint made by an employee (not being the Proper Officer) the Proper Officer shall ensure that the employee in question does not deal with any aspect of the complaint.
d	The subject matter of notifications shall be confidential and, insofar as it is possible to do so by law, the Council (including the Proper officer and the chairman of the Personnel committee) shall take the steps set out below, together with other steps considered necessary, to maintain confidentiality.

	(i)	Draft the summonses and agendas in such a way that the identity and subject matter of the complaint are not disclosed.
	(ii)	Ensure that any background papers containing the information set out in standing order 30(a) above are not made public.
	(iii)	Ensure that the public and press are excluded from meetings as appropriate.
	(iv)	Ensure that the minutes of meetings preserve confidentiality.
	(v)	Consider any liaison that may be required with the person or body with statutory responsibility for the investigation of the matter.
e		Standing order 30(d) above should not be taken to prohibit the Council (whether through the Proper Officer or the chairman of the relevant committee or otherwise) from disclosing information to members and officers of the Council or to other persons where such disclosure is necessary to deal with the complaint or is required by law.
f		The Personnel committee shall have the power to
	(i)	Seek documentary and other evidence from the person or body with statutory responsibility for investigation of the matter
	(ii)	Seek and share information relevant to the complaint.
	(iii)	Grant the member involved a financial indemnity in respect of legal costs, which shall be in accordance with the law and subject to approval by the full Council.
g		References in standing order 30 to a notification shall be taken to refer to a communication of any kind which relates to a breach or an alleged breach of the code of conduct by a councillor

31 Variation revocation and suspension of standing orders

a	Any or every part of the standing orders, except those which are mandatory by law, may be suspended by resolution in relation to any specific item of business.
b	A motion to add to or vary or revoke one or more of the Council's standing orders, not mandatory by law, shall be proposed by a special motion, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least 3 councillors

32 Standing orders to be given to all councillors

a	The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the Council's standing orders to a councillor upon delivery of his declaration of acceptance of office.
b	The chairman's decision as to the application of standing orders at meetings shall be final.
c	A councillor's failure to observe standing orders more than 3 times in one meeting may result in him being referred to the relevant disciplinary committee in accordance with standing orders.