**PRESTON UNDER SCAR PARISH COUNCIL**

**STANDING ORDERS 2016**

1. Meetings generally

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| 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.** |
| 1. **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.** |

1. **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.**
2. 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.

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| 1. **Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is permitted under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.** The process will be governed by separate rules adopted by the council. |
| 1. **The press shall be provided with reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present**. |
| 1. **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 any).** |
| 1. **The Chairman, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chairman, 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.** |
| 1. **Subject to a meeting being quorate, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the councillors or councillors with voting rights present and voting.** |
| 1. **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.**  |  | | --- | | 1. **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. | | 1. The minutes of a meeting shall include an accurate record of the following: 2. the time and place of the meeting; 3. the names of councillors present and absent; 4. interests that have been declared by councillors and non-councillors with voting rights; 5. whether a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered; 6. if there was a public participation session; and 7. the resolutions made. | | 1. *(England)* **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.** |  |  | | --- | | 1. **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.** | | 1. **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. |  1. Committees and sub-committees 2. **Unless the council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by the committee.** 3. **The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the council.**   **Unless the council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee and a sub-committee of the advisory committee may be non-councillors**   1. The council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, and: 2. shall determine their terms of reference; 3. shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings; 4. Ordinary council meetings 5. **In an election year, the annual meeting of the council shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the new councillors elected take office.** 6. **In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of a council shall be held on such day in May as the council may direct.** 7. **If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the council shall take place at 6pm.** 8. **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.** 9. **The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the council shall be the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (if any) of the Council.** 10. **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.** 11. **The Vice-Chairman of the Council, if any, 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.**   **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 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.**   1. **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 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.** 2. Following the election of the Chairman of the Council and Vice-Chairman (if any) of the Council at the annual meeting of the council, the business of the annual meeting shall include:    * 1. **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;** 3. Extraordinary meetings of the council and committees and sub-committees 4. **The Chairman of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the council at any time.** 5. **If the Chairman of the Council does not or refuses to 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.** |

1. Motions at a meeting that do not require written notice
2. The following motions may be moved at a meeting without written notice to the Proper Officer;
   1. to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of a meeting;
   2. to move to a vote;
   3. to defer consideration of a motion;
   4. to refer a motion to a particular committee or sub-committee;
   5. to appoint a person to preside at a meeting;
   6. to change the order of business on the agenda;
   7. to proceed to the next business on the agenda;
   8. to require a written report;
   9. to appoint a committee or sub-committee and their members;
   10. to extend the time limits for speaking;
   11. to exclude the press and public from a meeting in respect of confidential or sensitive information which is prejudicial to the public interest;
   12. to not hear further from a councillor or a member of the public;
   13. to exclude a councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct;
   14. to temporarily suspend the meeting;
   15. to suspend a particular standing order (unless it reflects mandatory statutory requirements);
   16. to adjourn the meeting; or
   17. to close a meeting.
3. Handling confidential or sensitive information
4. The agenda, papers that support the agenda and the minutes of a meeting shall not disclose or otherwise undermine confidential or sensitive information which for special reasons would not be in the public interest.
5. Councillors and staff shall not disclose confidential or sensitive information which for special reasons would not be in the public interest.
6. Code of conduct and dispensations
7. All councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the council.
8. Unless he has been granted a dispensation, a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which he has a disclosable pecuniary interest. He may return to the meeting after it has considered the matter in which he had the interest.
9. Unless he has been granted a dispensation, a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which he has another interest if so required by the council’s code of conduct. He may return to the meeting after it has considered the matter in which he had the interest.
10. **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.
11. A decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made and that decision is final.
12. A dispensation request shall confirm:
    * 1. the description and the nature of the disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest to which the request for the dispensation relates;
      2. whether the dispensation is required to participate at a meeting in a discussion only or a discussion and a vote;
      3. the date of the meeting or the period (not exceeding four years) for which the dispensation is sought; and
      4. an explanation as to why the dispensation is sought.
13. Dispensation requests shall be considered at the start of the meeting for which the dispensation is required.

1. **A dispensation may be granted if having regard to all relevant circumstances the following applies:**
   1. **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 or**
   2. **granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the council’s area or**
   3. **it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.**
2. Code of conduct complaints

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.

1. Proper Officer
2. The Proper Officer shall:
   1. **at least three clear days before a meeting of the council** **serve on councillors, by email or by delivery or by post at their residences, a signed summons confirming the time, place and the agenda of that meeting.**
   2. at least seven clear days before a meeting of the council serve on the councillors, by one of the methods mentioned above, a draft outline of the agenda of that meeting for their consideration.
   3. **give public notice of the time, place and agenda at least three clear days before a meeting of the council or a meeting of a committee** **(provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the council convened by councillors is signed by them);**
   4. **convene a meeting of full council for the election of a new Chairman of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his office;**
   5. **receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities;**
3. Financial controls and procurement

a Financial regulations shall confirm that a proposed contract for the supply of goods, materials, services and the execution of works with an estimated value in excess of [£60,000] shall be procured on the basis of a formal tender.

1. **Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed £138,893 (or other threshold specified by the Office of Government Commerce from time to time) the council must consider whether the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (SI No. 5, as amended) and the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 (SI No. 6, as amended) apply to the contract and, if either of those Regulations apply, the council must comply with EU procurement rules.**
2. Execution and sealing of legal deeds

A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the council unless authorised by a resolution.

**Subject to the standing order above, any two councillors may sign, on behalf of the council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.**

1. Standing orders generally
2. 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 meeting.
3. The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the council’s standing orders to a councillor as soon as possible after he has delivered his acceptance of office form.
4. The decision of the chairman of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.

***These Standing Orders are based upon the 2013 YLCA Model Standing orders, which may be referred to for further guidance as required.***