

Postling Parish Council

Public Participation at Council meetings

Parish Council meetings, including all full meetings or committees, are open meetings. This means that the press and the general public are able to attend.

There are only two exceptions:

- (a) when Councillors have confidential matters to discuss and pass a resolution to move into a Part II (private) meeting which excludes the press and the general public
- (b) The Annual Parish Meeting or extraordinary Parish Meeting where only registered electors of the Parish are entitled to speak and vote.

Public Speaking at meetings

The general public have NO rights to participate in the proceeding of the Council, unless invited to do so, following a resolution of the Council, and the public contribution being relevant to the agenda item under consideration or discussion.

The Parish Council have adopted the following provisions to encourage open communication and sharing of information:

(i) Agenda item: Public Participation - included on all agendas

A member of the general public may, under this agenda item, raise in person, any matter, ask a question and/or address the Council on a specific subject/s. In all cases public comments and Council responses must be made through the Chairman of the meeting who has the authority to place a time restriction on proceedings. Time is limited to 5 minutes per speaker.

Members of the general public unable to attend may submit their comments, concerns or questions in writing or by emailing the Clerk to the Council, providing these are received by noon on the day preceding a published meeting. Depending on the matter raised the Clerk will respond, if appropriate, within 7 days of the meeting date.

(ii) Planning Application/s

Members of the general public will be granted the opportunity to address the meeting on planning applications published on the meeting agenda, without the legal requirement to suspend and re-convene the meeting.

The Applicant - 2 minutes

Objectors and/or supporters - 2 minutes

Other rules may apply to fully constituted Resident or Community Groups.

(iii) Ward Councillors attending

Ward Councillors (being members of the public) will be invited to address the meeting under a specific agenda item or at the discretion of the Chairman, without the legal requirement to suspend and re-convene the meeting.