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**Standing Orders**

**of**

**The Mossley Town Council**

# Adopted 5 June 2019

To be reviewed annually prior to the Annual Council Meeting

Reviewed and amended – 1 May 2020

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| 1 | MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL |
|  | 1.1 | 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 are elected to take office. |
|  | 1.2 | In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall normally be held on any day in May as the Council may direct. |
|  | 1.3 | Ordinary meetings of the Council (including the three other statutory meetings) shall be held ordinarily on Wednesday at 7.30pm as determined by the Council. |
|  | 1.4 | Smoking is not permitted at any meeting of the Council. |
|  | 1.5 | The person presiding at the meeting of the Council may exercise all the powers and duties of the Chair in relation to the conduct of the meeting. |
|  | 1.6 | The Chair of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.  |
|  | 1.7 | If the Chair 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. |
|  | 1.8 | The Chair of a committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of that committee at any time. |
|  | 1.9 | If the Chair of a committee does not or refuses to call an extraordinary meeting within 7 days of having been requested by to do so by two Councillors, those two Councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of that committee. The statutory public notice giving the time, venue and agenda for such a meeting must be signed by the two Councillors. |
|  | 1.10 | Ordinarily, meetings of the Council and Committees shall be held at the George Lawton Hall, Mossley, unless otherwise previously determined. |
|  | 1.11 | Minutes of the Council and Committee meetings will be taken by the Proper Officer. |
|  | 1.12 | The public and press shall be admitted to all meetings of the Council and its committees. In accordance with The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public may be excluded when confidential business is being considered. This should normally only be done on the grounds of commercial sensitivity or staffing issues. The confidential business should normally be at the end of a meeting and kept to a minimum. An explanation of the reasons for exclusion should be given by the Chair and the reason included in the minutes. |

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|  | 1.13 | In accordance with standing order 1.10 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.  |
|  | 1.14 | If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any time, the Chair may, after warning, order that he/she be removed from the meeting room. |
|  | 1.15 | Public Question Time – before any ordinary Council meeting 30 minutes will be set aside for members of the public to ask questions and comment on matters relevant to Mossley or the activities of the Council. The following rules shall apply: |
|  |  | (a) | Members of the public wishing to speak should address their questions in writing (by letter or e-mail) to the “Clerk to the Council” preferably 2 full working days (i.e. excluding Saturdays, Sundays, public and local holidays) prior to the day of the meeting; |
|  |  | (b) | The Clerk will determine if the question submitted is eligible; |
|  |  | (c) | Any members of the public invited to speak will be permitted to speak for no more than three minutes; |
|  |  | (d) | In the event of more than five members of the public wishing to address the Council the priority will be at the discretion of the Chair; |
|  |  | (e) | The time for questions and comments may be extended at the discretion of the Chair; |
|  |  | (f) | No decisions will be taken at this part of the proceedings; |
| 2 | NOTICE OF MEETINGS |
|  | 2.1 | Notice of the time and place of any meeting of the Council or a meeting of a committee shall be published at least 3 clear days before the meeting in some conspicuous place in the Parish. Where the meeting is called by members of the Council the notice shall be signed by those members and shall specify the business proposed to be transacted. A summons to attend the meeting, specifying the business proposed to be transacted, and signed by the Proper Officer of the Council, shall be issued by email to each member of the Council. The failure to serve a summons on any Councillor does not affect the validity of a meeting. Notice of the meeting and supporting documents excluding any confidential items, shall at the same time be issued by email to the local news media organisations.  |
|  | 2.2 | Minutes of any committee which has been held within seven days or less before a meeting may be issued to members at the meeting, provided that notice of them has been given in the summons. |

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|  | 2.3 | Business not included in the notice (Agenda) of a meeting may only be discussed without resolution at the meeting of the Council or its committees. Specified items of business must be given to the Proper Officer prior to the distribution of the notice (Agenda) which is usually seven days prior to the meeting. Non-specified items raised may be investigated and included in the notice (Agenda) at a future meeting of the Council. |
| 3 | DECLARATION OF OFFICE |
|  | 3.1 | All members of the Council shall as soon as possible after election, make the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and shall not be qualified to act until this has been done. |
|  | 3.2 | The Chair of the Council shall make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office immediately after his or her election at the Annual or other meeting. |
| 4 | CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL |
|  | 4.1 | The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council shall be the first business completed at the annual meeting of the Council. |
|  | 4.2 | The Chair of the Council, unless he/she has resigned or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the annual meeting until their successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the Council.  |
|  | 4.3 | In an election year, if the current Chair of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, he/she shall preside at the meeting until a successor Chair of the Council has been elected. The current Chair of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council but must give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes. |
|  | 4.4 | In an election year, if the current Chair of the Council has been re-elected as a member of the Council, he/she shall preside at the meeting until a new Chair of the Council has been elected. He/she may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council and must give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes. |
|  | 4.5 | The Vice-Chair of the Council, unless he/she resigns or becomes disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chair of the Council at the next annual meeting of the Council. |
|  | 4.6 | Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chair may in his absence be done by, to or before the Vice-Chair. |
| 5 | CHAIR OF THE MEETING |

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|  | 5.1 | The Chair, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chair is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chair, 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. |
| 6 | PROPER OFFICER |
|  | 6.1 | The Council’s Proper Officer shall be either: |
|  |  | (a) | the Clerk or such other employee as may be nominated by the Council from time to time; or |
|  |  | (b) | such other employee appointed by the Council to undertake the role of the Proper Officer during the Proper Officer’s absence. |
|  | 6.2 | The Proper Officer and the employee appointed to act as such during the Proper Officer’s absence shall fulfil the duties assigned to the Proper Officer in standing orders.  |
|  | 6.3 | The Council’s Proper Officer shall do the following: |
|  |  | (a) | Sign and serve on Councillors by e-mail a summons confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda of a meeting of the Council and a meeting of a committee and at least 3 clear days before the meeting; |
|  |  | (b) | 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); |
|  |  | (c) | Subject to standing orders 11.1 to 11.5 below, include in the agenda all motions in the order received unless a Councillor has given written notice at least seven days before the meeting confirming his / her withdrawal of it; |
|  |  | (d) | In accordance with standing order 6.1 or 6.2 above, convene a meeting of full Council for the election of a new Chair of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his / her office; |
|  |  | (e) | Make available for inspection the minutes of meetings; |
|  |  | (f) | Receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities; |
|  |  | (g) | Receive and retain declarations of acceptance of office from Councillors; |
|  |  | (h) | Retain a copy of every Councillor’s register of interests and any changes to it and keep copies of the same available for inspection; |
|  |  | (i) | Keep proper records required before, during and after meetings; |
|  |  | (j) | 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; |
|  |  | (k) | Receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary; |
|  |  | (l) | Manage the organisation, storage of and access to information held by the Council in paper and electronic form; |
|  |  | (m) | Arrange for legal deeds to be signed by 2 Councillors and witnessed; |
|  |  | (n) | 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; |
|  |  | (o) | Action or undertake activity or responsibilities instructed by resolution or contained in standing orders; |
|  |  | (p) | Receive and retain plans and documents; |
|  |  | (q) | On behalf of the Council, to sign notices or other documents; |
|  |  | (r) | Certify copies of bylaws made by the Council. |
|  | 6.3 | The Proper Officer shall be the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council |
| 7 | QUORUM |
|  | 7.1 | No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least one third of the whole number of members of the Council / Committee are present and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less than 3. |
|  | 7.2 | 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. (For the purpose of determining a quorum, members debarred from the debate by reason of a declaration of interest shall not be included). |
| 8 | **VOTING** |
|  | 8.1 | Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on any question shall be by a show of hands or, if at least two members so request, by ballot. |
|  | 8.2 | 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/her vote for or against that question. Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda. |
|  | 8.3 | Subject to 8.4 and 8.5 below, the Chair 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. |
|  | 8.4 | If the person presiding at the annual meeting would have ceased to be a member of the Council but for the statutory provisions which preserve the membership of the Chair and Vice Chair until the end of their term of office he/she may not give an original vote in an election for the Chair. |
|  | 8.5 | The person presiding must give a casting vote whenever there is an equality of votes in an election of the Chair. |
| 9 | ORDER OF BUSINESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS |
|  | **Annual Meeting of the Council** |
|  | 9.1 | At each Annual Meeting of the Council, the first business shall be:- |
|  |  | (a) | To elect a Chair of the Council |
|  |  | (b) | To receive the Chair’s declaration of acceptance of office or, if not then received, to determine when it shall be received. |
|  |  | (c) | In the ordinary year of election of the Council, to fill any vacancies left unfilled at the election by reason of insufficient nominations. |
|  |  | (d) | To determine when any declarations of acceptance of office which have not been received as provided by law shall be received. |
|  |  | (e) | To appoint a Vice-Chair |
|  |  | (f) | To approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Council |
|  |  | (g) | To appoint representatives to serve on outside bodies. |
|  |  | (h) | To fix dates and times of ordinary Council Meetings to take place during the municipal year. |
|  |  | (i) | Chair’s announcements. |
|  | **Ordinary Meetings of the Council** |
|  | 9.2 | Every ordinary meeting of the Council shall: |
|  |  | (a) | Receive and note apologies for absence. (These must normally be notified to the Proper Officer before the commencement of the meeting). This shall not constitute approval of absence (see 41.2); |
|  |  | (b) | To allow members of the public to address the meeting. (A period of 30 minutes will be set aside for this agenda item); |
|  |  | (c) | Consider and approve as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Council (and the Annual Meeting when appropriate); |
|  |  | (d) | Deal with any matter expressly required by statute to be done; |
|  |  | (e) | Dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting; |
|  |  | (f) | Receive such communications as the person presiding may wish to lay before the Council; |
|  |  | (g) | Receive and note minutes and consider reports from committees; |
|  |  | (h) | Receive and consider reports from the Proper Officer or officers of the Council; |
|  |  | (i) | Consider resolutions or recommendations in the order in which they have been notified; |
|  |  | (j) | Consider other business specified in the summons. |
| 10 | URGENT BUSINESS |
|  | 10.1 | A motion to vary the order of business on the grounds 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.  |
|  | 10.2 | Where a decision is required to be taken on grounds or urgency, the Clerk in consultation with the Chair will be authorised to take that decision on behalf of the Town Council.The ruling of the Clerk in consultation with the Chair in determining whether a decision is ‘urgent’, shall be final.Where practical, the Clerk will, prior to agreeing the decision in consultation with the Chair, seek the views of all members of the Town Council by any media considered appropriate and take into account the consensus view of the majority of members of the Town Council.The Clerk will maintain a register of decisions taken under this Standing Order and report any decisions taken to the next ordinary Town Council meeting for information. |
| 11 | MOTIONS REQUIRING WRITTEN NOTICE |
|  | 11.1 | In accordance with standing order 6.3 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 ten clear days before the next meeting. |
|  | 11.2 | The Proper Officer may, before including a motion in the agenda received in accordance with standing order 11.1 above, correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.  |
|  | 11.3 | If the Proper Officer considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 11.1 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 five clear days before the meeting.  |
|  | 11.4 | If the wording or nature of a proposed motion is considered unlawful or 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 or rejected in the agenda.  |
|  | 11.5 | Having consulted the Chair or Councillors pursuant to standing order 11.4 above, the decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the motion in the agenda shall be final. |
|  | 11.6 | Notice of every motion received in accordance with the Council’s standing orders shall be numbered in the order received recorded. The record shall be open to inspection by all Councillors. |
|  | 11.7 | Where a motion is rejected the Proper Officer will record the reasons for its rejection. The record shall be open to inspection by all Councillors. |
|  | 11.8 | 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. |
|  | 11.9 | Motions will be included on the agenda for the next ordinary meeting in the order in which they are received. |
| 12 | MOTIONS NOT REQUIRING WRITTEN NOTICE |
|  | 12.1 | Motions in respect of the following matters may be moved without written notice: |
|  |  | (a) | To appoint a person to preside at a meeting; |
|  |  | (b) | To approve the absences of Councillors; |
|  |  | (c) | To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting; |
|  |  | (d) | To correct an inaccuracy in the minutes of the previous meeting; |
|  |  | (e) | To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting; |
|  |  | (f) | To alter the order of business on the agenda for reasons of urgency or expedience; |
|  |  | (g) | To proceed to the next business on the agenda; |
|  |  | (h) | To close or adjourn debate; |
|  |  | (i) | To refer by formal delegation a matter to a committee or to a task and finish group or an employee; |
|  |  | (j) | To appoint a committee or task and finish group or any Councillors (including substitutes) thereto; |
|  |  | (k) | To receive nominations to a committee or task and finish group; |
|  |  | (l) | To dissolve a committee or task and finish group; |
|  |  | (m) | To note the minutes of a meeting of a committee; |
|  |  | (n) | To consider a report and/or recommendations made by a committee or a task and finish group or an employee; |
|  |  | (o) | To consider a report and/or recommendations made by an employee, professional advisor, expert or consultant; |
|  |  | (p) | To authorise legal deeds to be signed by two Councillors and witnessed; |
|  |  | (q) | To amend a motion relevant to the original or substantive motion under consideration which shall not have the effect of nullifying it; |
|  |  | (r) | To extend the time limit for speeches; |
|  |  | (s) | To exclude the press and public for all or part of a meeting; |
|  |  | (t) | To silence or exclude from the meeting a Councillor or a member of the public for disorderly conduct; |
|  |  | (u) | To give the consent of the Council if such consent is required by standing orders; |
|  |  | (v) | To suspend any standing order except those which are mandatory by law; |
|  |  | (w) | To adjourn the meeting; |
|  |  | (x) | To appoint representatives to outside bodies and to make arrangements for those representatives to report back the activities of outside bodies; |
|  |  | (y) | To answer questions from Councillors. |
|  | 12.2 | If a motion falls within the terms of reference of a committee within the delegated powers conferred on an employee, a referral of the same may be made to such committee or employee provided that the Chair may direct for it to be dealt with at the present meeting for reasons of urgency or expedience. |
| 13 | QUESTIONS |
|  | 13.1 | A Councillor may seek an answer to a question concerning any business of the Council. Questions should be submitted in writing (by letter or e-mail) to the “Clerk to the Council” preferably 2 full working days (i.e. excluding Saturdays, Sundays, public and local holidays) prior to the day of the meeting. |
|  | 13.2 | 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. |
|  | 13.3 | Every question shall be put and answered without discussion. |
|  | 13.4 | A person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. |
| 14 | **MINUTES** |
|  | 14.1 | 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 12.1(d) above. |
|  | 14.2 | Minutes, including any amendment to correct their accuracy, shall be confirmed by resolution and shall be signed by the Chair of the meeting and stand as an accurate record of the meeting to which the minutes relate. |
|  | 14.3 | 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. |
| 15 | RULES OF DEBATE |
|  | 15.1 | Motions included in an agenda shall be considered in the order that they appear on the agenda unless the order is changed at the Chair’s direction for reasons of expedience. |
|  | 15.2 | Subject to standing orders 11.1 to 11.5 above, a motion shall not be considered unless it has been proposed and seconded.  |
|  | 15.3 | Subject to standing order 6.2(c) above, a motion included in an agenda not moved by the Councillor who tabled it, will be treated as withdrawn. |
|  | 15.4 | A motion to amend an original or substantive motion shall not be considered until the original or substantive motion has been seconded and the amendment, shall, if required by the Chair, be submitted in writing, handed to the Chair and read to the meeting by the Proper Officer without interruption before any debate shall take place |
|  | 15.5 | The Chair shall determine the order in which amendments are considered. |
|  | 15.6 | 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. |
|  | 15.7 | A proposed or carried amendment to a motion shall not have the effect of rescinding the original or substantive motion under consideration. |
|  | 15.8 | One or more amendments may be discussed together if the Chair considers this expedient but shall be voted upon separately. |
|  | 15.9 | If an amendment is not carried, other amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the Chair. 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. |
|  | 15.10 | The Chair shall control the meeting avoiding interruption, repetition, or deviation. Councillors that have not spoken on a motion or amendment shall usually be given precedent to Councillors that have already spoken. |
|  | 15.11 | No speech shall exceed five minutes except by consent of the Chair. |
|  | 15.12 | 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/she considers has been breached or specify the irregularity in the meeting he/she is concerned by. |
|  | 15.13 | A point of order shall be decided by the Chair and his/her decision shall be final.  |
|  | 15.14 | 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.  |
|  | 15.15 | When a Councillor’s motion is under debate no other motion shall be moved except: |
|  |  | (a) | to amend the motion; |
|  |  | (b) | to proceed to the next business; |
|  |  | (c) | to adjourn the debate; |
|  |  | (d) | to put the motion to a vote; |
|  |  | (e) | to ask a person to be silent or for him/her to leave the meeting; |
|  |  | (f) | to refer a motion to a committee or task and finish group for consideration;  |
|  |  | (g) | to exclude the public and press;  |
|  |  | (h) | to adjourn the meeting; |
|  |  | (i) | to suspend any standing order, except those which are mandatory. |
|  | 15.16 | In respect of standing order 15.15(d) above, the Chair shall first be satisfied that the motion has been sufficiently debated before it is seconded and put to the vote. The Chair shall call upon the mover of the motion under debate to exercise or waive his/her 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. |
|  | 15.17 | Members shall address the Chair: |
|  |  | (a) | If two or more members rise, the Chair shall call upon one of them to speak and the others shall resume their seats; |
|  |  | (b) | Whenever the Chair rises during a debate all other members shall be seated and silent; |
|  |  | (c) | Members may indicate a desire to speak by raising their hands and the Chair shall call upon them to do so in the order in which this has been done, subject however that he shall as far as possible preserve a balance between opposing points of view during the debate. |
| 16 | **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** |
|  | 16.1 | No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly.  |
|  | 16.2 | If, in the opinion of the Chair, there has been a breach of standing order 16.1 above, the Chair shall express that opinion and thereafter any Councillor (including the Chair) may move that the person be silenced or excluded from the meeting, and the motion, if seconded, shall be put forthwith and without discussion. |
|  | 16.3 | If a resolution made in accordance with standing order 16.2 above, is disobeyed, the Chair may take such further steps as may reasonably be necessary to enforce it and/or he/she may adjourn the meeting. |
| 17 | RESCISSION OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTION |
|  | 17.1 | 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 five Councillors of the Council, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a committee. |
|  | 17.2 | When a special motion or any other motion moved pursuant to standing order 17.1 above has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further 6 months. |
| 18 | **VOTING ON APPOINTMENTS** |
|  | 18.1 | Where more than 2 persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the Council, other than a staff appointment, 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 Chair’s casting vote. |
| 19 | DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNCIL |
|  | 19.1 | If a meeting considers any matter personal to a Council employee, it shall not be considered until the Council or the committee has decided whether or not the press and public shall be excluded pursuant to standing order 1.12 above. |
| 20 | EXECUTION AND SEALING OF LEGAL DEEDS |
|  | 20.1 | A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the Council unless the same has been authorised by a resolution. |
|  | 20.2 | In accordance with a resolution made under standing order 20.1 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. |
| 21 | **COMMITTEE TASK AND FINISH GROUPS** |
|  | 21.1 | The Council may, at its annual meeting, appoint standing committees and may at any other time appoint such other committees as may be necessary, and: |
|  |  | (a) | shall determine their terms of reference; |
|  |  | (b) | may permit committees to determine the dates of their meetings; |
|  |  | (c) | 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; |
|  |  | (d) | may, in accordance with standing orders, dissolve a committee at any time. Unless there is a Council resolution to the contrary, every committee may appoint a task and finish group whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by resolution of the committee. |
|  | 21.2 | Unless the conviction has been quashed, a Councillor found guilty within the preceding four years of a criminal offence involving the abuse of children or vulnerable adults may not serve on any sub-committee of the Council. Neither shall they serve on any joint or external bodies as a representative of the Council. |
|  | 21.3 | A Councillor may appoint a substitute Councillor, who is eligible to serve on that committee, to attend a committee meeting if they have confirmed to the Proper Officer prior to the start of the meeting that they are unable to attend. |
|  | 21.4 | A member of a committee who has been replaced at a meeting by a substitute member in accordance with standing order 21.2 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. |
|  | 21.5 | The membership, frequency of meetings and terms of reference of the Committees is attached at Appendix A |
| 22 | **ADVISORY COMMITTEES** |
|  | 22.1 | The Council may appoint advisory committees comprised of a number of Councillors and non-Councillors. |
|  | 22.2 | Advisory committees may consist wholly of persons who are non-Councillors.  |
| 23 | **POWERS OF COMMITTEES** |
| 24 | **ATTENDANCE OF NON MEMBERS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS** |
|  | 24.1 | Any member of the Council may attend a meeting of a committee even though not a member thereof, and may speak if invited to do so by the Chair, but may not vote. |
| 25 | **CODE OF CONDUCT** |
|  | 25.1 | All Councillors shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council. |
|  | 25.2 | All Councillors shall be invited to undertake training in the code of conduct within 6 months of the delivery of their declaration of acceptance of office. |
|  | 25.3 | If paragraph 12(2) of the code of conduct contained in the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 (SI No.1159) has been adopted by the Council or pursuant to relevant provisions in a statutory code of conduct in force at the time, Councillors may exercise the rights contained in standing order 25.4 below only if members of the public are permitted to: |
|  |  | (a) | make representations; |
|  |  | (b) | answer questions; and |
|  |  | (c) | give evidence relating to the business being transacted. |
|  | 25.4 | Councillors with a prejudicial interest in relation to any item of business being transacted at a meeting may: |
|  |  | (a) | make representations; |
|  |  | (b) | answer questions; |
|  |  | (c) | give evidence relating to the business being transacted but must, thereafter, leave the room or chamber. |
| 26 | **CANVASSING OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY COUNCILLORS** |
|  | 26.1 | Canvassing Councillors or the members of a 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. |
|  | 26.2 | A Councillor or a member of a 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. |
|  | 26.3 | This standing order shall apply to tenders as if the person making the tender were a candidate for an appointment. |
| 27 | **INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS** |
|  | 27.1 | 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, and request a copy for the same purpose. The minutes of meetings of the Council, its committees shall be available for inspection by Councillors. |
| 28 | **UNAUTHORISED ACTIVITIES** |
|  | 27.1 | Unless authorised by a resolution, no individual Councillor shall in the name or on behalf of the Council, or a committee: |
|  |  | (a) | inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect; or |
|  |  | (b) | issue orders, instructions or directions. |
| 29 | **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS** |
|  | 29.1 | Councillors shall not disclose information given in confidence or which they believe, or ought to be aware is of a confidential nature.  |
|  | 29.2 | A Councillor in breach of the provisions of standing order 29.1 above may be removed from a committee by a resolution of the Council. |
| 30 | **ESTIMATES** |
|  | 30.1 | The Clerk will prepare the draft estimates. The Council shall approve written estimates for the coming financial year at its meeting before the end of Januaryor such date as is required by the Council.  |
|  | 30.2 | 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 December |
|  | 30.3 | Proposals for significant additional expenditure shall be considered by the Council |
| 31 | STAFF SALARIES AND WAGES |
|  | 31.1 | A report on the salary or wages and superannuation payments of employees of the Council, including any proposals for upgrading shall be considered by the Council for approval before the commencement of each financial year. After approval by the Council, payments may continue on the approved local government scale without further approval. Any proposed change or special payment shall be considered by the Council for approval. Nationally agreed increases applicable to employees shall be reported to the Council. |
| 32 | **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND CHEQUES** |
|  | 32.1 | The Clerk is authorised to pay accounts up to the value of £500.Except as provided in Standing Order No. 31 or paragraph 32.2 below, all accounts for payment and claims upon the Council exceeding £500 shall be laid before the Council for approval. |
|  | 32.2 | Where it is necessary to make a payment before it has been authorised by the Council such payment shall be certified as it its correctness and urgency by the Proper Officer and included in the next schedule of payments submitted to the Council for ratification. |
|  | 32.3 | All cheques on the Council account shall be signed by two of the authorised signatories of the Council. (Note Local Government Act 1972, Section 150 requires signature by two members). |
|  | 32.4 | The Proper Officer shall be authorised to transfer money between the Council’s current and deposit or reserve accounts. |
| 33 | RECEIPTS |
|  | 33.1 | All moneys received for the Council shall be paid promptly into the Council’s account and recorded in the books provided for that purpose. A receipt shall be issued unless not required and invoices for all debts due. |
| 34 | **ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** |
|  | 34.1 | 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.  |
|  | 34.2 | The Responsible Financial Officer shall supply to each Councillor at each ordinary meeting, a statement summarising the Council’s receipts and payments since the last meeting. 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. |
| 35 | **FINANCIAL MATTERS** |
|  | 35.1 | 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: |
|  |  | (a) | the accounting records and systems of internal control; |
|  |  | (b) | the assessment and management of financial risks faced by the Council; |
|  |  | (c) | the work of the Internal Auditor and the receipt of regular reports from the Internal Auditor, which shall be required at least annually; |
|  |  | (d) | the inspection and copying by Councillors and local electors of the Council’s accounts and/or orders of payments; |
|  |  | (e) | procurement policies. |
|  | 35.2 | Regard shall be had at all times to obtaining value for money, good quality and reliable workmanship in the provision of goods and services for the Council. |
|  | 35.3 | Routine orders for the supply of goods and maintenance covered by the estimates shall be placed by the Clerk or appropriate officer, together with orders for urgent repairs to the Councils assets, regarding which he/she shall consult the Chair. |
|  | 35.4 | In the case of contracts at an estimated cost of less than £2,000 it shall be in the discretion of the Council whether to obtain competitive quotations in any particular case. |
|  | 35.5 | For contracts at an estimated cost of £2,000 or more, but less than £10,000 three competitive quotations shall be obtained, and in the case of contracts costing £10,000 or more, public notice inviting tenders shall be given in one or more newspapers circulating in the district. The Committee may also resolve to invite tenders by newspaper advertisement in other cases, if thought desirable. |
|  | 35.6 | The requirements regarding tendering may be waived by the Council, if so resolved in any particular case, the reasons for which shall be stated in the Minutes. |
|  | 35.7 | Any formal tender process shall comprise the following steps: |
|  |  | (a) | a public notice of intention to place a contract to be placed in a local newspaper; |
|  |  | (b) | a specification of the goods, materials, services and the execution of works shall be drawn up; |
|  |  | (c) | tenders are to be sent, in a sealed marked envelope, to the Proper Officer by a stated date and time;  |
|  |  | (d) | 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; |
|  |  | (e) | tenders are then to be assessed and reported to the appropriate meeting of Council. |
|  | 35.8 | 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. |
|  | 35.9 | Advice may be sought from officers of the Borough Council or appropriate professional advisors regarding the setting of specifications and the evaluation of the tenders received. |
|  | 35.10 | The Council or any committee is not bound to accept the lowest quotation or tender or any quotation or tender, but the lowest quotation or tender should be accepted unless there are grounds for not so doing. |
| 36 | **GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE** |
|  | 36.1 | Before exercising the “general power of competence”, 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.  |
|  | 36.2 | The Council’s period of eligibility begins on the date that the resolution understanding order 36.1 above was made and expires on the day before the annual meeting of the Council that takes place in a year of ordinary elections. |
|  | 36.3 | 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 general power of competence which was not completed before the expiry of the Council’s preceding period of eligibility referred to in standing order 36.2 above. |
| 37 | **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000** |
|  | 37.1 | 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. |
|  | 37.2 | Correspondence from, and notices served by, the Information Commissioner shall be referred by the Proper Officer to the Chair of the appropriate committee. The 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 6.3(j) above. |
| 38 | **RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS / MEDIA** |
|  | 38.1 | 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 to dealing with the press and/or other media. |
|  | 38.2 | In accordance with the Council’s policy in respect to dealing with the press and/or other media, the Proper Officer and the Chair will provide press/media releases. Any press/media comment made on behalf of the Parish Council must reflect the view of the Parish Council as a whole |
| 39 | **ALLEGATIONS OF BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT** |
|  | 39.1 | On receipt of a notification that there has been an alleged breach of the codeof conduct the Proper Officer shall refer it to the Monitoring officer at TamesideMetropolitan Borough Council. |
| 40 | **VARIATION, REVOCATIONS AND SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS** |
|  | 40.1 | 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. |
|  | 40.2 | A motion to add, 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 which contains the names of at least five Councillors. |
| 41 | **ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS** |
|  | 41.1 | Councillors will lose their place on the Council if they do not attend at least one ordinary meeting of the Council throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance at a meeting, unless the absence was due to some reason approved by the Council in accordance with the 1972 Local Government Act.  |
|  | 41.2 | To receive approval of non-attendance, a Councillor must submit to the Clerk, or in their absence, the Chair, a request for approval by the Council for their anticipated or previous non-attendance at ordinary meetings of the Council. The request must be made in writing or by e-mail. This will be included as a specific agenda item at the next ordinary meeting of the Council. Reasons will be considered for each individual Councillor in turn. The approval of the absence must be expressed by the Council, by resolution, before the expiry of the six month period: such approval cannot be given after that period has elapsed. Attendance at any meeting of the Council includes a meeting of a committee or joint committee on which the member is a representative. Approval may be given by the Council to a prolonged absence, in advance, for example, where a member is intending to go and live or work abroad for some considerable time. If a Councillor wants to have a reason for non-attendance considered it must be included as a specific agenda item and a vote taken at the meeting as to whether or not the reason is accepted. If the reason is accepted, the six month period re-starts. |
|  | 41.3 | The responsibility for ensuring that a member of Council does not vacate his/her office through continuous failure to attend meetings rests entirely with the individual Councillor and no-one else. |
| 42 | **COUNCIL VACANCY** |
|  | 42.1 | In the event of a Council vacancy arising amongst Parish (Town) Councillors, and after public notice of such vacancy has been given, in accordance with the 1972 Local Government Act and no request for a bye-election has been received, the Council shall invoke its power to co-opt a suitable person to fill that vacancy.  |
| 43 | **STANDING ORDERS TO BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS** |
|  | 43.1 | The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the Council’s standing orders to a Councillor upon delivery of his/her declaration of acceptance of office. |
|  | 43.2 | The Chair’s decision as to the application of standing orders at meetings shall be final. |
|  | 43.3 | A Councillor’s failure to observe standing orders more than 3 times in one meeting may result in him/her being excluded from the meeting in accordance with standing orders. |

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| **Appendix A** |
| **Town Council Committees - Terms of reference** |
| **XXXXX COMMITTEE** |
| The committee shall comprise XXX members, preferably each ward should be represented on the Committee. All members of the planning committee, except in exceptional circumstances, must be trained prior to taking up a seat. Any Parish Council member not on the planning committee may address the meeting or answer questions on a particular application(s) or issue(s) but must notify the clerk of their intention in advance. The committee shall meet xxxxxx at xxx p.m. |
| **Roles and Responsibilities**  |
| 1. |  |
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|  |

**Annex to Standing Orders**

**Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Chair and Vice Chair shall be appointed at the Annual Council meeting. As an intention, and not as a rule, the number of Chairs / Vice Chairs chosen from each “political group” shall be in proportion to the size of that group on the Council during that period. Candidates would normally be nominated by their “groups”.

**Role of the Chair and Vice Chair**

The Chair’s role will be primarily ceremonial and to produce press / media releases with the Clerk. Any press comment etc. made on behalf of the Town Council must reflect the view of the Town Council as a whole.

**Committee minutes**

Minutes will be approved by the next meeting of the committee. Draft minutes will be presented to Council for information. Where a committee does not have delegated powers its recommendations will be presented to the Council for them to consider. Draft minutes will be produced within 3 working days of the meeting and circulated to all those present at the meeting for comments within 3 working days, the draft minutes will then be posted on the Council web-site

**Council vacancy**

In the event of a Council vacancy arising amongst Town Councillors, and after public notice of such vacancy has been given, in accordance with the 1972 Local Government Act and no request for a bye-election, the Council shall invoke its power to co-opt a suitable person to fill that vacancy.

The Council will continue the tradition that the nomination shall be the prerogative of the remaining Councillors in the same group as the member who had given cause for the casual vacancy. If the vacancy is from a person who is not a member of a “political group” the nomination will be determined by the full Council.

###### **Representation of the Council**

If the Chair is unable to attend an event, the invitation will be sent to the Vice Chair and if he/she is unable to attend it will be referred back to the Chair for him/her to decide who should represent the Council.