

# RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Members of the Council:** are hereby summoned to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 25 July 2023 at 7:30pm for the purpose of transacting the business below.

**Members of the Public:** are welcome to attend and may address the Council under item 4. on the agenda.

*Reporting on Meetings: Except where members of the public are excluded due to the confidential nature of the business being considered, any person may film, photograph, audio record or use social media to report on Council meetings. Any person intending to do so is asked to notify the Clerk or Chairman before the start of the meeting.*

## AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive, from Members, any declarations of interest in items on the agenda in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.
3. To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 June 2023.
4. To invite public questions or comment on any matter on this agenda.
5. To receive a report from the County Councillor.
6. To receive a report from the District Councillor.
7. **Matters arising from the minutes.**
  - 7.1 **074.1** Parish Clerk vacancy – advertisements have been placed and interviews will be held in the first week of August.
8. **Planning:**
  - 8.1 To consider applications received, including **T233** Footpath 20 (Mill Hill/Rattlesden Hall) Diversion
  - 8.2 To note any applications considered by e-mail due to the consultation deadline – none received.
  - 8.3 To note any planning applications granted/refused, including **DC/23/02784** 2 Peggs Cottage, Half Moon Street - Fell 1 conifer – granted.
9. **Finance:**
  - 9.1 To receive the Clerk's financial report – accounts to 30 June 2023.
  - 9.2 To authorise the July payments schedule.
  - 9.3 To consider a recommendation to subscribe to a cloud-based accounting system.
  - 9.4 To consider whether the Council should fund a repair to the path leading to the southeast gate of the churchyard at a cost of £986.
10. **Rolling Review of Council policies and procedures: 01 Standing Orders.**

To review the document.

**11. Rattlesden School Parking**

To discuss.

**12. Cemetery memorial bench.**

To consider further correspondence and a proposed design received.

**13. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council either for information or for inclusion on the agenda of a future Ordinary Meeting.**

**14. Next Meeting:**

To note that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for 26 September 2023 at 7:30pm.



Parish Clerk: Andrew Scott, Proper Officer of the Council  
Address: Whalebone Cottage, High Street, Rattlesden IP30 0SB  
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Published: 19 July 2023

# RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 26 June 2023 at 7:30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Kerry Burn (Chairman), Cllr Tony Edwards (Vice Chairman), Cllr Steve Atkinson, Cllr Dave Goodlad, Cllr Sarah Osborne (from item 2023/068), Cllr Russell Morley.

**In Attendance:** County Councillor Penny Otton, District Cllr Nicky Willshere, Parish Clerk Andrew Scott, and two members of the public.

**2023/063 Apologies for absence**  
Cllr Dan Jewers.

**2023/064 Declarations of Interest**  
There were no declarations of interest.

**2023/065 Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting**  
It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 30 May 2023 be approved.

**2023/066 Public Comment and questions on agenda items**  
There were no public comments or questions.

**2023/067 Councillor vacancy**

**067.1** Two expressions of interest had been received, and it was agreed unanimously that Sarah Osborne be appointed.

**067.2** Having made a declaration of acceptance of office, Cllr Osborne joined the meeting.

**2023/068 County Councillor's report**  
Cllr Otton introduced her report, which had been circulated with the papers, and it was received. There were no questions from Councillors.

**2023/069 District Councillor's report**  
Cllr Willshere introduced her report, which had been circulated with the papers. She added that the proposed route for the Norfolk to Tilbury pylons, passing to the East of Stowmarket, had now been published, and was out for consultation until 21 August. There were no questions from Councillors.

**2023/070 Planning**

**070.1** Applications received: **DC/23/02483** Townfield, Baby Lane - 2-bay garage to 1 bedroom holiday let: no objection; **DC/23/02784** 2 Peggs Cottage, Half Moon Street - Fell 1 conifer: no objection.

**070.2** Applications considered by e-mail due to the consultation deadline – there were none.

**070.3** Applications granted/refused: none notified. It was noted that DC/23/01457 Manor Cottage, Half Moon Street had been withdrawn.

# RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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## 2023/071 Finance

**071.1 Financial Report:** The Clerk's financial report to 31 May was received. It was noted that the Fixed assets budget appeared to be overspent by £40.88, however this included CIL fund expenditure, so was not an ordinary budget overspend. The current account balance stood at £465.84 and the deposit account at £113,226.07, of which £ 81,951.31 represented CIL funds, and it was agreed that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed.

**071.2 Payments Schedule:** The schedule of payments for June 2023 was approved.

**071.3 Internal Audit:** The Clerk reported that Mr Reid had signed the internal audit certificate, and the AGAR return for 2022-23 could therefore be submitted for external audit. Mr Reid's report to the Council would follow in due course.

## 2023/072 Review of Council policies and procedures

The following policies and procedures were reviewed, and no changes were made:

- 01 Standing Orders
- 02 Financial Regulations
- 03 Health and Safety Policy
- 04 Protocol for Reporting at Meetings
- 06 Data Protection Policy
- 07 FOI Publication Scheme
- 10 Data and Records Retention Policy
- 12 Complaints Procedure
- Cemetery Fees and Regulations

It was agreed that the policies would benefit from further review with a view to making them more concise, and it was agreed that this should be done on a rolling basis over the coming months.

## 2023/073 Review of Risk Register and Risk Assessments

The Risk Register and the Village Warden and SID Charging risk assessments were reviewed and confirmed. The importance of wearing a high-vis jacket when working on or near public highways was stressed.

## 2023/074 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

**074.1 Parish Clerk.** The Clerk had, with regret, tendered his resignation, citing unexpected family commitments. It was agreed to follow the same procedure as last year, with the interview process conducted by the Chairman and Finance Councillor.

**074.2 Memorial bench.** A request to site a memorial bench in the cemetery had been received. Councillors were sympathetic, noting that there were currently no benches in the new extension. There was no formal policy on memorial benches at present, but it was felt that these should become the property of the Council, which would assume responsibility for their maintenance, and that the Council should approve the design. There was a preference for metal over wood, as elsewhere in the village, and it was agreed to put this to the correspondent.

# RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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**073.3 Footpath cutting.** Footpath cutting had recently been carried out, but it was generally felt that more was needed than that provided by the County Council, and that the Parish should be willing to fund this. There was a discussion about how this might be done, and it was agreed to await further input from Cllr Jewers and Cllr Burn.

**073.4 Other items.** Cllr Edwards reported on progress with the transfer of the Village Hall lease to the Pre-School, grant applications for insulating the roof, and improving the garden area. Cllr Atkinson reported that he had sent an item for Revelations seeking volunteers for a Jubilee Field Wood Working Party. Cllr Goodlad wished to obtain quotes for a repair to the path leading to the southeast gate of the churchyard. The surface had broken up, but it was not clear who the owner of the land was. It was agreed that the Council would consider a proposal to fund this. Cllr Goodlad had downloaded data from the Speed Indicator Devices. He offered to make this available to any interested parties, and would provide figures for traffic volumes before and after the start of the A14 reconstruction works.

**2023/075**

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday 25 July 2023 at 7:30pm.

**The meeting closed at 9:10pm.**

# Parish Report – July 2023

[Penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk)

07545 423847

**Councillor**  
Penny Otton  
Thedwastre South

## **Concern over SCC budget position**

At Cabinet on 13 June, our group raised concerns about the significant extra expenditure announced by the Conservative administration since the 2023-24 budget was set in February.

Cabinet were reviewing the 2022-23 finances against the budget that was set, including an overspend of £27.7m and a significant £57.2m taken out of Council reserves – the council's 'safety net' funds to be used when needed.

On 16 May 2023 the Cabinet announced that an extra unbudgeted £720k would be found to cover the £60k monthly shortfall for Suffolk Libraries for a year, and at the council AGM on 25 May the Leader of the Council, Cllr Matthew Hicks, announced a further unbudgeted additional £10m for road surfacing in the next 20 months. Given that neither of these items were budgeted for only a few months ago when the current budget was set, my group raised concerns in the meeting whether the administration's budget setting procedures were sufficiently robust.

## **North Falls Offshore Wind Farm**

On 13 June, Cabinet reviewed the consultation response for the extension of the North Falls wind farm. The wind farm is situated just off the Essex coast so Suffolk County Council is a consultee rather than a decision maker.

## **National Grid Reinforcement Works between Bramford and Twinstead**

The Cabinet also reviewed and approved a response to the Planning Inspectorate on upgrading the power lines between the villages of Twinstead in Essex and Bramford in Mid Suffolk.

There were concerns about the impact of the works to the local countryside, particularly the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where the National Grid have agreed to lay cables underground.

## **Missing Child Reports in Suffolk**

The recent reports in the press that nearly 3000 missing child reports were received by Suffolk Constabulary between April 2022 and March 2023 deeply shocked our group. The reports involved 719 children across the county with some going missing several times during the period. The majority of the children reported missing are in care settings such as children's homes and foster care.

We asked the administration at Suffolk County Council to do more to support children in care, who are among the most vulnerable in Suffolk.

REVIEW OF DIY REFUSE CHARGES; the government has announced a proposal to abolish council charges for DIY waste but a timetable has still to be set, but likely to be later this year. Details of current position on the website

FIRE SAFETY ADVICE; sent to clerks but please publicise

SCHOOL PARKING; this has to be a joint effort. Perhaps the PCSO can speak to the parents at the start of the new school year?

ENTRANCE TO CHURCH BOTTOM CHURCH PATH; this needs to be wheelchair accessible and I am willing help pay for that if needed.

**follow us on:**

**Twitter** - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

**Instagram** - [https://www.instagram.com/suffolkqli\\_group/](https://www.instagram.com/suffolkqli_group/)

**Facebook** - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

**Website** - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkqli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

# Parish Report – July 2023

Councillor Nicky Willshere  
Rattlesden Ward

Email: [Nicky.Willshere@Midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Nicky.Willshere@Midsuffolk.gov.uk)  
Mobile: 07793610542

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## Strategic Housing Team

Looking at deployment of affordable Community led Housing, picking up some previous work undertaken in Felsham

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## Joint Local Plan Update

Mid Suffolk / Babergh have submitted their final report to the Inspectors, this followed a round of consultation following updating after initial comments back from the Inspectors. The plan does NOT include specific allocations of land for housing or employment these will form part 2 of the plan.

It is anticipated the inspectors report will be available between 2 – 4 months and then will come to full council to be formally adopted (November?)

Work will then commence on the detail of land allocation to undertake needs assessment for Employment, Gypsy and Traveller and housing to form part of 2 – It is not anticipated there will any considerable in Mid Suffolk.

Once part 1 of the plan is adopted then it will place strength to restrict development to within settlement boundaries.

I raised the concern that adequate affordable housing was revisited from the initial draft plan.

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## Norwich to Tilbury Update

Pre submission non-statutory consultation stage of the plan, this is a second consultation now has more technical detail on it consultation live until 21 August 2023. The council will provide a response that will be passed by the Cabinet.

Public meeting taking place in Elmswell, and online meetings available.

A motion is being put to both council that they are opposed to the proposed plans and they feel that the Strategic Offshore options have not been fully explored.

There is an obligation to engage with the developer in order to receive the best outcomes if the overland option does materialise.

Discussion is in place regarding the compensation and the form this takes alongside possible additional funds for community projects.

Councillor Mellon put forward a motion to write to the minister in respect to the Norwich to Tilbury pylons

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## Building Services and Compliance Update:

The regulations regarding social housings have changed considerably following Grenfell in 2021 production a large number of safety orders and regulations. This also heralds an IDA



(an in depth assessment) to ensure compliance). The team meet frequently with the Regulator (monthly) following initial breach of 2 of the 5 areas that assessed. Home Standards – noncompliance with Decent Home Standard. Action has been taken to address this with securing new contractors and greater monitoring of progress.

The other area was Tenant Satisfaction measures this was implemented in the past 12 months – currently at 68% for Q1 (combined figure for Babergh and Mid Suffolk) Looking to spend capital funds in consultation with local community for improvements, and other activities.

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### **Corporate Plan Update:**

Looking to refresh corporate plan to reflect current challenges (last plan 2019) a number of channels feed into this 'Annual Residents' Survey live 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Community / Staff and Stakeholder engagement workshops.

State of the District Report available in September, draft updated plan stating clear priorities of the District.

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### **Feedback from full council meeting 19 July**

Leader of the Council set out some initial actions that they wanted put in place.

Clean up litter – MSDC staff to be involved in this and encourage parish and town councils to undertake this '**Pride in your Place**' launch next month

Closer to the Community – undertaking meetings in the District – the Cabinet met at the John Peel Centre and Council meeting took place in Elmswell's Backbourne Centre

Improved access to the Council- Updated website and Improvements to the telephony

Improvements to homes for energy efficiency - £2M set aside – subsidize home insulation in greatest need – hope to launch later this year

Tackle rural Isolation, looking at public transport options – electric buses and other forms of transport

More Say in what we do – participation by residents in spending and shaping options – more public forums

More Solar farms in the District – awaiting clarity from National

Water Summit

Take serious action on carbon reduction – review existing plans

Town Centre – initiatives – way finding strategy

Public reporting performance to the public – objects – improve response to reporting damage

Engage with young people – work with council officers

There was a feedback on the review of the delivery of the recent Parish and District Council elections, it was recognised there were a number of errors made and recommendations have been put forward to address these.

**Thursday 7th September Tour of Britain cycle race through some areas in the District.**

# Rattlesden Parish Council

Budget report from 1-Apr-2023 to 30-Jun-2023

## Payments

	Period		
	Budget	Actual	Variance
<b>Payroll</b>			
Salaries	9,318.00	2,257.35	7,060.65
<b>Total Payroll</b>	<u>9,318.00</u>	<u>2,257.35</u>	<u>7,060.65</u>
<b>Administration</b>			
Subscriptions	916.53	408.34	508.19
Expenses	150.00	18.87	131.13
Audit	396.00	0.00	396.00
Insurance	528.33	0.00	528.33
Room hire	132.00	0.00	132.00
Training	250.00	0.00	250.00
<b>Total Administration</b>	<u>2,372.86</u>	<u>427.21</u>	<u>1,945.65</u>
<b>Maintenance</b>			
Grounds	6,007.60	944.72	5,062.88
Waste	891.86	711.65	180.21
Repairs	1,500.00	89.79	1,410.21
<b>Total Maintenance</b>	<u>8,399.46</u>	<u>1,746.16</u>	<u>6,653.30</u>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Fixed assets	500.00	540.88	-40.88
<b>Total Fixed assets</b>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>540.88</u>	<u>-40.88</u>
<b>Grants</b>			
Grants	7,816.29	321.69	7,494.60
<b>Total Grants</b>	<u>7,816.29</u>	<u>321.69</u>	<u>7,494.60</u>
<b>Other Payments</b>			
Miscellaneous	233.53	67.84	165.69
<b>Total Other Payments</b>	<u>233.53</u>	<u>67.84</u>	<u>165.69</u>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u><b>28,640.14</b></u>	<u><b>5,361.13</b></u>	<u><b>23,279.01</b></u>

## Receipts

	Period		
	Budget	Actual	Variance
<b>Precept</b>			
Precept	22,632.00	11,162.00	11,470.00
<b>Total Precept</b>	<u>22,632.00</u>	<u>11,162.00</u>	<u>11,470.00</u>
<b>Other Receipts</b>			
Recycling grant	600.00	301.24	298.76
Cemetery fees	500.00	0.00	500.00
Deposit interest	300.00	243.09	56.91
VAT Repayments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Allotments rent	81.60	0.00	81.60
Cleansing grant	1,037.00	0.00	1,037.00
Locality grant	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Receipts</b>	<u>2,518.60</u>	<u>544.33</u>	<u>1,974.27</u>
<b>CIL</b>			
CIL	0.00	10,245.94	-10,245.94
<b>Total CIL</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10,245.94</u>	<u>-10,245.94</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u><b>25,150.60</b></u>	<u><b>21,952.27</b></u>	<u><b>3,198.33</b></u>

Note: variance represents the balance of the whole year budget.

**RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL  
BALANCES STATEMENT**

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**Bank account      TSB Current**

Balance per bank statement at 30/06/2023	287.95
Balance per accounts	287.95
Opening_balance	176.71
Total receipts	21,709.18
Total payments	-5,597.94
Total transfers	-16,000.00
<b>Closing balance per cash book</b>	<u>287.95</u>

**Bank account      TSB Deposit**

Balance per bank statement at 30/06/2023	112,313.30
Balance per accounts	112,313.30
Opening_balance	96,070.21
Total receipts	243.09
Total payments	
Total transfers	16,000.00
<b>Closing balance per cash book</b>	<u>112,313.30</u>

**Funds Analysis**

As at 30 June 2023

<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Balance b/fwd</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Balance c/fwd</b>
General Reserve	96,246.92	11,706.33	-5,057.06	-72,246.25	30,649.94
CIL Funds Reserve	0.00	10,245.94	-540.88	72,246.25	81,951.31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>96,246.92</u>	<u>21,952.27</u>	<u>-5,597.94</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>112,601.25</u>

**Finance Councillor**

**Rattlesden Parish Council**  
**Payments for approval - July**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Supplier / customer</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
31/07/2023	Salary July	Freya McBain	Salaries	272.50	0.00	272.50
31/07/2023	Salary July	Andrew Scott	Salaries	389.15	0.00	389.15
31/07/2023	PAYE July	HMRC	Salaries	90.80	0.00	90.80
31/07/2023	Expenses - SID charging Q1	David Goodlad	Repairs	22.80	0.00	22.80
31/07/2023	Cemetery+ June	John Lee (Felsham Gardeners)	Grounds	300.00	0.00	300.00
31/07/2023	Clerk expenses Q1	Andrew Scott	Expenses	18.47	0.00	18.47
31/07/2023	ICO fee paid by Clerk	Andrew Scott	Subscriptions	40.00	0.00	40.00
				<u>1,133.72</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,133.72</u>

### **Agenda item 9.3**

#### **EASY PC ACCOUNTS SUBSCRIPTION**

I have been trialling a cloud-based accounting system, EasyPC Accounts, and recommend that we subscribe to the service at a cost of £6 per month.

Easy PC Accounts has been developed specifically for small Parish Councils, and was recommended on the Society of Local Council Clerks forum. I have found it simple and effective, and the developer is responsive to questions and queries.

Having a supported cloud-based accounting system, rather than relying on spreadsheets, provides security and integrity for the Council's financial records and facilitates report production. The price is very reasonable.

As this subscription was not provided for in this year's budget, I recommend that it is covered by virement from the Discretionary Grants (s137) budget.

**Andrew Scott**  
**Responsible Financial Officer**

# **RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL: GOVERNANCE**

## **01 STANDING ORDERS**

Adopted 2014-04-29; Last Updated 2023-07-25

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These standing orders are the written rules of the Council and are based upon the model standing orders produced by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). They are used to regulate the proceedings of a meeting, and to confirm or refer to the internal organisational and administrative arrangements of the Parish Council. They differ from Council policies but refer to them.

Standing orders do not include financial regulations. The latter regulate and control the financial affairs and accounting procedures of the Council and, as opposed to standing orders, include most of the requirements relevant to the Responsible Financial Officer.

**Standing orders in bold type contain legal and statutory requirements.**

1. Rules of Debate at Meetings
2. Disorderly Conduct at Meetings
3. Meetings Generally
4. Committees
5. Ordinary Council Meetings
6. Extraordinary Meetings of the Council and Committees
7. Previous Resolutions
8. Voting on Appointments
9. Motions for a Meeting that Require Written Notice to the Proper Officer
10. Motions at a Meeting that do not Require Written Notice
11. Management of Information
12. Draft Minutes
13. Code of Conduct and Dispensations
14. Code of Conduct Complaints
15. Proper Officer
16. Responsible Financial Officer
17. Accounts and Accounting Statements
18. Financial Controls and Procurement
19. Handling Staff Matters
20. Responsibilities to Provide Information
21. Responsibilities under Data Protection Legislation
22. Relations with the Press/Media
23. Execution of Legal Deeds
24. Communicating with District and County Councillors
25. Restrictions on Councillor Activities
26. Standing Orders Generally

# **RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL: GOVERNANCE**

## **01 STANDING ORDERS**

Adopted 2014-04-29; Last Updated 2023-07-25

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### **1 Rules of Debate at Meetings**

- 1.1 Motions on the agenda shall be considered in the order that they appear unless the order is changed at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting.
- 1.2 A motion (including an amendment) shall not be progressed unless it has been moved and seconded.
- 1.3 A motion on the agenda that is not moved by its proposer may be treated by the Chairman of the meeting as withdrawn.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 An amendment is a proposal to remove or add words to a motion. It shall not negate the motion.
- 1.6 If an amendment to the original motion is carried, the original motion becomes the substantive motion upon which further amendment(s) may be moved.
- 1.7 An amendment shall not be considered unless early verbal notice of it is given at the meeting and, if requested by the Chairman of the meeting, is expressed in writing to the Chairman.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 If there is more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion, the amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the Chairman.
- 1.10 Subject to standing order 1.11, only one amendment shall be moved and debated at a time, the order of which shall be directed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- 1.11 One or more amendments may be discussed together if the Chairman of the meeting considers this expedient, but each amendment shall be voted upon separately.
- 1.12 A councillor may not move more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion.
- 1.13 The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the end of debate on it.
- 1.14 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 of the first amendment or at the very end of debate on the final substantive motion immediately before it is put to the vote.
- 1.15 Unless permitted by the Chairman of the meeting, a councillor may speak once in the debate on a motion except:
  - a. to speak on an amendment moved by another councillor;
  - b. to move or speak on another amendment if the motion has been amended since he last spoke;
  - c. to make a point of order;

# **RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL: GOVERNANCE**

## **01 STANDING ORDERS**

Adopted 2014-04-29; Last Updated 2023-07-25

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- d. to give a personal explanation; or
  - e. in exercise of a right of reply.
- 1.16 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.
- 1.17 A point of order shall be decided by the Chairman of the meeting and his decision shall be final.
- 1.18 When a 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 no longer heard or to leave the meeting;
  - f. to refer a motion to a committee or sub-committee for consideration;
  - g. to exclude the public and press;
  - h. to adjourn the meeting; or
  - i. to suspend particular standing order(s) excepting those which reflect mandatory statutory requirements.
- 1.19 Before an original or substantive motion is put to the vote, the Chairman 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.
- 1.20 Excluding motions moved under standing order 1.18, the contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed three minutes without the consent of the Chairman of the meeting.

## **2 Disorderly Conduct at Meetings**

- 2.1 No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If this standing order is ignored, the Chairman of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct.
- 2.2 If person(s) disregard the request of the Chairman of the meeting to moderate or improve their conduct, any councillor or the Chairman of the meeting may move that the person be no longer heard or excluded from the meeting. The motion, if seconded, shall be put to the vote without discussion.
- 2.3 If a resolution made under standing order 2.2 is ignored, the Chairman 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**



# RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL: GOVERNANCE

## **01 STANDING ORDERS**

Adopted 2014-04-29; Last Updated 2023-07-25

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- 3.1 **Meetings of the Council 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.**
- 3.2 **The minimum three clear days for notice of a meeting of the Council does not include the day on which notice was issued, the day of the meeting, 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.**
- 3.3 The minimum three clear days' public notice of a committee meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued or the day of the meeting.
- 3.4 **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.**
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3.5 shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- 3.7 Subject to standing order 3.6, a member of the public shall not speak for more than three minutes.
- 3.8 In accordance with standing order 3.5, a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
- 3.9 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 Chairman of the meeting may, at any time, permit a person to be seated when speaking.
- 3.10 A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct his comments to the Chairman of the meeting.
- 3.11 Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wants to speak, the Chairman of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking.
- 3.12 **Subject to standing order 3.13, 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.**
- 3.13 **A person present at a meeting may not provide an oral report or oral commentary about a meeting as it takes place without permission.**

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- 3.14 **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.**
- 3.15 **Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chairman of the Council may in his absence be done by, to or before the Vice-Chairman of the Council (if there is one).**
- 3.16 **The Chairman, if present, shall preside at a meeting of the Council. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting of the Council, the Vice-Chairman (if there is one), if present, shall preside. If both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are absent from a meeting of the Council, a councillor as chosen by the councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting of the Council.**
- 3.17 **Subject to a meeting being quorate, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the councillors and non-councillors with voting rights present and voting.**
- 3.18 **The Chairman 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.**  
*See standing orders 5.8 and 5.9 for the different rules that apply in the election of the Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council.*
- 3.19 **Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on a 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.
- 3.20 The minutes of a meeting shall include an accurate record of the following:
  - the time and place of the meeting;
  - the names of councillors present and absent;
  - interests that have been declared by councillors;
  - the grant of dispensations (if any) to councillors;
  - whether a councillor left the meeting when matters that he held interests in were being considered;
  - if there was a public participation session; and
  - the resolutions made.
- 3.21 **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.**
- 3.22 **No business may be transacted at a meeting of the Council 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.**  
*See standing order 4.4h for the quorum of a committee meeting.*
- 3.23 **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.**

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3.24 A meeting shall not exceed a period of two and a half hours.

### **4 Committees**

4.1 **Unless the Council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by the committee.**

4.2 **The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the Council.**

4.3 **Unless the Council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee and a sub-committee may be non-councillors.**

4.4 The Council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, and:

- a. shall determine their terms of reference;
- b. shall determine the number and time of the ordinary meetings of a standing committee up until the date of the next annual meeting of Council;
- c. shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings;
- d. shall, subject to standing orders 4.2 and 4.3, appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee;
- e. may, subject to standing orders 4.2 and 4.3, appoint and determine the terms of office of the substitute members to a committee whose role is to replace the ordinary members at a meeting of a committee if the ordinary members of the committee confirm to the Proper Officer three days before the meeting that they are unable to attend;
- f. shall, after it has appointed the members of a standing committee, appoint the Chairman of the standing committee;
- g. shall permit a committee other than a standing committee, to appoint its own Chairman at the first meeting of the committee;
- h. shall determine the place, notice requirements and quorum for a meeting of a committee which shall be no less than three;
- i. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a committee; and
- j. may dissolve a committee.

### **5 Ordinary Council Meetings**

5.1 **In an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the councillors elected take office.**

5.2 **In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on such day in May as the Council may direct.**

5.3 **If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 6.00pm.**

5.4 **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.**

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- 5.5 **The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the Council shall be the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (if there is one) of the Council.**
- 5.6 **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.**
- 5.7 **The Vice-Chairman of the Council, if there is one, 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.**
- 5.8 **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 annual 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.**
- 5.9 **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 annual 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.**
- 5.10 Following the election of the Chairman of the Council and Vice-Chairman (if there is one) of the Council at the annual meeting, the business shall include:
- a. **In an election year, delivery by the Chairman of the Council and councillors of their acceptance of office forms unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date. In a year which is not an election year, delivery by the Chairman of the Council of his acceptance of office form unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date;**
  - b. Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council;
  - c. Receipt of the minutes of the last meeting of a committee;
  - d. Consideration of the recommendations made by a committee;
  - e. Review of delegation arrangements to committees, staff and other local authorities;
  - f. Review of the terms of reference for committees;
  - g. Appointment of members to existing committees;
  - h. Appointment of any new committees in accordance with standing order 4;
  - i. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations;
  - j. Review of arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies, and businesses;
  - k. Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back;
  - l. In an election year, to make arrangements with a view to the Council becoming eligible to exercise the general power of competence in the future;
  - m. Review of inventory of land and assets including buildings and office equipment;
  - n. Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks;
  - o. Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;
  - p. Review of the Council's complaints procedure;
  - q. Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation;

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- r. Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media; and
- s. Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

### **6 Extraordinary Meetings of the Council, Committees and Sub-Committees**

6.1 **The Chairman of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.**

6.2 **If the Chairman of the Council does not call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within seven days of having been requested in writing to do so by two councillors, any two councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The public notice giving the time, place and agenda for such a meeting must be signed by the two councillors.**

6.3 The Chairman of a committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Committee at any time.

6.4 If the Chairman of a committee does not call an extraordinary meeting within seven days of having been requested by to do so by two members of the committee, any two members of the committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of a committee.

### **7 Previous Resolutions**

7.1 A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least three 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.

7.2 When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 7.1 has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further six months.

### **8 Voting on Appointments**

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 Chairman of the meeting.

### **9 Motions for a Meeting that Require Written Notice to the Proper Officer**

9.1 A motion shall relate to the responsibilities of the meeting which it is tabled for 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.

9.2 No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given

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written notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least seven clear days before the meeting.

- 9.3 The Proper Officer may, before including a motion on the agenda received in accordance with standing order 9.2, correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.
- 9.4 If the Proper Officer considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 9.2 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 seven clear days before the meeting.
- 9.5 If the wording or subject of a proposed motion is considered 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 in the agenda or rejected.
- 9.6 The decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the motion on the agenda shall be final.

### **10 Motions at a Meeting that do not Require Written Notice**

The following motions may be moved at a meeting without written notice to the Proper Officer:

- a. to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of a meeting;
- b. to move to a vote;
- c. to defer consideration of a motion;
- d. to refer a motion to a particular committee;
- e. to appoint a person to preside at a meeting;
- f. to change the order of business on the agenda;
- g. to proceed to the next business on the agenda;
- h. to require a written report;
- i. to appoint a committee and their members;
- j. to extend the time limits for speaking;
- k. to exclude the press and public from a meeting in respect of confidential or sensitive information which is prejudicial to the public interest;
- l. to not hear further from a councillor or a member of the public;
- m. to exclude a councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct;
- n. to temporarily suspend the meeting;
- o. to suspend a particular standing order (unless it reflects mandatory statutory or legal requirements);
- p. to adjourn the meeting; or
- q. to close a meeting.

### **11 Management of Information**

- 11.1 **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**

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encryption of personal data.

- 11.2 **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).**
- 11.3 **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.**
- 11.4 **Councillors, staff, the Council's contractors and agents shall not disclose confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**

### 12 **Draft Minutes**

- 12.1 If the draft minutes of a preceding meeting have been served on councillors with the agenda to attend the meeting at which they are due to be approved for accuracy, they shall be taken as read.
- 12.2 There shall be no discussion about the draft minutes of a preceding meeting except in relation to their accuracy. A motion to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes shall be moved in accordance with standing order 10a.
- 12.3 The accuracy of draft minutes, including any amendment(s) made to them, 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.
- 12.4 **If the Council's gross annual income or expenditure (whichever is higher) does not exceed £25,000, it shall publish draft minutes on a Website which is publicly accessible and free of charge not later than one month after the meeting has taken place.**
- 12.5 Subject to the publication of draft minutes in accordance with standing order 12.4 and standing order 20.1 and following a resolution which confirms the accuracy of the minutes of a meeting, the draft minutes or recordings of the meeting for which approved minutes exist shall be destroyed.

### 13 **Code of Conduct and Dispensations**

*See also standing order 3.21.*

- 13.1 All councillors shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council, i.e. the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 (*adopted by the Council at its ordinary meeting of 24 May 2022; minute 2022/024 refers*).
- 13.2 Unless he has been granted a dispensation, a councillor 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.

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- 13.3 Unless he has been granted a dispensation, a councillor 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.
- 13.4 **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.
- 13.5 A decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made by the Proper Officer and that decision is final.
- 13.6 A dispensation request shall confirm:
- a. the description and the nature of the disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest to which the request for the dispensation relates;
  - b. whether the dispensation is required to participate at a meeting in a discussion only or a discussion and a vote;
  - c. the date of the meeting or the period (not exceeding four years) for which the dispensation is sought; and
  - d. an explanation as to why the dispensation is sought.
- 13.7 Subject to standing orders 13.4 and 13.6, dispensation requests shall be considered by the Proper Officer before the meeting or, if this is not possible, at the start of the meeting for which the dispensation is required.
- 13.8 **A dispensation may be granted in accordance with standing order 13.5 if having regard to all relevant circumstances any of the following apply:**
- a. **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;**
  - b. **granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Council's area; or**
  - c. **it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.**

## **14 Code of Conduct Complaints**

- 14.1 Upon notification by the District Council that it is dealing with a complaint that a councillor has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Proper Officer shall, subject to standing order 11, report this to the Council.
- 14.2 Where the notification in standing order 14.1 relates to a complaint made by the Proper Officer, the Proper Officer shall notify the Chairman of Council of this fact, and the Chairman shall nominate another person 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 14.4.
- 14.3 The Council may:
- a. provide information or evidence where such disclosure is necessary to progress an investigation of the complaint or is a legal requirement; and/or



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- b. seek information relevant to the complaint from the person or body with statutory responsibility for investigation of the matter.

14.4 **Upon notification by the District Council that a councillor 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**

15.1 The Proper Officer shall be the Clerk.

15.2 The Proper Officer shall:

- a. **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 e-mail 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 e-mail);**
  - **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 3.2 for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a Council and standing order 3.3 for a meeting of a committee.*
- b. subject to standing order 9, include on the agenda all motions in the order received unless a councillor has given written notice at least seven days before the meeting confirming his withdrawal of it;
- c. **convene a meeting of Council for the election of a new Chairman of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his office;**
- d. **facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors;**
- e. **receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities;**
- f. hold acceptance of office forms from councillors;
- g. hold a copy of every councillor's register of interests;
- h. 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;
- j. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary;
- k. 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);
- l. arrange for legal deeds to be executed;  
*See also standing order 23.*
- m. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with its financial regulations;
- n. record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council's response to the local planning authority;
- o. manage access to information about the Council via its Publication Scheme.

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### **16 Responsible Financial Officer**

- 16.1 The Responsible Financial Officer shall be the Clerk.
- 16.2 The Council shall appoint an appropriate person to undertake the work of the Responsible Financial Officer when the Responsible Financial Officer is absent.

### **17 Accounts and Accounting Statements**

- 17.1 'Proper practices' in standing orders refer to the most recent version of *Governance and Accountability for Local Councils: a Practitioners' Guide*.
  - 17.2 All payments by the Council shall be authorised, approved and paid in accordance with the law, proper practices and the Council's financial regulations.
  - 17.3 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 the:
    - a. Council's receipts and payments for each quarter;
    - b. Council's aggregate receipts and payments for the year to date;
    - c. balances held at the end of the quarter being reported;which includes a comparison with the budget for the financial year and highlights any actual or potential overspends.
  - 17.4 As soon as possible after the financial year end at 31 March, the Responsible Financial Officer shall provide:
    - a. 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
    - b. 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.
  - 17.5 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 a 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**
- 18.1 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 keeping of accounting records and systems of internal controls;
    - b. the assessment and management of financial risks faced by the Council;
    - c. the work of the independent internal auditor in accordance with proper practices and the

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- 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; and
  - e. whether contracts with an estimated value below £25,000 due to special circumstances are exempt from a tendering process or procurement exercise.
- 18.2 Financial regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for fitness of purpose.
- 18.3 **A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £25,000 but less than the relevant thresholds in standing order 18.6 is subject to Regulations 109-114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include a requirement on the Council to advertise the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder Website regardless of what other means it uses to advertise the opportunity unless it proposes to use an existing list of approved suppliers (framework agreement).**
- 18.4 Subject to additional requirements in the financial regulations of the Council, the tender process for contracts for the supply of goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall include, as a minimum, the following steps:
- a. a specification for the goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall be drawn up;
  - b. an invitation to tender shall be drawn up to confirm (i) the Council's specification, (ii) the time, date and address for the submission of tenders, (iii) the date of the Council's written response to the tender, and (iv) the prohibition on prospective contractors contacting councillors or staff to encourage or support their tender outside the prescribed process;
  - c. the invitation to tender shall be advertised in a local newspaper and in any other manner that is appropriate;
  - d. tenders are to be submitted in writing in a sealed marked envelope addressed to the Proper Officer;
  - e. tenders shall be opened by the Proper Officer in the presence of at least one councillor after the deadline for submission of tenders has passed; and
  - f. tenders are to be reported to and considered by the appropriate meeting of the Council.
- 18.5 The Council is not bound to accept the lowest value tender.
- 18.6 **Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed the threshold specified by the Office of Government Commerce from time to time, the Council must consider whether the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 apply to the contract and, if either of those Regulations apply, the Council must comply with procurement rules. NALC's procurement guidance contains further details.**
- 18.7 At the annual meeting a Finance Councillor shall be appointed to have oversight and scrutiny of the Council budget and, as appropriate, to work and liaise with the Clerk on matters of financial management. The Finance Councillor shall, at the end of each financial year, complete a record of annual governance to help inform the internal auditor when carrying out the required examination of Council business.

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### **19 Handling Staff Matters**

- 19.1 A matter personal to a member of staff that is being considered by a meeting of Council is subject to standing order 11.
- 19.2 Subject to the Council's policy regarding absences from work, the Clerk shall notify the Chairman of the Council or, if he is not available, the Vice-Chairman of the Council of absence occasioned by illness or other reason and that person shall report such absence to the Council at its next meeting.
- 19.3 The Chairman of the Council or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman shall upon a resolution conduct a review of the performance and annual appraisal of the work of the Clerk. The reviews and appraisal shall be reported in writing.
- 19.4 Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the Clerk shall contact the Chairman of the Council or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman of the Council in respect of an informal or formal grievance matter, and this matter shall be reported to and progressed by resolution of the Council.
- 19.5 Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter raised by the Clerk relates to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council, this shall be communicated to another member of the Council, and shall be reported to and progressed by resolution of the Council.
- 19.6 Any persons responsible for all or part of the management of staff shall treat as confidential the written records of all meetings relating to their performance, capabilities, grievance or disciplinary matters.
- 19.7 In accordance with standing order 11.1 persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to staff records referred to in standing order 19.6.

### **20 Responsibilities to Provide Information**

- 20.1 **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.**
- 20.2 **The Council shall publish information in accordance with the requirements of the Smaller Authorities (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015.**

### **21 Responsibilities under Data Protection Legislation**

- 21.1 **The Council may appoint a Data Protection Officer (who shall be the Clerk).**
- 21.2 **The Council shall have policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning his personal data.**

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- 21.3 **The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.**
- 21.4 **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.**
- 21.5 **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.**
- 21.6 **The Council shall maintain a written record of its processing activities.**

### **22 Relations with the Press/Media**

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.

### **23 Execution of Legal Deeds**

*See also standing order 15.21.*

- 23.1 A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the Council unless authorised by a resolution.
- 23.2 **Subject to standing order 23.1, any two councillors may sign, on behalf of the Council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.**

### **24 Communicating with District and County Councillors**

- 24.1 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.
- 24.2 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.

### **25 Restrictions on Councillor Activities**

Unless authorised by a resolution, no councillor shall:

- a. inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect; or
- b. issue orders, instructions or directions.

### **26 Standing Orders Generally**

- 26.1 All or part of a standing order, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory requirements, may be suspended by resolution in relation to the consideration of an item on the agenda for a

# **RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL: GOVERNANCE**

## **01 STANDING ORDERS**

Adopted 2014-04-29; Last Updated 2023-07-25

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meeting.

- 26.2 A motion to add to or vary or revoke one or more of the Council's standing orders, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory 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 9.
- 26.3 The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the Council's standing orders to a councillor as soon as possible.
- 26.4 The decision of the Chairman of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.

From: Cllr Jewers  
To: Parish Clerk

*I have spoken to Mr. Pitwood today. He met with John Lee at the cemetery yesterday and they have agreed on a suitable site on the left just below the oak trees. He has a very strong preference for oak rather than metal and I do hope fellow councillors will be sympathetic to his wishes. Picture of his preference attached.*

*He was pleased that the PC were happy to fund a concrete base and will get a quote from Lee Patterson to do this and send it to us for approval.*

