

Manston Parish Council



STANDING ORDERS

Adopted at Full Council On 11th September 2017

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**Records of Amendments
October 2023 – No amendments**

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1. 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 Meetings of the Council shall commence at 7.15pm unless the Council otherwise decides at a previous meeting. Meetings will finish at 9.00pm. Should further time be required there may be 2 extensions of 15 minutes each by proposal only.
- c Smoking is not permitted during Council Meetings
- d When calculating the 3 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 and 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 shall not count.
- e 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.
- f By resolution of a meeting and subject to standing order 1e above, members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda.
- g The period of time permitted for public participation in standing order 1(f) is at the Chairman's discretion but should not normally exceed 5 minutes per member of public, unless the matter is complex and the public participation session will not exceed 15 mins.

- h Subject to standing order 1f above, each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda.
- i In accordance with standing order 1(f) 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.
- j In accordance with standing order 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.
- k A record of a public participation session at a meeting shall be included in the minutes of that meeting.
- l A person may stand when requesting to speak and when speaking, however they are permitted to remain seated if they wish. The Chairman may at any time permit an individual to be seated when speaking.
- m Any person speaking at a meeting shall address his comments to the Chairman.
- n Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wishes to speak, the Chairman shall direct the order of speaking.
- o Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is permitted with the Council's knowledge by the press and public.
- p In accordance with standing order 1(e) above, the press shall be provided reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present.
- q 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.
- r 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.

- s All questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the Councillors present and voting thereon.

- t The Chairman 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.

- u Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on any 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.

- v The minutes of a meeting shall record the names of councillors present and absent with any apologies for absence noted.

- w The code of conduct adopted by the Council shall apply to councillors in respect of the entire meeting.

- x 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.

- y No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least one third of the whole number of members, rounded up to a whole number, of the Council are present and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less than 3 or 2 for Committee meetings.

- z 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.

- aa Although ordinary Council meeting dates are defined yearly as per rule 2.j.vi, the Council can collectively agree to change the meeting date in any month where it will suit council members, provided a meeting notice period of 14 days can be given.

2. 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 The annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 7.00p.m
- 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 election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council shall be the first business completed at the annual meeting of the Council. When more than one person stands for election voting will be by secret ballot, counted by The Clerk. The person with the lowest number of votes will be eliminated and the vote taken again with the remaining candidates until an outright winner emerges.
- f The Chairman of the Council, unless he has resigned or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the annual meeting until his successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the Council.
- g The Vice-Chairman of the Council, unless he resigns or becomes disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chairman of the Council at the next annual meeting of the Council.
- h In an election year, if the current Chairman of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, he shall preside at the 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 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. 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.
 - iii. Receipt of nominations to existing committees.
 - iv. Appointment of any new committees, confirmation of the terms of reference, the number of members and receipt of nominations to them.
 - v. Receipt of nominations to represent CPC on or work with external bodies.
 - vi. Setting the dates, times and place of ordinary meetings of the full Council for the year ahead.
 - vii. Any normal business of council that needs to be dealt with before the next full meeting.

3. Proper Officer

- a The Council's Proper Officer shall be The Clerk or such other person appointed by the Council to undertake the role of the Proper Officer during the Proper Officer's absence. The Proper Officer and the person appointed to act as such during the Proper Officer's absence shall fulfil the duties assigned to the Proper Officer in standing orders.

- b The Council's Proper Officer shall do the following.
 - i. Sign and serve on councillors by delivery or post at their residences a summons confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda of a meeting of the Council and a meeting of a committee at least 3 clear days before the meeting.
 - ii. Give public notice of the time, date, venue and agenda at least 3 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).
- iii. Subject to standing orders "Motions Requiring Written Notice " 4(a)–(e) below, include in 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.
 - 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 standing order "Proper Officer" (b)ii above.
 - v. Make available for inspection the minutes of meetings.
 - vi. Receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities.
 - vii. Receive and retain declarations of acceptance of office 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. Clerk to obtain DPI's every 6 months from Councillors to ensure they are correct.
 - x. Keep proper records required before and after meetings;
 - xi. 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 procedures relating to the same.
 - xii. Receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary.
 - xiii. Manage the organisation, storage of and access to information held by the Council in paper and electronic form.
 - xiv. Arrange for legal deeds to be signed by 2 councillors and witnessed as required by law.
 - xv. Arrange for the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with the Council's financial regulations.
 - xvi. Record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council's response to the local planning authority in an appropriate place for such purpose;
 - xvii. Refer a planning application received by the Council to the Chairman or in his absence Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee within 2 working days of receipt and assist to facilitate any meeting requested by them in accordance with the CPC Planning Committee constitution.
 - xviii. 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 "Proper Officer" (b)(iii) above, no motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is included in the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Council's Proper Officer at least 5 clear days before the next meeting.
- b The Proper Officer may, before including a motion in the agenda received in accordance with standing order (a) 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 (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 in clear and certain language at least 5 clear days before the meeting.
- d If the wording or nature of a proposed motion is considered unlawful or 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 or rejected in the agenda.
- e Having consulted the Chairman or councillors pursuant to standing order (d) above, the decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the motion in the agenda shall be final.
- f Every motion and resolution shall relate to the Council's statutory functions, powers and lawful obligations or shall relate to an issue which specifically affects the Council's area or its residents.

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 absences of Councillors
 - iii. To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting.
 - iv. To correct an inaccuracy in the minutes of the previous 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 any councillors thereto.
 - xi. To receive nominations to a committee.
 - xii. To dissolve a committee .
 - xiii. To note the minutes of a meeting of a committee.
 - xiv. To consider a report and/or recommendations made by a committee or an employee.
 - xv. To consider a report 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 as required by law.
 - xvii. To authorise the payment of monies.
 - xviii. To amend a motion relevant to the original or substantive motion under consideration which shall not have the effect of cancelling it.
 - xix. To extend the time limit for speeches by the public.
 - xx. To exclude the press and public for all or part of a meeting.
 - xxi. To silence or exclude from the meeting a Councillor or a 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 any 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.
- b If a motion falls within the terms of reference of a committee or within the delegated powers conferred on an employee, a referral of the same may be made to such 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.

6. Rules of debate

- a Motions included in an agenda shall be considered in the order that they appear on the agenda unless the order is changed at the Chairman's direction for reasons of expedience.

- b Subject to standing orders "Motions Requiring Written Notice" (a)–(e) above, a motion shall not be considered unless it has been proposed and seconded.
- c Subject to standing order "Proper Officer" (b)(iii) above, a motion included in an agenda not moved by the councillor who tabled it, may be treated as withdrawn.
- d A motion to amend an original or substantive motion shall not be considered unless proper notice has been given after the original or substantive motion has been seconded and notice of such amendment, shall, if required by the Chairman, be reduced to writing and handed to the Chairman who shall determine the order in which they are considered.
- e 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.
- f 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.
- g A proposed or carried amendment to a motion shall not have the effect of rescinding the original or substantive motion under consideration.
- h 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.
- i Subject to (h) above, one or more amendments may be discussed together if the Chairman considers this expedient but shall be voted upon separately.
- j Pursuant to (h) above, the number of amendments to an original or substantive motion, which may be moved by a councillor, is limited to one.
- k If an amendment is not carried, other amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the Chairman.
- l 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.

- m The mover of a motion or the mover of an amendment shall have a right of reply, not exceeding 3 minutes.
- n 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.
- o Subject to standing orders (m) and (n) above, a councillor may not speak further in respect of any one motion except to speak once on an amendment moved by another councillor or to make a point of order or to give a personal explanation.
- 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 irregularity in the meeting he is concerned by.
- q A point of order shall be decided by the Chairman and his decision shall be final.
- r With the consent of the seconder and/or of the meeting, a motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the proposer. A councillor shall not speak upon the said motion or amendment unless permission for the withdrawal of the motion or amendment has been refused.
- s Subject to (o) above, 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 meeting;
 - vi. to refer a motion to a 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.

- t In respect of (s)(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. Questions * (NALC Para 8)***

- a A councillor may seek an answer to a question concerning any business of the Council provided 5 clear days notice of the question has been given to the Proper Officer.
- b Questions not related to items of business on the agenda for a meeting shall only be asked if part of a meeting has been set aside for such questions, or should be put to the next meeting.
- c Every question shall be put and answered without discussion.

8. Allegations of breaches of the code of conduct * (NALC Para 31)***

- 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 The Chairman or (if he is the one subject of the allegation) the Vice-Chairman.
- b Where the notification relates to a complaint made by the Proper Officer, the Proper Officer shall notify the Chairman of the Council or (if he is the one subject of the allegation) the Vice-Chairman, 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 or Vice-Chairman) 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 8(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 8(d) above should not be taken to prohibit the Council (whether through the Proper Officer or the Chairman or Vice-Chairman) 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 Chairman or Vice-Chairman 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 a meeting of the full Council.
- g References to a 'notification' above 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.

9. Minutes * (NALC Para 9)***

- a If a copy of 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 "Motions Not Requiring Written Notice" (a)(iv) above.

- c Minutes, including any amendment 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.

- 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 parish council held on [date] in respect of [minute reference] were a correct record but his view was not upheld by the majority of the parish council 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, any previous draft minutes or recordings of the meeting shall be destroyed.

- f To help prevent a situation as in (d) above occurring the Clerk will, within 14 working days of a full council or committee meeting, provide to members a draft copy of the minutes of that meeting. Each member will be invited to make one representation as to their accuracy to The Clerk. The Clerk can decide whether to accept any representations made and change the draft minutes or leave the matter to the next meeting.

10. Disorderly conduct ^{}(NALC Para 10)**

- a No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly.

- b If, in the opinion of the Chairman, there has been a breach of 11(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 in accordance with 11(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 ^{}(NALC Para 11)**

- 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 three 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 (a) above has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further 6 months.

12. Voting on appointments * (NALC Para 12)***

- a Where more than 2 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. Any tie may be settled by the Chairman's casting vote.

13. Expenditure * (NALC Para 13)***

- 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 . Accounts and Financial Statement * (NALC Para 19)***

- 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 least annually.
- b The Responsible Financial Officer 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 the 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 at the June meeting.

15. Estimates/precepts * (NALC Para 20)***

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

16. Execution and sealing of legal deeds * (NALC Para 14)***

- a A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the Council unless the same has been authorised by a resolution and in accordance with that resolution 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.

17. Committees * (NALC Para 15)***

- a The Council may, at its annual meeting, appoint representatives to standing working parties/committees and may at any other time appoint such other working parties/committees as may be necessary, and:
 - i. shall determine their terms of reference;
 - ii. may permit working parties/committees to determine the dates of their meetings;
 - iii. shall appoint and determine the term 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 in accordance with standing orders, dissolve a committee at any time.
 - v. an ordinary member of a working parties/committee who has been replaced at a meeting by a substitute member (in accordance with standing order 15 (a) (iii)

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;

18. Working Parties (NALC Para 16)**

- a Unless there is a Council resolution to the contrary, every committee may appoint a working party whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by resolution of the committee.
- b The working party will report to the main Committee and not directly to Full Council.
- c The main Committee may dissolve any of its Working Parties at any time by passing a resolution to that effect.

19. Extraordinary meetings ** (NALC Para 17)

- 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 7 days of having been requested to do so by two councillors, those two councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The statutory public notice giving the time, venue and agenda for such a meeting must be signed by the two councillors.
- c The Chairman of a committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of that committee or any of its sub-committee's at any time.
- d If the Chairman of a committee does not or refuses to call an extraordinary meeting within 7 days of having been requested by to do so by 2 councillors, those 2 councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of a committee. The statutory public notice giving the time, venue and agenda for such a meeting must be signed by 2 councillors.

20. Advisory committees ** (NALC Para 18)

- a The Council may appoint advisory committees comprised of a number of councillors and non-councillors.

- b Advisory committees and any Working Parties may consist wholly of persons who are non-councillors.

21. Canvassing of and recommendations by councillors ^{}(NALC Para 21)**

- 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; but, nevertheless, any such person may give a written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Council with an application for appointment.
- c This standing order shall apply to tenders as if the person making the tender were a candidate for an appointment.

22. Inspection of documents ^{}(NALC Para 22)**

- a Subject to standing orders to the contrary or in respect of matters which are 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 Working Parties shall be available for inspection by councillors.

23. Unauthorised activities ^{}(NALC Para 23)**

- a Unless authorised by a resolution, no individual councillor shall in 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
 - ii. issue orders, instructions or directions.

24. Confidential business ^{}(NALC Para 24)**

- 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. 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 committee or the sub-committee has resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting.
- b Subject to the Council's policy regarding absences from work, the Council's most senior employee shall notify the Chairman of the Council or, in his absence the Vice-Chairman of the Council of any absence occasioned by illness or urgency and that person shall report such absence to the Council at the next meeting.
- c The Chairman or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman shall conduct an annual review of the performance and appraisal of The Clerk and shall keep a written record of it.
- d Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the Clerk shall contact the Chairman or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman in respect of an informal or formal grievance matter, and this matter shall be reported back and progressed in accordance with the adopted grievance procedure.
- e Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance and disciplinary matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter raised by any employee relates to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman this shall be communicated to another member of council which shall be reported back and progressed in accordance with the adopted grievance procedure.
- f The Clerk is responsible for all management of Council employees and 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 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.

- j Access and means of access by keys and/or computer passwords to records of employment above shall be provided only to The Clerk and the Chairman of the Council.

26. 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 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- b Correspondence from, and notices served by, the Information Commissioner shall be referred by the Proper Officer to the Chairman or in his absence the Vice-Chairman of the Council. The Chairman or Vice-Chairman 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 CPC policy.

27. Relations with the press/media

- a All requests from the press or other media for an oral or written statement or comment from the Council shall be processed in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media.
- b In accordance with the Council's policy in respect to dealing with the press and/or other media, councillors shall not, in their official capacity, provide oral or written statements or written articles to the press or other media.

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 councillor of the District and County Council representing its electoral ward.

29. Variation, revocation and suspension of standing orders **** (NALC Para 32)**

- 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 permanently add to or to vary or to revoke one or more of the Council's standing orders not mandatory by law shall not be carried unless two-thirds of the councillors (rounded up to the nearest whole number) at a meeting of the Council vote in favour of the same.

30. Standing orders to be given to councillors * (NALC Para 33)***

- 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 excluded from the meeting in accordance with standing orders.

31. Power of well-being * (NALC Para 25)***

- 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 the resolution under standing order 31 (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 31(b) above.