

ALVERDISCOTT and HUNTSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

STANDING ORDERS

INDEX

1. RULES OF DEBATE AT MEETINGS	2
2. DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT MEETINGS	3
3. MEETINGS GENERALLY	3
4. REGULAR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS	5
5. ANNUAL MEETINGS	6
6. EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS	7
7. COMMITTEES	8
8. PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS	8
9. VOTING ON APPOINTMENTS	8
10. MOTIONS FOR A MEETING REQUIRING WRITTEN NOTICE	9
11. MOTIONS AT A MEETING THAT DO NOT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE	9
12. MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION	10
13. CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISPENSATIONS	10
14. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS	11
15. PROPER OFFICER	11
16. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER	12
17. ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS	12
18. FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND PROCUREMENT	12
19. RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION	13
20. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION	13
21. RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS/MEDIA	13
22. COMMUNICATING WITH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS	13
23. RESTRICTIONS ON COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES	13
24. STANDING ORDERS GENERALLY	14

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 Chair of the meeting.
- b A motion (including an amendment) shall not be progressed unless it has been moved and seconded.
- c A motion on the agenda that is not moved by its proposer may be treated by the Chair of the meeting as withdrawn.
- d If a motion (including an amendment) has been seconded, it may be withdrawn by the proposer only with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- e An amendment is a proposal to remove or add words to a motion. It shall not negate the motion.
- f If an amendment to the original motion is carried, the original motion (as amended) becomes the substantive motion upon which further amendment(s) may be moved.
- g An amendment shall not be considered unless early verbal notice of it is given at the meeting and, if requested by the Chair of the meeting, is expressed in writing to the Chair.
- h A councillor may move an amendment to his own motion if agreed by the meeting. If a motion has already been seconded, the amendment shall be with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- i If there is more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion, the amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the Chair of the meeting.
- j Subject to standing order 1(k), only one amendment shall be moved and debated at a time, the order of which shall be directed by the Chair of the meeting.
- k One or more amendments may be discussed together if the Chair of the meeting considers this expedient but each amendment shall be voted upon separately.
- l A councillor may not move more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion.
- m The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the end of debate on it.
- n Where a series of amendments to an original motion are carried, the mover of the original motion shall have a right of reply either at the end of debate on the first amendment or at the very end of debate on the final substantive motion immediately before it is put to the vote.
- o Unless permitted by the Chair of the meeting, a councillor may speak once in the debate on a motion except:
 - i. to speak on an amendment moved by another councillor;
 - ii. to move or speak on another amendment if the motion has been amended since he last spoke;
 - iii. to make a point of order;
 - iv. to give a personal explanation; or
 - v. to exercise a right of reply.
- p During the debate on 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 other irregularity in the proceedings of the meeting he is concerned by.

- q A point of order shall be decided by the Chair of the meeting and his decision shall be final.
- r When a 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 no longer heard or to leave the meeting;
 - 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; or
 - ix. to suspend particular standing order(s) excepting those which reflect mandatory statutory or legal requirements.
- s Before an original or substantive motion is put to the vote, the Chair of the meeting shall be satisfied that the motion has been sufficiently debated and that the mover of the motion under debate has exercised or waived his right of reply.
- t Excluding motions moved under standing order 1(r), the contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the Chair of the meeting.

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 Chair of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct.
- b If person(s) disregard the request of the Chair of the meeting to moderate or improve their conduct, any councillor or the Chair of the meeting may move that the person be no longer heard or be excluded from the meeting. The motion, if seconded, shall be put to the vote without discussion.
- c If a resolution made under standing order 2(b) is ignored, the Chair 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. The minimum three clear days' public notice of a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued or the day of the meeting.
- b. 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.
- c. 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
- d. The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with

- standing order 3(c) shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the Chair of the meeting.
- e. Subject to standing order 3(d), a member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes.
 - f. In accordance with standing order 3(e), a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
 - g. A person shall raise his hand when requesting to speak and stand when speaking (except when a person has a disability or is likely to suffer discomfort). The Chair of the meeting may at any time permit a person to be seated when speaking.
 - h. A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct his comments to the Chair of the meeting
 - i. Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wants to speak, the Chair of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking.
 - j. Subject to standing order 3(k), a person who attends a meeting is permitted to report on the meeting whilst the meeting is open to the public. To “report” means to film, photograph, make an audio recording of meeting proceedings, use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear the meeting as it takes place or later or to report or to provide oral or written commentary about the meeting so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later to persons not present.
 - k. A person present at a meeting may not provide an oral report or oral commentary about a meeting as it takes place without permission
 - l. 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.
 - m. The Chair of the Council, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chair is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Council (if there is one) if present, shall preside. If both the Chair and the Vice-Chair are absent from a meeting, a councillor as chosen by the councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.
 - n. Subject to a meeting being quorate, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the councillors.
 - o. The Chair 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. Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on a question shall be by a show of hands
 - q. 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 the names of councillors absent;
 - iii. interests that have been declared by councillors
 - iv. the grant of dispensations (if any) to councillors and
 - v. whether a councillor left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered;
 - vi. if there was a public participation session; and

- vii the resolutions made.
- r. A councillor 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.
- s. 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
- t. 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.
- u. A Parish Meeting shall be held annually, immediately prior to the Annual Parish Council Meeting unless the Council otherwise decides.
- v. An Annual meeting will be held on the 3rd Thursday in May and In addition the PC will hold meetings in July, September, November, January and March. (Statute requires at least three other meetings.)
- w. A meeting shall not exceed a period of 2 hours.
- x. Parish meetings will not begin before 6pm
- y. Meetings shall be held alternately at Alverdiscott Parish Hall and Huntshaw Parish Hall at a time of 7.30 pm, unless the Council otherwise decides at a previous meeting.
- z. The Clerk shall record the proceedings of Parish Meetings. If the Clerk is absent the person presiding at the meeting may record the proceedings or may appoint another to do so.

4 REGULAR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a. ORDER OF BUSINESS (Unless the Council decides otherwise on the grounds of urgency)
 - i. As soon as the chair has been filled, and provision made for recording the proceedings, the minutes of the previous meeting shall be read, considered, and if correct signed by the person presiding at the meeting.
 - ii. in every year not later than the meeting at which the estimates for the next year are settled the Council shall review the pay and conditions of service of existing employees
 - iii. To deal with business expressly required by statute to be done.
 - iv. To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the previous meeting.
 - v. To receive and consider reports from County and District Councillors and from the Parish Clerk
 - vi. To answer Questions regarding Parish Council business
 - vii. To receive such communications as the person presiding may wish to lay before the Council.
 - viii. To authorise the signing of orders for payment.
 - ix. To consider Resolutions in the order in which they have been notified.
 - x. Other business specified in the agenda with the summons.
- b. A motion to vary the order of business on the ground of urgency,

- i. may be proposed by the Chair, or by any member, and if proposed by the Chair, may be put to the vote without being seconded, and
- ii. shall be put to the vote without discussion.

5 ANNUAL MEETINGS

All references made are for the Parish council and AGM refers to the Annual Meeting

	ELECTION YEAR	NON-ELECTION YEAR
SCHEDULE	the AGM shall be held on the Wednesday next following the fourth day after the ordinary day of elections to the Council	The AGM shall be held on the third Thursday in May
TIME	If no other time is fixed, the AGM shall take place at 6pm.	
CHAIR / VICE CHAIR	if the current Chair has not been re-elected as a member, he shall preside at the annual meeting until a successor has been elected. They shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair but shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.	Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair
	if the current Chair has been re-elected as a member, they shall preside at the AGM until a new Chair has been elected. They may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair and shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.	The Chair, unless he has resigned or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the AGM until his successor is elected at the next AGM
	Elect a Vice Chair	The Vice-Chair, unless he resigns or becomes disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chair at the next AGM.
ACCEPTANCE	delivery by the Chair and councillors of their acceptance of office forms unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date.	
MINUTES	Review, approval and signature of previous meetings minutes.	
REPORTS	To receive the Annual Report of the PC.	
	To receive a statement of the PC's accounts for year ended the previous 31st March.	
	To receive the Council's observations on its finances for the current year.	
	The County Councillor for the Division. The District Councillor for the Ward and The Community Policeman	
	Alverdiscott Parish Hall Management Committee.	
	In accordance with the duty placed upon the Parish Council by the Deed of Dedication, to consider whether the Council agrees to the appointment	

	of the person proposed by the Alverdiscott Hall Management Committee as their Chair at their Annual General Meeting last.
	Huntshaw Parish Hall Management Committee
	The Local Rag
COMMITTEES	Appointment of members to existing committees;
	Appointment of any new committees in accordance with standing order 7
	Delegation arrangements to sub-committees, staff, other local authorities
REVIEWS	And adoption of standing orders financial regs and Risk register
	Inventory of all PC assets
	And confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks;
	And consider the payment of any subscriptions.
	Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;
	Council's complaints procedure.
	Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (see also standing orders 11, 20 and 21);
	Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;
	Council's employment policies and procedures
	Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the general power of competence.
FUTURE MEETINGS	Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting.
RESOLUTIONS	To consider Resolutions of which written notice has been given.
ANY OTHER BUSINESS	To deal with any other business at the discretion of the Chair

6. EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

- a The Chair of the Council or any committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.
- b If the Chair of the Council or committee does not call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within 7 days of having been requested in writing to do so by 2 councillors, any 2 councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council and sign the public notice giving the time, place and agenda for such a meeting.

7. COMMITTEES

- a The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the Council.
- b Unless the Council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee may be non-councillors.
- c The Council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, and:
 - i shall determine their terms of reference;
 - ii shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a

- committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings;
- iii. shall, appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee;
- iv. shall permit a committee other than a standing committee, to appoint its own Chair at the first meeting of the committee;
- v. may dissolve a committee or a sub-committee.

8. 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 3 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.
- b When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 6 (a) has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved for a further six months.

9. VOTING ON APPOINTMENTS

- a 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 casting vote exercisable by the Chair of the meeting.

10. 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 for which it is tabled 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 10 clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.
- c The Proper Officer may, before including a motion on the agenda received in accordance with standing order 10 (b) correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.
- d If the Proper Officer considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 10(b) is not clear in meaning, the motion shall be rejected until the mover of the motion resubmits it, so that it can be understood, in writing, to the Proper Officer at least 5 clear days before the meeting.
- e If the wording or subject of a proposed motion is considered improper, the Proper Officer shall consult with the Chair 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.
- f The decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the motion on the agenda shall be final.

- g Motions received shall be recorded and numbered in the order that they are received.
- h Motions rejected shall be recorded with an explanation by the Proper Officer of the reason for rejection.

11. 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 other 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 or legal requirements);
 - xvi. to adjourn the meeting; or
 - xvii. to close the meeting.

12. MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION

- a The Council shall have 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 shall have 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.

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 or committee 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 13(d) and (f), a dispensation request shall be considered at the beginning of the meeting of the Council, or committee for which the dispensation is required.
- h A dispensation may be granted in accordance with standing order 13(e) if having regard to all relevant circumstances any of the following apply:
 - 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;
 - 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 Council that it is dealing with a complaint that a councillor with voting rights has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Proper Officer shall, subject to standing order 11, report this to the Council.
- b Where the notification in standing order 14(a) relates to a complaint made by the Proper Officer, the Proper Officer shall notify the Chair of Council of this fact, and the Chair shall nominate another staff member 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 14(d).
- c The Council may:
 - i. provide information or evidence where such disclosure is necessary to investigate the complaint or is a legal requirement;
 - 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 Council that a 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 staff member(s) nominated 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).
See standing order 3(a) for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a full council
 - ii. subject to standing order 10, 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;
 - iii. convene a meeting of the Council for the election of a new Chair of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his office;
 - iv. facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors;
 - v. receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities;
 - vi. hold acceptance of office forms from councillors;
 - vii. hold a copy of every councillor's register of interests;
 - viii. assist with responding to requests made under freedom of information legislation and rights exercisable under data protection legislation, in accordance with the Council's relevant policies and procedures;
 - ix. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary;
 - x. assist in the organisation of, storage of, access to, security of and destruction of information held by the Council in paper and electronic form subject to the requirements of data protection and freedom of information legislation and other legitimate requirements (e.g. the Limitation Act 1980);
 - xi. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with its 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 Chair or in his absence the Vice-Chair of the Council or the Chair 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 Council
 - xiv. manage access to information about the Council via the publication scheme;

16. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

- a The Council shall appoint appropriate staff member(s) 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 (or income and expenditure) for each quarter;
 - ii. the Council’s aggregate receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) 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 (or income and expenditure) for the last quarter and the year to date for information; and
 - ii. to the Council the accounting statements for the year in the form of Section 2 of the annual governance and accountability 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 apply the form of accounts determined by the Council (receipts and payments, or income and expenditure) for the year to 31 March. A completed draft annual governance and accountability return shall be presented to all councillors at least 14 days prior to anticipated approval by the Council. The annual governance and accountability return of the Council, which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to the 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. whether contracts with an estimated value below **£25,000** due to special circumstances are exempt from a tendering process or procurement exercise.
- vi. All procurement regulations for the Council

- b. Financial regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for fitness of purpose.

19. 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.

20. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION

- a. The Council may appoint a Data Protection Officer.
- b. The Council shall have policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning his personal data.
- c. The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. The Council shall maintain a written record of its processing activities.

21. 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.

22. COMMUNICATING WITH DISTRICT AND COUNTY 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 District and County Council representing the area of the Council.
- b. Unless the Council determines otherwise, a copy of each letter sent to the District and County Council shall be sent to the ward councillor(s) representing the area of the Council.

23. RESTRICTIONS ON COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES

- a. Unless duly authorised no councillor shall:
 - i. inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect;

- ii. issue orders, instructions or directions.

24. STANDING ORDERS GENERALLY

- a All or part of a standing order, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal 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 or legal requirements, shall be proposed by a special motion, the written notice by at least two councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 10.
- c The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the Council's standing orders to a councillor as soon as possible.
- d The decision of the Chair of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.