

Parish Council of Balsall

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th July 2014 at 7.30pm at The Westlake Room, Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common

Present

Cllr Raymond Ritchie (Chair), Cllr Richard Lloyd, Cllr Douglas Money, Cllr Elizabeth Macdonald, Cllr Marie-Louise Marsden, Cllr Peter Lea, Cllr Judy Lea and 14 members of the public to include Keith Tindall (Residents Association), Dave Ellis, Graham Lock (Berkswell Parish Council), Sheila Cooper (Berkswell Parish Council)

Headings are those set out on the Agenda

1. Apologies

Cllr Peter Trend

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 28th May 2014

Resolved that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on 28th May 2014 are approved as a correct record and the Chair signed the Minutes

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to the airport.

5. Public Forum

A member of the public advised that he had reviewed the accounts left at the library and felt that the Parish Council should recover outstanding amounts from the nursery. He advised that he was aware that the nursery will be leaving in the middle of this month. The accounts show a large deficit and this should be recovered.

Chair advised that the item was on the agenda and will be dealt with. The Parish Council has taken legal advice.

The member of public referred to the accounts. Chair requested that specific questions were put to the Clerk in writing as we do not have the accounts at the meeting.

A member of the public asked if a meeting had taken place with Berkswell regarding the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Cllr Liz Macdonald advised that informal discussions have taken place with members of Berkswell Parish Council. That has now resulted in Berkswell Parish Council now passing a resolution to produce a joint plan with Balsall. This is the first step.

The next step is to involve members of the public to get them involved. The Parish Council's will lead but the Plan must be put together with input from the community.

A member of the public stated that he found it incredible that it had taken 2 years to get this far. Chair stated that the Parish Council has had fewer councillors and with the boundary change, it has taken time but we now have new Councillors and we will look to progress matters.

A member of the public raised the matter of consecration of the Cemetery. Chair advised that the Parish Council has worked hard to resolve the issue concerning consecration. This has involved communication with the Reverend, Bishop's office and solicitors. The Parish Council is doing all it can to get this resolved.

The e-mail from Kathy Lloyd-Roberts as attached was read out to the public to advise on the current position.

Cllr Graham Lock referred to the recent document produced by SMBC being a prospectus for a Garden City. The development outlines 2,000 homes on our side of the Triangle. This has grave implications for our area. Cllr Lock asked for the Parish Council's view.

Chair advised that he had not seen the document. Apart from Cllr Lloyd, other Councillors were also not aware of the document. Chair advised that the Council would comment after considering the document.

Mr Keith Tindall stated that this is a serious issue of the Green Belt being at risk and the Meriden Gap. Residents are concerned that substantial development will take place. 2,000 properties is large and this means an extra 4,000 people possibly. There is no mention in the document of any improved infrastructure.

Chair asked Cllr Lloyd to circulate the document so that it may be considered by the Parish Council.

It was agreed to place this matter on the Agenda for the next Planning meeting to take place on 30th July 2014

ACTION – Clerk to place matter on Planning Agenda

6. Correspondence

6.1. Various e-mails complaining about new airport routes

6.2. Letter from Berkswell Parish Council regarding HS2

Chair read out the letter from Berkswell Parish Council and the Minutes of the March meeting when the sums were earmarked. These funds are for professional services in connection with the petition

6.3. Various e-mails concerning Harper Fields planning application

7. Cemetery

- 7.1. Update of communication received from Bishops Chaplain and Reverend concerning Cemetery extension

This update was provided during public forum

- 7.2. To review the current fees and regulations

A discussion took place regarding the cost of the Cemetery. It continues to run at a loss and was subsidised by the Parish Council in the sum of around £4,500 last financial year. The options for increasing the fees were considered and the Parish Council agreed to proceed with an increase of 10% for residents and 20% for non-residents.

Resolved – Following a review of the fees, it was agreed to increase the Cemetery fees by 10% for residents and 20% for non-residents. The fee schedule is also amended in accordance with the document attached.

As for the Regulations, it was agreed that the Working Group shall look at the Regulations and the maintenance of the Cemetery and make recommendations to the Parish Council.

It was also agreed that the Clerk investigate removal of the ragwort at the Cemetery that is now re-appearing

ACTION – Clerk to arrange for removal of the ragwort at the Cemetery

8. Planning application 2014/314 – Harper Fields

- 8.1. To consider the recent decision by the Solihull Planning Committee

The decision made by the Solihull Planning Committee was noted

- 8.2. To appoint Avon Planning Services to make representation to the National Case Work Unit

Resolved – that the Parish Council shall appoint Avon Planning Services to make representation to the National Casework Unit

- 8.3. To write to the local MP

Resolved – that the Parish Council shall write to the local MP to express our concern at the Solihull Planning Committee meeting decision and request that she makes representation to the Secretary of State/National Casework Unit

9. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

- 9.1. To approve the amended Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as proposed by the recent Finance & General purposes working group

Chair reported on the review undertaken by the Workshop. The suggested revised documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. These were reviewed. Cllr Lloyd asked about the figure of £45,000 and why it was fixed. Chair advised that it relates to

contracts that must be subject to a formal process. This is the figure in the previous Financial Regulations and there is no reason to change the figure.

The figure for expenditure by the Clerk was reviewed and it was agreed that since the Parish Council met every two months, this was appropriate.

Resolved – That the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as amended are adopted by the Parish Council. (copy attached)

10. HS2

10.1. Petition

Cllr Liz Macdonald confirmed that the petition had been lodged. BDB had been instructed to assist the Parish Council. The petition number is 1780. We have now been approached by HS2 to start negotiations ahead of the Select Committee meeting

10.2. Update

Cllr Liz Macdonald advised that SMBC are commissioning an environmental statement. We are still pushing for a tunnel. Cllr Liz Macdonald advised that we now have to take pictures of the environment to illustrate the land as it is now. This will provide a record of the area as it is presently and the way the area should be restored to after work is completed.

Chair suggested an online drop box so that pictures could be taken and downloaded to the site.

It was agreed that Berkswell and Balsall Parish Council to explore the drop box option and how this can work practically.

ACTION – Chair to communicate with Graham Lock of Berkswell Parish Council to discuss the drop box option to download images of the area

ACTION – Chair to circulate an article for the communicator to explain how the drop box works and for residents to take images and download to the drop box

10.3. Delegated powers - to the Clerk, Chair and HS2 representative to negotiate with HS2 on issues relating to HS2 petition

Cllr Liz Macdonald put forward the motion to delegate powers to the Clerk and the Chair to negotiate with HS2 on the content of the petition subject to policies agreed by the Council.

Cllr Lloyd objected to the motion as he felt that any negotiation must be undertaken at full Council.

It was pointed out that there may be occasions when a meeting cannot be convened.

Cllr Lloyd felt that there should not be any negotiation with HS2

The motion was not seconded so failed.

11. **Risk Management** – To receive report from Clerk

Clerk presented Councillors with risk register for 2012/2013 and 2013/2014. Clerk updated Councillors on current matter being dealt with by Insurer.

12. **Office Premises** – Update from Clerk regarding Lease

Clerk updated Councillors as to the current progress regarding the Lease. The Police are still waiting for the Landlord to complete the Lease. Presently we do not have a signed Lease.

13. **Grants – Section 137 LGA**

13.1. To approve grant application by library for the sum of £140.00 towards the cost of summer activities

The application was considered and supported by all Councillors

Resolved – That the grant is approved in the sum of £140.00

13.2. To approve grant application for hire of hall for public meeting on airport issues

The application was considered and supported by Councillors

Resolved – That the grant is approved in the sum of £50.00

14. **Reports from Representatives**

14.1. Airport

Clerk provided a report of the communication received from the Airport. Dave Ellis confirmed that the Residents Association had been invited back to the ACC but this would only be until the routes are finalised.

In any event, the scheduled meetings have not taken place. They have been cancelled.

As for the CCG, only one representative for Balsall is allowed. This means that the Residents Association cannot be represented. One representative is not adequate as there are many groups that represent affected members of the community.

The areas covered are unlikely to be discussed fully as many areas are now being combined.

It was agreed that we should respond to the airport to advise that we are not happy with the proposal or that only one representative shall represent the whole area.

ACTION - Clerk to write to the Airport stating it's concern and request more than one representative.

The situation is proving to be very difficult for residents. The whole community is affected.

14.2. Neighbourhood Development Plan
Update to this item was provided during the public forum

15. **To agree to proceed with the meeting in private session and exclude members of the public and press in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2) Chadwick End Village Hall** – To ratify settlement in accordance with legal advice

Resolved - that the meeting is held in confidential – members of the public left the meeting

Resolved – That the settlement is ratified by the Council

16. **To agree to proceed with the meeting in private session and exclude members of the public and press in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2)**

Resolved – That this item is dealt with as confidential
Clerk left the room

17. **Accounts & Governance**

17.1. **PROPOSAL** - To approve list of Orders to be placed and Payments for Approval and Payments Made

Resolved – That the orders and payments are approved in accordance with schedule attached

18. **Date for next meeting** – The next Parish Council Meeting shall be the Parish Council meeting to be held on 10th September 2014 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 22.20pm

Signed..... Dated.....

Cllr Raymond Ritchie

Chair

Balsall Parish Council

From: The Foundation of Lady Katherine Leveson [<mailto:mastersoffice@leveson.org.uk>]
Sent: 13 June 2014 11:45
To: 'Kate Stowe (Bishop's Chaplain)'
Subject: Temple Balsall Churchyard

Dear Kate,

You may remember I wrote you to some time ago about the consecration of the new area of graveyard at Temple Balsall. There are a few people who attend the Balsall Parish Council meetings who are very upset about the new parts of the graveyard not having been consecrated. I have actually found, in the deepest, darkest parts of the filing cabinet, correspondence between James and the Arch Deacon's office, saying that this was not necessary. I have had Balsall Parish Council on the phone again, and wonder how best to resolve all this as I know all the Bishops are very busy.

What are your thoughts about this? Could I just do a blessing of some kind? I would appreciate your advice.

Love and prayers,

Kathy

The Rev'd Kathy Lloyd Roberts

Master of The Foundation of Lady Katherine Leveson

Vicar of St. Mary's Church, Temple Balsall

01564 772415

BALSALL PARISH COUNCIL
CEMETERY FEE SCALE STRUCTURE 1 SEPTEMBER 2014

Purchase of Grave

Exclusive Right of Burial for 75 years in all types of grave

Resident, 17 years or more in age	£1,075
Non-resident, 17 years or more in age	£2,340
Child 16 years or under	£330
Infant up to 1 year in age	No charge

Permission to inter first and subsequent persons in a grave

Resident, 17 years or more in age	£440
Non-resident, 17 years or more in age	£960
Child 16 year or under	£110
Infant up to 1 year in age	No charge
Resident, cremated remains	£110
Non-resident, cremated remains	£240

Cremated Remains

Exclusive Right of Burial for 75 years in a cremated remains plot

Resident	£495
Non-resident	£1,080

Child 16 years or under	£130
Infant up to 1 year in age	No charge

Permission to inter first and subsequent ashes in cremated remains plot

Resident, 17 years or more in age	£110
Non-resident, 17 years or more in age	£240
Child 16 year or under	£55
Infant up to 1 year in age	No charge

Memorial Charges

Memorials must not be placed without prior consent from the Parish Council. Memorials must be in accordance with the guidelines specified below

Exclusive Memorial Rights	
Memorial on a grave plot	110
Memorial on a cremation plot	£110
Additional inscriptions	£55

Miscellaneous Charges

Transfer or Assignment of Exclusive Rights of Burial	£550
Statutory Declaration in respect of loss of Deed of Grant	£275
Extension of Exclusive Right of Burial in respect of any grave or cremation plot at the end of its term for a further 75 years	
Resident	£1,075
Non-Resident	£2,340
Exhumation Administration (Fees paid for the Exclusive Right of Burial and interments will not be refunded)	£1100

Notes

A resident is classed as someone whose main residence is within the parish council's boundaries at the time of their death or on the electoral role of St Mary the Virgin Church at the time of their death.

A non-resident is classed as someone whose main residence is not within the parish council's boundaries at their time of death or is not on the electoral role of St Mary the Virgin Church in Temple Balsall at the time of their death.

Please note that Parish Boundary has been subject to recent change as from 1st April 2014 following the Governance Review. Please refer to the Boundary map for full details of boundaries.

Additionally Residents may have a postal address of "Balsall Common" but this does not make them a resident of the Parish. Details of the boundary and a map can be found on the website.

People who have lived more than 10 years within the parish council's boundaries and then move directly to a care home, hospice or hospital outside the parish council's boundaries for a period of not greater than 5 years upon their death will be classed as residents. Proof may be required.

Exclusive Rights of Burial will not generally be granted to non-residents and in the instances where they are, councillors will make the decision to grant permission. Examples of where this permission might be granted are:

1. Appropriate voluntary service within the parish would be a possible reason for granting permission.
2. Where the deceased is aged 25 years old or below, is unmarried or without partner, and whose immediate next of kin are their parents who are classed as residents. Examples of where this might be the case, are full-time students or people who have recently left their parents' home to start a job.

The Council does not allow people to reserve burial or cremation plots unless there are extreme compassionate circumstances for so doing. The Clerk will make the decision in these cases, and report to Council accordingly.

Applications must be made on an Official Order form available from the Parish Council.

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

All burials must abide by the Rules and Regulations of Temple Balsall Cemetery. For full details of the Rules and Regulations, please visit the website www.balsallparishcouncil.org or contact the Clerk

Balsall Parish Council

Standing Orders

**Approved at the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
9th July 2014**

Standing Orders

How to use standing orders

List of standing orders

Standing orders

How to use standing orders

Standing orders are the written rules of the Balsall parish council. They are used to confirm its internal organisational, administrative and procurement procedures and procedural matters for meetings. They are not the same as the policies of the council but they may refer to them. The parish council must have standing orders for the procurement of contracts.

Meetings of full council, councillors, the Responsible Financial Officer and Proper Officer are subject to many statutory requirements. The council should have standing orders to confirm those statutory requirements. The council should have standing orders to control the number, place, quorum, notices and other procedures for committee and sub-committee meetings because these are subject to fewer statutory requirements. If it does not, committees and sub-committees may adopt their own standing orders.

Standing orders that are in bold type contain statutory requirements which **the council adopted without changing from the NALC model**. Standing orders not in bold are designed to help the council operate effectively but do not contain statutory requirements so they may be adopted as drafted or amended to suit a council's needs. For convenience, the word "councillor" is used in standing orders and includes a non-councillor with or without voting rights unless otherwise stated.

A standing order that includes brackets like this '()' requires information to be inserted by a council. A model standing order that includes the term 'OR' provides alternative options for a council to choose from when determining standing orders.

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

List of standing orders

1. Rules of debate at meetings
2. Disorderly conduct at meetings
3. Meetings generally
4. Committees and sub-committees
5. Ordinary council meetings
6. Extraordinary meetings of the council and committees and sub-committees
7. Previous resolutions
8. Voting on appointments
9. Motions for a meeting that require written notice to be given to the Proper Officer
10. Motions at a meeting that do not require written notice
11. Handling confidential or sensitive 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. Requests for information
21. Relations with the press/media
22. Execution and sealing of legal deeds
23. Communicating with District and County or Unitary councillors
24. Restrictions on councillor activities
25. Standing orders generally

Balsall Parish Council Standing Orders

1. Rules of debate at meetings

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.
2. A motion (including an amendment) shall not be progressed unless it has been moved and seconded.
3. A motion on the agenda that is not moved by its proposer may be treated by the chairman of the meeting as withdrawn.
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.
5. An amendment is a proposal to remove or add words to a motion. It shall not negate the motion.
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.
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.
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.
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.

10. Subject to standing order 1(k) below, only one amendment shall be moved and debated at a time, the order of which shall be directed by the chairman of the meeting.
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.
12. A councillor may not move more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion.
13. The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the end of debate on it.
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.
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;
 - d. to give a personal explanation; or
 - e. in exercise of a right of reply.
16. During the debate of a motion, a councillor may interrupt only on a point of order or a personal explanation and the councillor who was interrupted shall stop speaking. A councillor raising a point of order shall identify the standing order which he considers has been breached or specify the other irregularity in the proceedings of the meeting he is concerned by.
17. A point of order shall be decided by the chairman of the meeting and his decision shall be final.
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.
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.
19. Excluding motions moved understanding order 1(r) above, the contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed (2) minutes without the consent of the chairman of the meeting.

2. Disorderly conduct at meetings

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. 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.
3. If a resolution made under standing order 2(b) above 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

- < Full Council meetings
- < Committee meetings
- < Sub-committee 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. **The minimum three clear days' public notice for a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued or the day of the meeting unless the meeting is convened at shorter notice**
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.**
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.
6. The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(5) above shall not exceed (15) minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.
7. Subject to standing order 3(6) above, a member of the public shall not speak for more than (2) minutes.
8. In accordance with standing order 3(5) above, 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.
9. [A person shall raise their hand when requesting to speak
10. A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct his comments to the chairman of the meeting.
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.
12. **Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's prior written consent.**
13. **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.**
14. **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).**
- 15 **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.**

16 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.

- 17. 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(i) and (j) below for the different rules that apply in the election of the Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting of the council.

- 18. 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.

- 19. The minutes of a meeting shall include an accurate record of the following:**

- a. the time and place of the meeting;
- b. the names of councillors present and absent;
- c. interests that have been declared by councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
- d. whether a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered;
- e. if there was a public participation session; and
- f. the resolutions made.

20A 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

- 21. 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.**

See standing order 4d(viii) below for the quorum of a committee or sub-committee meeting.

22 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

- 23. A meeting shall not exceed a period of (2) hours.**

4..Committees and sub-committees

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.**
2. **The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the council.**
3. **Unless the council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee and a sub-committee of the advisory committee may be non-councillors.**
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 full 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 (3) above, appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee;
 - e. may, subject to standing orders 4(2) and (3) above, 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 (3) 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 and a sub-committee which shall be no less than three;
 - i. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a committee;
 - j. shall determine if the public and press are permitted to attend the meetings of a sub-committee and also the advance public notice requirements, if any, required for the meetings of a sub-committee;
 - k. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a sub-committee that they are permitted to attend; and
 - l. may dissolve a committee.

5 Ordinary council meetings

1. **In an election year, the annual meeting of the council shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the new councillors elected take office.**
2. **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.**
3. **If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the council shall take place at 6pm.**
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.**

5The 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.

6The 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.

7The 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.

8In 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.

9In 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.

10Following 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:

- 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, sub-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 above;
- i. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations;
- j. Review of arrangements, including any charters and agency agreements, with other local authorities and review of contributions made to expenditure incurred by other local authorities;
- 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 insured 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 procedures for handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998;
- 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 full council up to and including the next annual meeting of full council.

6 Extraordinary meetings of the council and committees and sub-committees

- 1. The Chairman of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the council at any time.**
- 2. 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.**

3. The chairman of a committee [or a sub-committee] may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee [or the sub-committee] at any time.
4. If the chairman of a committee [or a sub-committee] does not or refuses to call an extraordinary meeting within (7) days of having been requested by to do so by (2) members of the committee [or the sub-committee], any (3) members of the committee [and the sub-committee] may convene an extraordinary meeting of a committee [and a sub-committee].

7 Previous resolutions

1. A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least (5) councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9 below, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.
2. When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 7(1) above has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further six months.

8 Voting on appointments

1. 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 be given to the Proper Officer

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.

2. No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written electronic notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least (14) clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.
3. The Proper Officer may, before including a motion on the agenda received in accordance with standing order 9(b) above, correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.
4. If the Proper Officer considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 9(1) above is not clear in meaning, the motion shall be rejected until the mover of the motion resubmits it in writing to the Proper Officer so that it can be understood at least (14) clear days before the meeting.
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.
6. Subject to standing order 9(e) above, the decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the motion on the agenda shall be final.
7. Motions received shall be recorded electronically and numbered in the order that they are received.
8. Motions rejected shall be recorded electronically for that purpose with an explanation by the Proper Officer for their rejection.

10 Motions at a meeting that do not require written notice

1. 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 or sub-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 or sub-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 requirements);
- p. to adjourn the meeting; or
- q. to close a meeting.

11 Handling confidential or sensitive information

1. 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.
2. Councillors and staff shall not disclose confidential or sensitive information which for special reasons would not be in the public interest.

12 Draft minutes

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.
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 10(1)(a) above.
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.
4. If the chairman of the meeting does not consider the minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting to which they relate, he shall sign the minutes and include a paragraph in the following terms or to the same effect:

“The chairman of this meeting does not believe that the minutes of the meeting of the () held on [date] in respect of () were a correct record but his view was not upheld by the meeting and the minutes are confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.”

5. Upon 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(20) above.

1. All councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the council.
2. 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.
3. 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.
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.
5. A decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made [by a meeting of the council, or committee or sub-committee for which the dispensation is required] and that decision is final.
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.
7. Subject to standing orders 13(4) and (6) above, dispensations requests shall be considered [at the beginning of the meeting of the council, or committee or a sub-committee for which the dispensation is required].

8. **A dispensation may be granted in accordance with standing order 13(5) above if having regard to all relevant circumstances the following applies:**
 - 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 or**
 - 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

1. Upon notification by the Unitary Council OR that it is dealing with a complaint that a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the council's code of conduct, the Proper Officer shall, subject to standing order 11 above, report this to the council.
2. Where the notification in standing order 14(1) above 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 staff member 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) below].
3. The council may:
 - a. provide information or evidence where such disclosure is necessary to progress an investigation of the complaint or is required by law;
 - b. seek information relevant to the complaint from the person or body with statutory responsibility for investigation of the matter;
4. **Upon notification by the 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.**

15 Proper Officer

1. The Proper Officer shall be either (i) the clerk or (ii) other staff member(s) nominated by the council to undertake the work of the Proper Officer when the Proper Officer is absent.
2. The Proper Officer shall:

- a. **[at least three clear days before a meeting of the council, a committee and a sub-committee serve on councillors, by delivery or post at their residences, a signed summons confirming the time, place and the agenda.]**

OR

- i. **by email, confirming the time, place and the agenda provided any such email contains the electronic signature and title of the Proper Officer].**

See standing order 3(2) above for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a full council and standing order 3(3) above for a meeting of a committee.

- b. **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 or a sub-committee (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the council convened by councillors is signed by them);**

- i. *See standing order 3(2) above for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a full council and standing order 3(c) above for a meeting of a committee.*

- c. subject to standing order 9 above, include on the agenda all motions in the order received unless a councillor has given written notice at least (8) days before the meeting confirming his withdrawal of it;
- d. **convene a meeting of full council for the election of a new Chairman of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his office;**
- e. facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors;
- f. **receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities;**
- g. retain acceptance of office forms from councillors;
- h. retain a copy of every councillor's register of interests;
- i. assist with responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Data Protection Act 1998, in accordance with and subject to the council's policies and procedures relating to the same;
- j. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the council except where there is a resolution to the contrary;
- k. manage the organisation, storage of, access to and destruction of information held by the council in paper and electronic form;
- l. arrange for legal deeds to be executed;

See also standing order 22 below.

- m. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the council in accordance with the council's financial regulations;
- n. record every planning application notified to the council and the council's response to the local planning authority in a spreadsheet for such purpose;
- o. refer a planning application received by the council to [Chairman or in his absence Vice-Chairman (if any) of the (Planning) Committee] within seven working days of receipt to facilitate an extraordinary meeting if the nature of a planning application requires consideration before the next ordinary meeting of [the Planning committee];
- p. manage access to information about the council via the publication scheme; and

- q. retain custody of the seal of the council (if any) which shall not be used without a resolution to that effect.

See also standing order 22 below.

16 Responsible Financial Officer

1. The council shall appoint appropriate staff member(s) to undertake the work of the Responsible Financial Officer when the Responsible Financial Officer is absent.

17 Accounts and accounting statements

“Proper practices” in standing orders refer to the most recent version of Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – a Practitioners’ Guide

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.
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:
 - a. the council’s receipts and payments for each quarter;
 - b. the council’s aggregate receipts and payments for the year to date;
 - c. the balances held at the end of the quarter being reported

and which includes a comparison with the budget for the financial year and highlights any actual or potential overspends.

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 for the last quarter and the year to date for information; and
 - b. to the full council the accounting statements for the year in the form of Section 1 of the annual return, as required by proper practices, for consideration and approval.
5. The year end accounting statements shall be prepared in accordance with proper practices and applying 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 return shall be presented to each councillor before the end of the following month of May. The annual return of the council, which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to council for consideration and formal approval before 30 June.

18 Financial controls and procurement

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 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. procurement policies (subject to standing order 18(3) below) including the setting of values for different procedures where a contract has an estimated value of less than [£45,000].
2. Financial regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for fitness of purpose.
3. **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 [£45,000] shall be procured on the basis of a formal tender as summarised in standing order 18(4) below.**
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 Responsible Financial Officer
 - e. tenders shall be opened by the Responsible Financial Officer in the presence of at least one councillor after the deadline for submission of tenders has passed;
 - f. tenders are to be reported to and considered by the appropriate meeting of the council or a committee or sub-committee with delegated responsibility.
5. Neither the council, nor a committee or a sub-committee with delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound to accept the lowest value tender.

6. **Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed £138,893 (or other threshold specified by the Office of Government Commerce *now* Government Procurement Service¹ 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.**

19 Handling staff matters

1. A matter personal to a member of staff that is being considered by a meeting of [the (Staffing) committee] is subject to standing order 11 above.
2. Subject to the council's policy regarding absences from work, the council's most senior member of staff shall notify the chairman of [the (Staffing) committee] or, if he is not available, the vice-chairman of [the (Staffing) committee] of absence occasioned by illness or other reason and that person shall report such absence to [the (Staffing) committee] at its next meeting.
3. The chairman of [the (Staffing) committee] 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 and is subject to approval by resolution by [the (Staffing) committee]].
4. Subject to the council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the council's most senior employee (or other employees) shall contact the chairman of [the (Staffing) committee] or in his absence, the vice-chairman of [the (Staffing) committee] in respect of an informal or formal grievance matter, and this matter shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of [the (Staffing) committee]
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 (Staffing) committee], this shall be communicated to another member of [the (Staffing) committee] which shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of [the (Staffing) committee]
6. Any persons responsible for all or part of the management of staff shall treat the written records of all meetings relating to their performance, capabilities, grievance or disciplinary matters as confidential and secure.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/government-procurement-service>

7. The council shall keep all written records relating to employees secure. All paper records shall be secured and locked and electronic records shall be password protected and encrypted.
8. Only persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to staff records referred to in standing orders 19(6) and 7) above if so justified.
9. Access and means of access by keys and/or computer passwords to records of employment referred to in standing orders 19(6) and (7) above shall be provided only to (post holder) and/or the Chairman of the Council

20 Requests for information

1. Requests for information held by the council shall be handled in accordance with the council's policy in respect of handling requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.
2. Correspondence from, and notices served by, the Information Commissioner shall be referred by the Proper Officer to the chairman of the (Staffing) committee. The said committee shall have the power to do anything to facilitate compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

21 Relations with the press/media

1. 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.

22 Execution and sealing of legal deeds

See also standing orders 15(2)(l) and (q) above.

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

[Subject to standing order 22(1) above, any two councillors may sign, on behalf of the council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.]

The above is applicable to a council without a common seal.

23 Communicating with Unitary councillors

1. An invitation to attend a meeting of the council shall be sent, together with the agenda, to the ward councillor(s) of the Solihull Council representing the area of the council.
2. Unless the council determines otherwise, a copy of each letter sent to the Solihull Council shall be sent to the ward councillor(s) representing the area of the council.

24 Restrictions on councillor activities

1. 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.

25 Standing orders generally

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 meeting.
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 (4) councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9 above.
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.

The decision of the chairman of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.

Values are to be set by the Council when adopting Financial Regulations (other than the EU Procurement thresholds shown in Regulation 11)

Adopted by Balsall Parish Council at Full Council Meeting on 9th July 2014

**BALSALL PARISH/ COUNCIL
FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

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These Financial Regulations were adopted by the Council at its Meeting held on 9th July 2014

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. These financial regulations govern the conduct of financial management by the council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the council. Financial regulations are one of the council's three governing policy documents providing procedural guidance for members and officers. Financial regulations must be observed in conjunction with the council's standing orders² and any individual financial regulations relating to contracts.
- 1.2. The council is responsible in law for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that the council has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the council's functions, including arrangements for the management of risk.
- 1.3. The council's accounting control systems must include measures:
 - for the timely production of accounts;
 - that provide for the safe and efficient safeguarding of public money;
 - to prevent and detect inaccuracy and fraud; and
 - Identifying the duties of officers.
- 1.4. These financial regulations demonstrate how the council meets these responsibilities and requirements.
- 1.5. At least once a year, prior to approving the Annual Governance Statement, the council must review the effectiveness of its system of internal control which shall be in accordance with proper practices.
- 1.6. A breach of these Regulations by an employee is gross misconduct.
- 1.7. Members of Council are expected to follow the instructions within these Regulations and not to entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow instructions within these Regulations brings the office of Councillor into disrepute.
- 1.8. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) holds a statutory office to be appointed by the council. Balsall Parish Council has appointed its Clerk as RFO
- 1.9. The RFO;
 - acts under the policy direction of the council;

² Model standing orders for councils are available in Local Councils Explained © 2013 National Association of Local Councils

- administers the council's financial affairs in accordance with all Acts, Regulations and proper practices;
 - determines on behalf of the council its accounting records and accounting control systems;
 - ensures the accounting control systems are observed;
 - maintains the accounting records of the council up to date in accordance with proper practices;
 - assists the council to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources; and
 - Produces financial management information as required by the council.
- 1.10. The accounting records determined by the RFO shall be sufficient to show and explain the council's transactions and to enable the RFO to ensure that any income and expenditure account and statement of balances, or record of receipts and payments and additional information, as the case may be, or management information prepared for the council from time to time comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations³.
- 1.11. The accounting records determined by the RFO shall in particular contain:
- entries from day to day of all sums of money received and expended by the council and the matters to which the income and expenditure or receipts and payments account relate;
 - a record of the assets and liabilities of the council; and
 - Wherever relevant, a record of the council's income and expenditure in relation to claims made, or to be made, for any contribution, grant or subsidy.
- 1.12. The accounting control systems determined by the RFO shall include:
- procedures to ensure that the financial transactions of the council are recorded as soon as reasonably practicable and as accurately and reasonably as possible;
 - procedures to enable the prevention and detection of inaccuracies and fraud and the ability to reconstruct any lost records;
 - procedures to ensure that uncollectable amounts, including any bad debts are not submitted to the council for approval to be written off except with the approval of the RFO and that the approvals are shown in the accounting records; and
 - measures to ensure that risk is properly managed.
- 1.13. The council is not empowered by these Regulations or otherwise to delegate certain specified decisions. In particular any decision regarding:
- setting the final budget or the precept (Council Tax Requirement);

³ In England - Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011/817

- approving accounting statements;
 - approving an annual governance statement;
 - borrowing;
 - writing off bad debts;
 - declaring eligibility for the power of well-being; and
 - addressing recommendations in any report from the internal or external auditors,
- shall be a matter for the full council only.

1.14. In addition the council must:

- determine and keep under regular review the bank mandate for all council bank accounts;
- approve any grant or a single commitment in excess of £2,000; and
- in respect of the annual salary for any employee have regard to recommendations about annual salaries of employees made by the Staffing Committee in accordance with its terms of reference.

1.15. In these financial regulations, references to the Accounts and Audit Regulations or ‘the regulations’ shall mean the regulations issued under the provisions of section 27 of the Audit Commission Act 1998, or any superseding legislation, and then in force unless otherwise specified.

In these financial regulations the term ‘proper practice’ or ‘proper practices’ shall refer to guidance issued in *Governance and Accountability for Local Councils– a Practitioners’ Guide (England)* issued by the Joint Practitioners Advisory Group (JPAG), available from the websites of NALC and SLCC as appropriate.

2. ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)

2.1. All accounting procedures and financial records of the council shall be determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, appropriate Guidance and proper practices.

2.2. On a regular basis, at least once in every quarter and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chairman shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO. The member shall sign the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of verification. This activity shall on conclusion be reported, including any exceptions, to and noted by the council’s Finance Committee.

- 2.3. The RFO shall complete the annual statement of accounts, annual report, and any related documents of the council contained in the Annual Return (as specified in proper practices) as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year and having certified the accounts shall submit them and report thereon to the council within the timescales set by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 2.4. The council shall ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records, and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper practices. Any officer or member of the council shall make available such documents and records as appear to the council to be necessary for the purpose of the audit and shall, as directed by the council, supply the RFO, internal auditor, or external auditor with such information and explanation as the council considers necessary for that purpose.
- 2.5. The internal auditor shall be appointed by and shall carry out the work in relation to internal controls required by the council in accordance with proper practices.
- 2.6. The internal auditor shall:
- be competent and independent of the financial operations of the council;
 - report to council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one annual written report during each financial year;
 - to demonstrate competence, objectivity and independence, be free from any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, including those arising from family relationships; and
 - have no involvement in the financial decision making, management or control of the council.
- 2.7. Internal or external auditors may not under any circumstances:
- perform any operational duties for the council;
 - initiate or approve accounting transactions; or
 - direct the activities of any council employee, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to assist the internal auditor.
- 2.8. For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to internal audit the terms 'independent' and 'independence' shall have the same meaning as is described in proper practices.
- 2.9. The RFO shall make arrangements for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the accounts including the opportunity to inspect the accounts, books, and vouchers and display or publish any notices and statements of account required by Audit Commission Act 1998, or any superseding legislation, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 2.10. The RFO shall, without undue delay, bring to the attention of all councillors any correspondence or report from internal or external auditors.

3. ANNUAL ESTIMATES (BUDGET) AND FORWARD PLANNING

- 3.1. Each committee (if any) shall review its forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments. Having regard to the forecast, it shall thereafter formulate and submit proposals for the following financial year to the council not later than the end of [November] each year including any proposals for revising the forecast.
- 3.2. The RFO must each year, by no later than December, prepare detailed estimates of all receipts and payments including the use of reserves and all sources of funding for the following financial year in the form of a budget to be considered by the [relevant Finance committee and the council.
- 3.3. The council shall consider annual budget proposals in relation to the council's annual forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments including recommendations for the use of reserves and sources of funding and update the forecast accordingly.
- 3.4. The council shall fix the precept (council tax requirement), and relevant basic amount of council tax to be levied for the ensuing financial year not later than by the end of January each year. The RFO shall issue the precept to the billing authority and shall supply each member with a copy of the approved annual budget.
- 3.5. The approved annual budget shall form the basis of financial control for the ensuing year.

4. BUDGETARY CONTROL AND AUTHORITY TO SPEND

- 4.1. Expenditure on revenue items may be authorised up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget. This authority is to be determined by:
 - the council for all grants and single items over £2,000; following recommendations from the Finance Committee
 -
 - orthe Clerk, in conjunction with Chairman of Council or Chairman of the appropriate committee, for any items below £2000 Such authority is to be evidenced by a Minute or by an authorisation slip duly signed by the Clerk, and where necessary also by the appropriate Chairman.

Contracts may not be disaggregated to avoid controls imposed by these regulations.
- 4.2. No expenditure may be authorised that will exceed the amount provided in the revenue budget for that class of expenditure other than by resolution of the council, or duly delegated committee. During the budget year and with the approval of council having considered fully

the implications for public services, unspent and available amounts may be moved to other budget headings or to an earmarked reserve as appropriate ('virement').

- 4.3. Unspent provisions in the revenue or capital budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year.
- 4.4. The salary budgets are to be reviewed at least annually in October for the following financial year and such review shall be evidenced by a hard copy schedule signed by the Clerk and the Chairman of Council or relevant committee. The RFO will inform committees of any changes impacting on their budget requirement for the coming year in good time.
- 4.5. In cases of extreme risk to the delivery of council services, the clerk may authorise revenue expenditure on behalf of the council which in the clerk's judgement it is necessary to carry out. Such expenditure includes repair, replacement or other work, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of [£2,000]. The Clerk shall report such action to the chairman as soon as possible and to the council as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 4.6. No expenditure shall be authorised in relation to any capital project and no contract entered into or tender accepted involving capital expenditure unless the council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available and the requisite borrowing approval has been obtained.
- 4.7. All capital works shall be administered in accordance with the council's standing orders and financial regulations relating to contracts.
- 4.8. The RFO shall regularly provide the council with a statement of receipts and payments to date under each head of the budgets, comparing actual expenditure to the appropriate date against that planned as shown in the budget. These statements are to be prepared at least at the end of each financial quarter and shall show explanations of material variances. For this purpose "material" shall be in excess of [£100] or [15%] of the budget head.
- 4.9. Changes in earmarked reserves shall be approved by council as part of the budgetary control process.

5. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- 5.1. The council's banking arrangements, including the bank mandate, shall be made by the RFO and approved by the council; banking arrangements may not be delegated to a committee. They shall be regularly reviewed for safety and efficiency. The RFO shall prepare a schedule of payments requiring authorisation, forming part of the Agenda for the Meeting and, together with the relevant invoices, present the schedule to council. The council shall review the schedule for compliance and, having satisfied itself shall authorise payment by a resolution of the council. A detailed list of all payments shall be disclosed within or as an attachment to the minutes of the meeting at which payment was authorised. Personal payments (including salaries, wages, expenses and any payment made in relation to the termination of a contract of employment) may be summarised to remove public access to any personal information.

- 5.2. All invoices for payment shall be examined, verified and certified by the RFO to confirm that the work, goods or services to which each invoice relates has been received, carried out, examined and represents expenditure previously approved by the council.
- 5.3. The RFO shall examine invoices for arithmetical accuracy and analyse them to the appropriate expenditure heading. The RFO shall take all steps to pay all invoices submitted, and which are in order, at the next available council [or Finance Committee] Meeting.
- 5.4. The Clerk shall have delegated authority to authorise the payment of items only in the following circumstances:
 - a) If a payment is necessary to avoid a charge to interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, and the due date for payment is before the next scheduled Meeting of council, where the Clerk certify that there is no dispute or other reason to delay payment, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of An expenditure item authorised under 5.6 below (continuing contracts and obligations) provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council
 - b) Fund transfers within the councils banking arrangements up to the sum of £10,000, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council
- 5.5. For each financial year the Clerk and RFO shall draw up a list of due payments which arise on a regular basis as the result of a continuing contract, statutory duty, or obligation (such as but not exclusively, Salaries, PAYE and NI, Pension and regular maintenance contracts and the like for which council may authorise payment for the year provided that the requirements of regulation 4.1 (Budgetary Controls) are adhered to, provided also that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council
- 5.6. A record of regular payments made under 5.5 above shall be drawn up and be signed by the Chair or Vice Chair when payment is authorised - thus controlling the risk of duplicated payments being authorised and / or made.
- 5.7. Any Revenue or Capital Grant shall before payment, be subject to ratification by resolution of the council.
- 5.8. Members are subject to the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the council and shall comply with the Code and Standing Orders when a decision to authorise or instruct payment is made in respect of a matter in which they have a disclosable pecuniary or other interest, unless a dispensation has been granted.
- 5.9. The council will aim to rotate the duties of members in these Regulations so that onerous duties are shared out as evenly as possible over time.
- 5.10. Any changes in the recorded details of suppliers, such as bank account records, shall be approved in writing by the Chair.

6. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MAKING OF PAYMENTS

- 6.1. The council will make safe and efficient arrangements for the making of its payments.
- 6.2. Following authorisation under Financial Regulation 5 above, the council or, if so delegated, the Clerk shall give instruction that a payment shall be made.
- 6.3. All payments shall be effected by cheque or other instructions to the council's bankers, or otherwise, in accordance with a resolution of Council
- 6.4. Cheques or orders for payment drawn on the bank account in accordance with the schedule as presented to council shall be signed by two members of council in accordance with a resolution instructing that payment. If a member who is also a bank signatory has declared a disclosable pecuniary interest, or has any other interest, in the matter in respect of which the payment is being made, that Councillor shall be required to consider Standing Orders, and thereby determine whether it is appropriate and / or permissible to be a signatory to the transaction in question.
- 6.5. To indicate agreement of the details shown on the cheque or order for payment with the counterfoil and the invoice or similar documentation, the signatories shall each also initial the cheque counterfoil.
- 6.6. Undo this section!!!! Up to Any signature
- 6.7. If thought appropriate by the council, payment for utility supplies or other services as agreed by the Council(energy, telephone and water) and any National Non-Domestic Rates may be made by variable Direct Debit provided that the instructions are signed by two members and any payments are reported to council as made. The approval of the use of a variable Direct Debit shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every year.
- 6.8. If thought appropriate by the council, payment for certain items (principally Salaries) may be made by Banker's Standing Order provided that the instructions are signed, or otherwise evidenced by two members are retained and any payments are reported to council as made. The approval of the use of a Banker's Standing Order shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every year.
- 6.9. If thought appropriate by the council, payment for certain items may be made by BACS or CHAPS methods provided that the instructions for each payment are signed, or otherwise evidenced, by two authorised bank signatories are retained and any payments are reported to council as made. The approval of the use of BACS or CHAPS shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every year.
- 6.10. If thought appropriate by the council payment for certain items may be made by internet banking transfer provided evidence is retained showing which members approved the payment.
- 6.11. Where a computer requires use of a personal identification number (PIN) or other password(s), for access to the council's records on that computer, a note shall be made of the PIN and Passwords and shall be handed to and retained by the Chairman of Council in a sealed

dated envelope. This envelope may not be opened other than in the presence of two other councillors. After the envelope has been opened, in any circumstances, the PIN and / or passwords shall be changed as soon as practicable. The fact that the sealed envelope has been opened, in whatever circumstances, shall be reported to all members immediately and formally to the next available meeting of the council. This will not be required for a member's personal computer used only for remote authorisation of bank payments.

- 6.12. No employee or councillor shall disclose any PIN or password, relevant to the working of the council or its bank accounts, to any person not authorised in writing by the council or a duly delegated committee.
- 6.13. Regular back-up copies of the records on any computer shall be made and shall be stored securely away from the computer in question, and preferably off site.
- 6.14. The council, and any members using computers for the council's financial business, shall ensure that anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall, software with automatic updates, together with a high level of security, is used.
- 6.15. Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the Clerk shall be appointed as the Service Administrator. The Bank Mandate approved by the council shall identify a number of councillors who will be authorised to approve transactions on those accounts. The bank mandate will state clearly the amounts of payments that can be instructed by the use of the Service Administrator alone, or by the Service Administrator with a stated number of approvals.
- 6.16. Access to any internet banking accounts will be directly to the access page (which may be saved under "favourites"), and not through a search engine or e-mail link. Remembered or saved passwords facilities must not be used on any computer used for council banking work. Breach of this Regulation will be treated as a very serious matter under these regulations.
- 6.17. Changes to account details for suppliers, which are used for internet banking may only be changed on written hard copy notification by the supplier and supported by hard copy authority for change signed by the Clerk and the Chair [. A programme of regular checks of standing data with suppliers will be followed.
- 6.18. The council will not maintain any form of cash float. All cash received must be banked intact. Any payments made in cash by the Clerk (for example for postage or minor stationery items) shall be refunded on a regular basis, at least quarterly.

7. PAYMENT OF SALARIES

- 7.1. As an employer, the council shall make arrangements to meet fully the statutory requirements placed on all employers by PAYE and National Insurance legislation. The payment of all salaries shall be made in accordance with payroll records and the rules of PAYE and National Insurance currently operating, and salary rates shall be as agreed by council, or duly delegated committee.

- 7.2. Payment of salaries and payment of deductions from salary such as may be required to be made for tax, national insurance and pension contributions, or similar statutory or discretionary deductions must be made in accordance with the payroll records and on the appropriate dates stipulated in employment contracts, provided that each payment is reported to the next available council meeting, as set out in these regulations above.
- 7.3. No changes shall be made to any employee's pay, emoluments, or terms and conditions of employment without the prior consent of the [council] Each and every payment to employees of net salary and to the appropriate creditor of the statutory and discretionary deductions shall be recorded in a separate confidential record (confidential cash book). This confidential record is not open to inspection or review (under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or otherwise) other than:
- a) by any councillor who can demonstrate a need to know;
 - b) by the internal auditor;
 - c) by the external auditor; or
 - d) by any person authorised under Audit Commission Act 1998, or any superseding legislation.
- 7.4. The total of such payments in each calendar month shall be reported with all other payments as made as may be required under these Financial Regulations, to ensure that only payments due for the period have actually been paid.
- 7.5. An effective system of personal performance management should be maintained for the senior officers.
- 7.6. Any termination payments shall be supported by a clear business case and reported to the council. Termination payments shall only be authorised by council.
- 7.7. Before employing interim staff the council must consider a full business case.

8. LOANS AND INVESTMENTS

- 8.1. All borrowings shall be effected in the name of the council, after obtaining any necessary borrowing approval. Any application for borrowing approval shall be approved by Council as to terms and purpose. The application for Borrowing Approval, and subsequent arrangements for the Loan shall only be approved by full council.
- 8.2. Any financial arrangement which does not require formal Borrowing Approval from the Secretary of State/ (such as Hire Purchase or Leasing of tangible assets) shall be subject to approval by the full council. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to council in respect of value for money for the proposed transaction.
- 8.3. The council will arrange with the council's Banks and Investment providers for the sending of a copy of each statement of account to the Chairman of the council at the same time as one is issued to the Clerk o/ RFO.

- 8.4. All loans and investments shall be negotiated in the name of the Council and shall be for a set period in accordance with council policy.
- 8.5. The council shall consider the need for an Investment Strategy and Policy which, if drawn up, shall be in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance. Any Strategy and Policy shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.
- 8.6. All investments of money under the control of the council shall be in the name of the council.
- 8.7. All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO.
- 8.8. Payments in respect of short term or long term investments, including transfers between bank accounts held in the same bank, or branch, shall be made in accordance with Regulation 5 (Authorisation of payments) and Regulation 6 (Instructions for payments).

9. INCOME

- 9.1. The collection of all sums due to the council shall be the responsibility of and under the supervision of the RFO.
- 9.2. Particulars of all charges to be made for work done, services rendered or goods supplied shall be agreed annually by the council, notified to the RFO and the RFO shall be responsible for the collection of all accounts due to the council.
- 9.3. The council will review all fees and charges at least annually, following a report of the Clerk and recommendation of the Finance Committee
- 9.4. Any sums found to be irrecoverable and any bad debts shall be reported to the council and shall be written off in the year.
- 9.5. All sums received on behalf of the council shall be banked intact as directed by the RFO. In all cases, all receipts shall be deposited with the council's bankers with such frequency as the RFO considers necessary.
- 9.6. The origin of each receipt shall be entered on the paying-in slip.
- 9.7. Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the council.
- 9.8. The RFO shall promptly complete any VAT Return that is required. Any repayment claim due in accordance with VAT Act 1994 section 33 shall be made at least annually coinciding with the financial year end.
- 9.9. Where any significant sums of cash are regularly received by the council, the RFO shall take such steps as are agreed by the council to ensure that more than one person is present when the cash is counted in the first instance, that there is a reconciliation to some form of control such as ticket issues, and that appropriate care is taken in the security and safety of individuals banking such cash.

- 9.10. Any income arising which is the property of a charitable trust shall be paid into a charitable bank account. Instructions for the payment of funds due from the charitable trust to the council (to meet expenditure already incurred by the authority) will be given by the Managing Trustees of the charity meeting separately from any council meeting(see also Regulation 16 below) .

10. ORDERS FOR WORK, GOODS AND SERVICES

- 10.1. An official order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods and services unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of orders shall be retained by the RFO
- 10.2. All members and Officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times. An officer issuing an official order shall ensure as far as reasonable and practicable that the best available terms are obtained in respect of each transaction, usually by obtaining three or more quotations or estimates from appropriate suppliers, subject to any *de minimis* provisions in Regulation 11 (I) below.
- 10.3. A member may not issue an official order or make any contract on behalf of the council.
- 10.4. The RFO shall verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before the issue of any order, and in the case of new or infrequent purchases or payments, the RFO shall ensure that the statutory authority shall be reported to the meeting at which the order is approved so that the Minutes can record the power being used.

11. CONTRACTS

- 11.1. Procedures as to contracts are laid down as follows:
- a. Every contract shall comply with these financial regulations, and no exceptions shall be made otherwise than in an emergency provided that this regulation need not apply to contracts which relate to items (i) to (vi) below:
 - i. for the supply of gas, electricity, water, sewerage and telephone services;
 - ii. for specialist services such as are provided by solicitors, accountants, surveyors and planning consultants;
 - iii. for work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which consist of repairs to or parts for existing machinery or equipment or plant;

- iv. for work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which constitute an extension of an existing contract by the Council;
 - v. for additional audit work of the external Auditor up to an estimated value of £500 (in excess of this sum the Clerk / RFO shall act after consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of council); and
 - vi. for goods or materials proposed to be purchased which are proprietary articles and / or are only sold at a fixed price.
- b. Where it is intended to enter into a contract exceeding [£45,000] in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services other than such goods, materials, works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (a) the Clerk shall invite tenders from at least three firms to be taken from the appropriate approved list.
 - c. When applications are made to waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without competition the reason shall be embodied in a recommendation to the council.
 - d. Such invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Clerk shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases. The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Clerk in the ordinary course of post. Each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract.
 - e. All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Clerk in the presence of at least one member of the Finance Committee.
 - f. If less than three tenders are received for contracts above £45,000 or if all the tenders are identical the council may make such arrangements as it thinks fit for procuring the goods or materials or executing the works.
 - g. Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall be subject to Standing Order[], ⁴ (check)[insert reference of the council's s relevant standing order] and shall refer to the terms of the Bribery Act 2010.
 - h. When it is to enter into a contract of less than [£45,000] in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services other than such goods, materials, works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (a) the Clerk o/RFO shall obtain 3 quotations (priced descriptions of the proposed supply); where the value is below £2,000 and above £100 the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain 3 estimates. Otherwise, Regulation 10 (2) above shall apply.
 - i. The council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.

⁴ Based on NALC's model standing order 18d in Local Councils Explained © 2013 National Association of Local Councils

- j. Should it occur that the council, or duly delegated committee, does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, the work is not allocated and the council requires further pricing, provided that the specification does not change, no person shall be permitted to submit a later tender, estimate or quote who was present when the original decision making process was being undertaken.
- k. The European Union Procurement Directive shall apply and the terms of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 including thresholds shall be followed.

12. ASSETS, PROPERTIES AND ESTATES

- 12.1. The Clerk shall make appropriate arrangements for the custody of all title deeds and Land Registry Certificates of properties held by the council. The RFO shall ensure a record is maintained of all properties held by the council, recording the location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which held in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 12.2. No tangible moveable property shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of, without the authority of the council, together with any other consents required by law, save where the estimated value of any one item of tangible movable property does not exceed £250.
- 12.3. No real property (interests in land) shall be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the council, together with any other consents required by law, In each case a Report in writing shall be provided to council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate).
- 12.4. No real property (interests in land) shall be purchased or acquired without the authority of the full council. In each case a Report in writing shall be provided to council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate).
- 12.5. Subject only to the limit set in Reg. 12.4 above, no tangible moveable property shall be purchased or acquired without the authority of the full council. In each case a Report in writing shall be provided to council with a full business case.

- 12.6. The RFO shall ensure that an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date. The continued existence of tangible assets shown in the Register shall be verified at least annually, possibly in conjunction with a health and safety inspection of assets.

13. INSURANCE

- 13.1. Following the annual risk assessment (per Financial Regulation 14 below), the RFO shall effect all insurances and negotiate all claims on the council's insurers
- 13.2. [The Clerk shall give prompt notification to the Finance Committee of all new risks, properties or vehicles which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.]
- 13.3. The RFO shall keep a record of all insurances effected by the council and the property and risks covered thereby and annually review it.
- 13.4. The RFO shall be notified of any loss liability or damage or of any event likely to lead to a claim, and shall report these to council at the next available meeting.
- 13.5. All appropriate members and employees of the council shall be included in a suitable form of security or fidelity guarantee insurance which shall cover the maximum risk exposure as determined annually]by the council, or duly delegated committee.

14. [CHARITIES

15. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 15.1. The council is responsible for putting in place arrangements for the management of risk. The Clerk shall prepare, for approval by the council, risk management policy statements in respect of all activities of the council. Risk policy statements and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.
- 15.2. When considering any new activity, the Clerk shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration and adoption by the council.

16. SUSPENSION AND REVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

- 16.1. It shall be the duty of the council to review the Financial Regulations of the council from time to time. The Clerk shall make arrangements to monitor changes in legislation or proper

practices and shall advise the council of any requirement for a consequential amendment to these financial regulations.

- 16.2. The council may, by resolution of the council duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of council, suspend any part of these Financial Regulations provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to all members of council.

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Accounts for Payment 09.07.14

Transac		Cheque Number
No:		
1.	Bircham Dyson Bell (HS2 advice and assis petition)	£2,420.00 003305
2.	Zurich Municipal (annual insurance)	£1,565.86 003306
3.	Sage (accounts software)	£279.40 003307
4.	HM Land Registry (office copies Cemetery)	£28.00 003308
5.	Solihull MBC (library – grant s.137)	£140.00 003309
6.	HMRC (NI & PAYE)	£242.90 003310
7.	Status Alarms (call out CCTV fault)	£74.74 003311
8.	Ian Richards (Cemetery extension mowing – June-Aug)	£540.00 003312
9.	Fairways Limited (Xmas tree 2013- invoice not received)	£132.00 003313
10.	B.D.Ball (mowing Cemetery June)	£640.00 003314
11.	247 Glass & Glazing (Notice board glass)	£112.20 003315
12.	Y A Domestic Services (Cemetery making stone memorial safe)	£30.00 003316
13.	Y A Domestic Services (refuse collection play areas June)	£150.00 003316
14.	Viking Direct (stationery)	£73.92 003317
15.	2gee design (website)	£32.30 003318
16.	GNL Handyman services (various DIY materials)	£267.00 003319
17.	B.D.Ball (mowing – cemetery July/Aug & watering planters)	£1360.00 003320

Direct Debits/Standing Orders

18. Information Commissioner (annual data registration)	£35.00
19. West Midland Pension Fund (deficit- payable by standing order)	£83.33
20. West Midlands Pension Fund (June)	£275.02
21. West Midlands Pension Fund (July)	£275.02
22. Mainstream Digital (invoice 620162 – quarterly line rental)	£55.10
23. Mainstream Digital (invoice 620161 – call charges - april)	£3.48
24. Mainstream Digital (invoice 610988 – quarterly internet – feb inv)	£57.56
25. Fortress (Waste removal – Cemetery/recreation grounds June)	£147.00
26. Fortress (Waste removal – Cemetery/recreation grounds July)	£123.70
27. Clerks salary (June)	£
28. Clerks salary (July)	£
29. Mainstream digital (quarterly line rental – May-Aug- inv624935)	£55.98
30. Mainstream digital (quarterly internet – May – Aug – inv 625075)	£57.56

Invoices Raised

Cemetery	£550.00
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Orders Placed

Sage accounts software and training	£
Repair entrance gate at Willow Park	£
Install letterbox and number plaque at office	£
Fill holes in Willow park	£
Install bollard at Cemetery	£
Removal of ragwort at Cemetery	£

Income Received

Clerk – repay working from home allowance – to be put through payroll	£653.20
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