



## WILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Public Participation at Parish Council Meetings

All meetings are open to the public under Section 1(1) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 unless the public are excluded by resolution under Section 1 (2) of the 1960 Act.

Members of the public may be excluded by a resolution of the meeting for specific items which need to be discussed in confidence for example staffing matters, tenders for contracts and some legal issues.

Meetings of the Parish Council are NOT public meetings, but members of the public have a statutory right to attend meetings of the council as observers.

**It is important to remember that no decisions can be made on any item raised by the public because the item would not have been legally notified on an agenda in advance.**

### PROCEDURES

- a) A question received in writing in advance of the meeting shall NOT be responded to at the meeting nor must it start a debate on the question. The Chairman may direct that a written response be given following the meeting
- b) A person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if they are present at the meeting of the council but otherwise may film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting
- c) Offensive or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated. If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings of any meeting the council reserves the right to curtail the contribution of that person and to exclude a disorderly person
- d) Everyone present will act respectfully towards every other person and will NOT act in a manner that demeans, insults, threatens or intimidates