

Nailstone Parish Council

Standing Orders

Meetings

1. Meetings 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.
2. The minimum three clear days for notice of a meeting 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. 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.
4. 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.
5. The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 4 shall not exceed 30 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.
6. Subject to standing order 5, a member of the public shall not speak for more than 5 minutes.
7. In accordance with standing order 4, 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.
8. A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct his comments to the chairman of the meeting.
9. 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.
10. Subject to standing order 11, 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.
11. A person present at a meeting may not provide an oral report or oral commentary about a meeting as it takes place without permission.
12. 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.
13. 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).
14. The Chairman of the Council, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Council (if there is one) if present, shall preside. If both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are absent from a meeting, a councillor as chosen by the councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.
15. 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.
16. 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.

17. 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
18. A councillor or a non-councillor with voting rights 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.
19. No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least one-third of the whole number of members of the Council are present and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less than three.
20. If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted and the meeting shall be closed.

Disorderly conduct

21. 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.
22. 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 be excluded from the meeting. The motion shall be put to the vote without discussion.
23. If a resolution made under standing order 22 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.

Committees

24. Unless the Council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by the committee.
25. The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the Council.
26. Unless the Council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee and a sub-committee of the advisory committee may be non-councillors.
27. The Council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, and:
 - a. shall determine their terms of reference;
 - b. shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings;
 - c. shall, appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee;
 - d. shall permit a committee other than a standing committee, to appoint its own chairman at the first meeting of the committee;
 - e. may dissolve a committee or a sub-committee.

Ordinary council meetings

28. 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.
29. 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 decides.

30. If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 6pm.
31. 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 decides.
32. 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.
33. 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.
34. 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.
35. 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 shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.
36. 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 shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.
37. 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: 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.

Extraordinary meetings

38. The Chairman of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.
39. 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 shall be signed by the two councillors.

Previous resolutions

40. 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, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.

Management of information

41. The Council shall have in place and keep under review, technical and organisational measures to keep secure information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. Such arrangements shall include deciding who has access to personal data and encryption of personal data.
42. 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).

43. 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.
44. Councillors, staff, the Council's contractors and agents shall not disclose confidential information or personal data without legal justification.

Draft minutes

45. 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.

Code of conduct and dispensations

46. 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.
47. A dispensation may be granted in accordance 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 it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.
48. Upon notification by the District or Unitary Council that a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Council shall consider what, if any, action to take against him. Such action excludes disqualification or suspension from office.
49. 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 email authenticated in such manner as the Proper Officer thinks fit, a signed summons confirming the time, place and the agenda (provided the councillor has consented to service by email), and - provide, in a conspicuous place, public notice of the time, place and agenda (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the Council convened by councillors is signed by them). b) convene a meeting of the Council for the election of a new Chairman of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his office; c) facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors; d) receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities.
50. Financial regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for fitness of purpose.
51. 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 referred to in standing order 18(f) is subject to the "light touch" arrangements under Regulations 109-114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 unless it proposes to use an existing list of approved suppliers (framework agreement).
52. 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.
53. 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.
54. *If gross annual income or expenditure (whichever is higher) does not exceed £25,000 the Council shall publish information in accordance with the requirements of the Smaller Authorities (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015.*

55. The Council shall have policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning his personal data.
56. The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.
57. 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.
58. 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.
59. The Council shall maintain a written record of its processing activities.
60. Any two councillors may sign, on behalf of the Council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.

These Standing Orders were adopted by Nailstone Parish Council on 19th June 2024