

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

STANDING ORDERS

1. MEETINGS

- 1.1. Meetings of the council shall be held either at the Church Hall, Germoe or at Balwest Methodist Schoolroom at 19:00 unless the council otherwise decides at a previous meeting.
- 1.2. **The Statutory Annual Meeting (a) in an election year shall be held on the fourth day after the date of the election or within fourteen days thereafter and (b) in a year, which is not an election year, shall be held on any day in May.**
- 1.3. **Three other statutory meetings shall be held on the first Thursday of the month.**
- 1.4. **Seven additional meetings shall also be held on the first Thursday of the month, except in August.**

2. CHAIRMAN OF MEETING

- 2.1. **The person presiding at a meeting may exercise all powers and duties of the Chairman in relation to the conduct of the meeting.**

3. PROPER OFFICER

- 3.1. Where a statute, regulation or order confers functions or duties on the proper officer of the Council in the following cases, he or she shall be the Clerk:-
 - 3.1.1. To receive declarations of acceptance of office.
 - 3.1.2. To receive and record notices disclosing pecuniary interests.
 - 3.1.3. To receive and retain plans and documents.
 - 3.1.4. To sign notices and other documents on behalf of the Council.
 - 3.1.5. To receive copies of bye-laws made by a District Council.
 - 3.1.6. To certify copies of bye-laws made by Council.
 - 3.1.7. To sign summonses to attend meetings of the Council.
- 3.2. In any other case the proper officer shall be the person nominated by the Council and, in default of nominations, the Clerk.

4. QUORUM

- 4.1. **Three members shall constitute a quorum.**
- 4.2. If a quorum is not present when the Council meets or if during a meeting the number of councillors present and not debarred by reason of declared pecuniary interest, falls below the quorum the business not transacted at that meeting shall be transacted at the next meeting or on such day as the Chairman may fix.

5. VOTING

- 5.1. Members shall vote by show of hands or, if at least two members so request, by signed ballot.
- 5.2. **If a member so requires, the Clerk shall record the names of the members who vote on any question so as to show whether they voted for or against it.**
 - 5.2.1. **Subject to (5.2.2) and (5.2.3) below the Chairman may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may give a casting vote even though he gave no original vote.**
 - 5.2.2. **If the person presiding at the Annual Meeting would have ceased to be a member of the council but for statutory provisions which preserve the membership of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman until the end of their term in office he/she may not give an original vote in an election for Chairman.**
 - 5.2.3. **The Person presiding must give a casting vote whenever there is an equality of votes in an election for Chairman.**

6. ORDER OF BUSINESS

(In an election year councillors should execute Declarations of Acceptance of Office in each other's presence, or of a proper officer previously authorised by the Council to take such declaration before the annual meeting commences.)

- 6.1. **At each Annual Meeting the first business shall be**
 - 6.1.1. **To elect a Chairman.**
 - 6.1.2. **To receive the Chairman's declaration of Acceptance of office or, if not received, to decide when it shall be received.**
 - 6.1.3. **To decide when any declarations of acceptance of office, which have not been received as provided by law, shall be received.**
 - 6.1.4. To elect a Vice-Chairman.
 - 6.1.5. To appoint committees and representatives.
 - 6.1.6. To consider the payment of any subscriptions falling to be paid annually:
and shall thereafter follow the order set out in Standing Order 6.4.
- 6.2. **At every meeting other than the Annual Meeting the first business shall be to appoint a Chairman if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be absent and to receive such declarations of acceptance of office (if any) as are required by law to be made, or if not then received to decide when they shall be received**
- 6.3. In every other year not later than the meeting at which the estimates for the next year are settled the Council shall review the pay and conditions of service of existing employees *(See Standing Order 11 below.)*
- 6.4. After the first business has been considered, the order of business, unless the Council otherwise decides on the grounds of urgency, shall be as follows:-
 - 6.4.1. To read and consider the minutes: provided that if a copy has been circulated to each member not later than the day of issue of the summons to attend the meeting, the Minutes may be taken as read.
 - 6.4.2. **After consideration to approve the signature of the Minutes by the person presiding as a correct record.**
 - 6.4.3. **To deal with business expressly required by statute to be done.**
 - 6.4.4. To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting.
 - 6.4.5. To receive such communications as the person presiding may wish to lay before the Council.
 - 6.4.6. To answer questions.
 - 6.4.7. To receive and consider reports and minutes of committee.
 - 6.4.8. To receive and consider reports from officers of the Council.
 - 6.4.9. To authorise the signing of orders for payment.
 - 6.4.10. To consider resolutions or recommendations in the order in which they have been notified.
 - 6.4.11. Any other business specified in the summons.
- 6.5. A motion to vary the order of business on the ground of urgency
 - 6.5.1. may be proposed by the Chairman or by any member and, if proposed by the Chairman, may be put to the vote without being seconded, and
 - 6.5.2. shall be put to the vote without discussion.

7. RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

- 7.1. Resolutions dealing with the following matters may be moved without notice:-
 - 7.1.1. To appoint a Chairman of the meeting.
 - 7.1.2. To correct the Minutes.
 - 7.1.3. To approve the Minutes.
 - 7.1.4. To alter the order of business.
 - 7.1.5. To proceed to the next business.
 - 7.1.6. To close or adjourn the debate.
 - 7.1.7. To refer the matter to a committee.
 - 7.1.8. To appoint a committee or any members thereof.
 - 7.1.9. To adopt a report.
 - 7.1.10. To amend a resolution.
 - 7.1.11. To give leave to withdraw a resolution or an amendment,
 - 7.1.12. To exclude the public.

(See Standing Order 22.1 below.)

7.1.13. To silence or eject from the meeting a member named for misconduct.

(See Standing Order 9 below.)

7.1.14. To invite a member having an interest in the subject matter under a debate to remain.

(See Standing Order 18.1 below.)

7.1.15. To give the consent of the Council where such a consent is required by these Standing Orders.

7.1.16. To suspend any Standing Order.

(See Standing Order 28.2 below.)

8. CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES

8.1. No discussion shall take place upon the Minutes except upon their accuracy. Corrections to the Minutes shall be made by resolution and must be initialled by the Chairman.

9. DISORDERLY CONDUCT

9.1. No member shall at a meeting persistently disregard the ruling of the Chairman, wilfully obstruct business, or behave irregularly, offensively, improperly or in such a manner as to scandalise the Council or bring it into contempt or ridicule.

9.2. If, in the opinion of the Chairman, a member has broken the provision of item (9.1) of this Order, the Chairman shall express the opinion to the Council and thereafter any member may move that the member named be no longer heard or that the member named do leave the meeting, and the motion, if seconded shall be put forthwith and without discussion.

9.3. If either of the motions mentioned in item (9.2) is disobeyed, the Chairman may suspend the meeting or take such further steps as may be reasonably necessary to enforce them.

10. VOTING ON APPOINTMENTS

10.1. Where more than two persons have been nominated for any position to be filled by the Council and of the votes given there is not an absolute majority in favour of one person, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken, and so on until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person.

11. DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNCIL

11.1. If at a meeting there arises any question relating to the appointment, conduct, promotion, dismissal, salary or conditions of service, of any person employed by the Council, it shall not be considered until the Council or committee (as the case may be) has decided whether or not the public shall be excluded *(See Standing Order 22.1.)*

12. EXPENDITURE

12.1. **Orders for the payment of money shall be authorised by resolution of the Council and signed by two members under Section 6 of the Financial Regulations.**

13. COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

13.1. The Council may at the Annual Meeting appoint standing committees and at any other time appoint such other committees as are necessary, but subject to any statutory provision in that behalf:-

13.1.1. Shall not appoint any member of a committee so as to hold office later than the Annual Meeting, and

13.1.2. May at any time dissolve or alter the membership of the committee.

13.2. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be members of every committee.

13.3. Every committee shall at its first meeting before proceeding to any other business, elect a Chairman and may elect a Vice-Chairman who shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, and shall settle its programme of meetings for the year.

13.4. The Chairman of a committee or the Chairman of the Council may summon an additional meeting of that committee at any time. An additional meeting shall also be summoned on the requisition in writing of no less than a quarter of the members of the committee. The summons shall set out the business to be considered at the special meeting and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting.

- 13.5. Every committee may appoint sub-committees for purposes to be specified by the committee.
- 13.6. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the committee shall be members of every sub-committee appointed by it unless they signify that they do not wish to serve.
- 13.7. Except where ordered by the Council in the case of a committee, or by the Council or by the appropriate committee in the case of a sub-committee, the quorum of a committee or sub-committee shall be one-half of its members.

14. VOTING IN COMMITTEES

- 14.1. Members of committees and sub-committees shall vote by show of hands, or, if at least two members so request, by signed ballot.
- 14.2. **Chairmen of committees and sub-committees shall in the case of an equality of votes have a second or casting vote.**

15. PRESENCE OF NON-MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 15.1. A member who has proposed a resolution, which has been referred to any committee of which he is not a member, may explain his resolution to the committee but shall not vote.

16. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- 16.1. As laid down in the Financial Regulations or:-

17. ESTIMATES

- 17.1. The Council shall approve written estimates for the coming financial year as directed in section 2 of the Financial Regulations.
- 17.2. Any committee desiring to incur expenditure shall, not later than October 31st give to the Clerk a written estimate of the expenditure recommended for the coming year.

18. INTERESTS

- 18.1. Within twenty-eight days of election or appointment to office a Member must register his financial and other interests in the Authorities' Register maintained under Section 81 (1) Local Government Act 2000 by providing written notification to the Clerk to the Council who shall forward a copy to Authority's Monitoring Officer.
 - 18.1.1 Written notification of any change to this document must be notified to the Clerk to the Council within twenty-eight days and the Clerk to the Council shall forward a copy to Authority's Monitoring Officer.
- 18.2. A member shall provide written notification to the Clerk to the Council who shall forward a copy to Authority's Monitoring Officer of the existence and nature of any gifts or hospitality over the value of £25.00 received as a result of being a member of the Council within twenty-eight days of receiving such gift or hospitality.
- 18.3. If any member has a personal interest in any matter within the meaning of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct he shall declare the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of consideration of that item or when the interest becomes apparent.
- 18.4. If any member has a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter within the meaning of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct he shall declare the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of consideration of that item or when the interest becomes apparent and shall withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held unless
 - 18.4.1 he/she has obtained a dispensation from the authority's Standards and Ethics Committee but nevertheless
 - 18.4.2 shall not seek improperly to influence the decision about that matter.
- 18.5. **The Clerk shall record in a book kept for the purpose, particulars of both personal and personal and prejudicial interests declared by any member or any officer of the Council, and the book shall be open during reasonable hours of the day for the inspection of any member.**
- 18.6. If a candidate for any appointment under the Council is to his knowledge related to any member of or holder of any office under the Council, he/she and the person to whom he/she is related shall disclose the relationship in writing to the Clerk. A candidate who fails to do so shall be disqualified for such appointment, and, if appointed, may be dismissed without notice. The Clerk shall report to the Council or to the appropriate committee any

such disclosure. Where relationship to a member is disclosed Standing Order 18.3 shall apply.

The Clerk shall make known the purport of this Standing Order to every candidate.

19. CANVASSING OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY MEMBERS

- 19.1. Canvassing of members or of any committee, directly or indirectly, for any appointment under the Council shall disqualify the candidate for such appointment. The Clerk shall make known the purport of this sub-paragraph to every candidate.
- 19.2. A member of the Council shall not solicit for any person any appointment under the Council or recommend any person for such appointment or for promotion; but, nevertheless, a member may give a written testimonial for submission to the Council with an application for appointment.
- 19.3. Standing Order No's 18.4, 19.1 and 19.2 shall apply to tenders as if the person making the tender were a candidate for an appointment.

20. INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

- 20.1. A member may for any purpose of his duty as such (but not otherwise), inspect any document in the possession of the Council or a committee, and if copies are available shall, on request, be supplied for the like purpose with a copy.
- 20.2. **All Minutes kept by the Council and by any committee shall be open for inspection by any member of the Council.**

21. UNAUTHORISED ACTIVITIES

- 21.1. No member of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee shall in the name of or on behalf of the Council
 - 21.1.1. Inspect any lands or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect;
 - 21.1.2. Unless authorised to do so by the Council or the relevant committee or sub-committee.

22. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS TO MEETINGS

- 22.1. **The public shall be admitted to all meetings of the Council and its committees and sub-committee, which may, however, temporarily exclude the public** by means of the following resolution, viz:

“That in view of the [special] [confidential] nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.”

(Notes: The special reasons should be stated. Circular 1/86 issued by the National Association deals with the situations where it is likely to be desirable to exclude the public. If a person's advice or assistance is needed they may be invited (by name) to remain after the exclusion resolution is passed.)
- 22.2. The Clerk shall afford the press reasonable facilities for taking their report of any proceedings at which they are entitled to be present.
- 22.3. If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any meeting, the Chairman may, after warning, order that he/she be removed from the Council Chamber.
- 22.4. Twenty minutes will be the time set aside to receive statements from the public, and any one member of the public shall have three minutes to deliver their statement. Only items which have been received by the Clerk, 48 hours prior to the meeting shall be valid

23. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

- 23.1. No member of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee shall disclose to any person not a member of the Council any business declared to be confidential by the Council, the committee or the sub-committee as the case may be.
- 23.2. Any member in breach of the provision of item (23.1) of this Standing Order shall be removed from any committee or sub-committee of the Council by the Council.

24. LIAISON WITH DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- 24.1. A notice of meeting shall be sent together with an invitation to attend to District Councillors for the ward.

25. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 25.1. The Clerk shall, as soon as it is received, enter in a book kept for the purpose the following particulars of every planning application notified to the Council.
 - 25.1.1. The date on which it was received:
 - 25.1.2. The name of the applicant:
 - 25.1.3. The place to which it relates:
 - 25.1.4. a summary of the nature of the application
- 25.2. The Clerk shall refer every planning application first to the Chairman or in the Chairman's absence to the Vice-Chairman.

26. STANDING ORDER ON CONTRACTS

As laid down in the Financial Regulations

27. CODE OF CONDUCT ON COMPLAINTS

- 27.1. The Council shall deal with complaints of maladministration allegedly committed by the Council or by any officer or member in the manner recommended in Circular 2/86 issued by the National Association of Local Councils.

28. VARIATION, REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- 28.1. Any or every part of the Standing Orders, except those printed in **bold type**, may be suspended by resolution in relation to any specific item of business.
- 28.2. A resolution permanently to add, vary or revoke a Standing Order shall when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

29. STANDING ORDERS TO BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS

- 29.1. A copy of these Standing Orders shall be given to each member by the Clerk, upon delivery to him of the member's declaration of acceptance of office.

Chairman.....

Adopted by the Council on.....

Minutes reference.....