



## **Blaenavon Town Council**

### **List of Standing Orders**

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# **Blaenavon Town Council**

## **Standing Orders 2024/25**

**(Revised April 2024)**

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

- a** 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.
- b** A motion (including an amendment) shall not be progressed unless it has been moved and seconded.
- c** A motion on the agenda that is not moved by its proposer may be treated by the chairman of the meeting as withdrawn.
- d** If a motion (including an amendment) has been seconded, it may be withdrawn by the proposer only with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- e** An amendment is a proposal to remove or add words to a motion. It shall not negate the motion.
- f** If an amendment to the original motion is carried, the original motion becomes the substantive motion upon which further amendment(s) may be moved.
- g** 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.
- h** 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.
- i** 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.

- j 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.
- k 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.
- l A councillor may not move more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion.
- m The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the end of debate on it.
- n 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.
- o Unless permitted by the chairman of the meeting, a councillor may speak once in the debate on a motion except:
  - i. To speak on an amendment moved by another councillor.
  - ii. To move or speak on another amendment if the motion has been amended since he last spoke.
  - iii. To make a point of order.
  - iv. To give a personal explanation; or
  - v. In exercise of a right of reply.
- p 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.
- q A point of order shall be decided by the chairman of the meeting and his decision shall be final.
- r When a motion is under debate, no other motion shall be moved except:
  - i. To amend the motion.
  - ii. To proceed to the next business.
  - iii. To adjourn the debate.
  - iv. To put the motion to a vote



- v. To ask a person to be no longer heard or to leave the meeting.
- vi. To refer a motion to a committee or sub-committee for consideration.
- vii. To exclude the public and press
- viii. To adjourn the meeting; or
- ix. To suspend standing order(s) excepting those which reflect mandatory statutory requirements.

- s 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.
- t 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 (5) minutes without the consent of the chairman of the meeting.

## 2. **Disorderly Conduct at Meetings.**

- a 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.
- b 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.
- c 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**      **Statutory Requirement** ■

Blaenavon Town Council meetings shall be held at 6:30pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, unless the council otherwise decides at a previous meeting. Meetings shall not exceed two hours.

All meetings will be held in the Council Chamber at 101, High Street, Blaenavon. NP4 9PT

The Council Finance meeting which is held on the second Wednesday of each month will be

chaired by the Deputy Mayor of the Council.

### **Notices of Meetings**

- i. The notice (including how the meeting may be accessed virtually, if applicable) must be published electronically and in a conspicuous place in the community at least three clear days before the meeting, or if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, at the time it is convened.
- ii. If a member wants to receive the summons in writing rather than electronically to the address allocated to them or notified as their address to the Chief Officer, they must give notice in writing to the Chief Officer and specify the postal address to which the summons should be sent.
- iii. The notice must provide details about how to access the meeting remotely, and the time and place of the meeting. **The place may be omitted if the meeting is held by remote means only.**
- iv. In exceptional circumstances, a meeting of a committee or sub-committee of the Council may be called at shorter notice. In which case, notices should be published with at least 24 hours' notice.

These notice requirements also apply where a formal meeting is taking place which is not open to the public.

### **Multi-Location Meetings**

- i. Blaenavon Town Council will make and publish arrangements for its meetings to enable people who are not in the same place to meet. Under the arrangements, the council will take reasonable steps to allow meetings to be held from multiple locations. If the arrangements are revised or replaced the new arrangements will also be published.
- ii. The minimum requirement is that members are able to hear and be heard by others.
- iii. Members and visitors who attend meetings virtually, must at all times have their camera facility turned on unless it is not reasonably practicable to do so.

### **Meetings Generally – Other.**

- a. **The minimum three clear days for notice for 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. ■**
- b. **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 OR the minimum three clear days' public notice of a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued or the day of the meeting. ■

- c. Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest due to 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. (See below) ■

"By virtue of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussions on the following items on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted"

- d. The person presiding over the meeting must give members of the public in attendance a reasonable opportunity to make representations about any business to be discussed at the meeting, unless doing so is likely to prejudice the effective conduct of the meeting.
- e. This does not mean that members of the public can take part in debate, but they must be given a reasonable opportunity to make representations about business to be discussed.
- f. The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(d) above shall not exceed (10) minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.
- g. Subject to standing order 3(e) above, a member of the public shall not speak for more than (5) minutes.
- h. In accordance with standing order 3(d) above, a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
- i. A person shall raise their hand when requesting to speak in person. This will also apply to persons who are attending the meeting virtually using electronic means. The chair will then authorise the person to speak.
- j. A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct their comments to the chair of the meeting.
- k. Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wants to speak, the chair of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking.

- l. Photographing, recording, broadcasting, or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's prior written consent. ■**
- m. 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. ■**
- n. Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Mayor of the Council may in their absence be done by, to or before the Mayor of the Council. ■**
- o. The Mayor of the Council, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Mayor is absent from a meeting, the Deputy Mayor if present, shall preside. If both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are absent from a meeting, a councillor as chosen by the councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting. ■**
- p. Subject to a meeting being quorate, this will be one third or four councillors present, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the councillors with voting rights present and voting. ■**
- q. The chair 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 their casting vote whether or not they gave an original vote. ■**

See standing orders 5(h) and (i) for the different rules that apply in the election of the Mayor of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council.

- r. 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 their vote for or against that question. Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda. ■**
- s. The minutes of a meeting shall include an accurate record of the following:**
  - i. the time and place of the meeting.**
  - ii. the names of councillors who are present and the names of councillors who are absent.**
  - iii. interests that have been declared by councillors and non-councillors with voting rights.**
  - iv. the grant of dispensations (if any) to councillors and non-councillors with voting**



rights.

- v. whether a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered.
- vi. if there was a public participation session; and
- vii. the resolutions made.
- t. **A councillor or a non-councillor with voting rights who has a personal or prejudicial interest in a matter being considered at a meeting which limits or restricts their right to participate in a discussion or vote on that matter is subject to obligations in the code of conduct adopted by the Council. ■**
- u. **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 all committees*

- v. **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. ■
- w. A meeting shall not exceed a period of (2) hours.
- x. The digital tape recording of council meetings is allowed to facilitate the accuracy of minutes. Once the minutes have been approved and signed as an accurate record of proceedings, the recording of each meeting will be erased in line with the safe storage of information.
- y. If a councillor needs to leave a meeting prior to its conclusion, then this should be brought to the attention of the Chairman stating the reason to be excused

#### **4. Committees and Sub-Committees.**

- a **Unless the council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by the committee.**
- b **The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the council.**
- c **Unless the council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee**



**and a sub-committee of the advisory committee may be non-councillors.**

- d** The council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, and:
- i.** Shall determine their terms of reference.
  - ii.** 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.
  - iii.** Shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings.
  - iv.** Shall, subject to standing orders **4(b) and (c)** above, appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee.
  - v.** May, subject to standing orders **4(b) and (c)** 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 **(7)** days before the meeting that they are unable to attend.
  - vi.** Shall, after it has appointed the members of a standing committee, appoint the chairman of the standing committee.
  - vii.** Shall permit a committee other than a standing committee, to appoint its own chairman at the first meeting of the committee.
  - viii.** Shall determine the place, notice requirements and quorum for a meeting of a committee and a sub-committee which shall be one third or four councillors not less than three.
  - ix.** Shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a committee.
  - x.** Shall determine if the public and press are permitted to attend the meetings of a sub-committee and the advance public notice requirements, if any, required for the meetings of a sub-committee.
  - xi.** Shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a sub-committee that they are permitted to attend; and
  - xii.** May dissolve a committee or sub - committee.

**5. Ordinary Council Meetings.**

- a 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. ■
- b 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. ■
- c If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the council shall take place at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber at 101, High Street, Blaenavon. NP4 9PT. ■
- d In addition to the annual meeting of the council, any number of other ordinary meetings may be held in each year on such dates and times as the council may direct. ■
- e The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the council shall be the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Council. ■
- f The Mayor of the Council, unless they have resigned or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office, and preside at the annual meeting until their successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the council. ■
- g The Deputy Mayor of the Council, if any, unless they resign or becomes disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Mayor of the Council at the next annual meeting of the council. ■
- h In an election year, if the current Mayor of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the council, they shall preside at the meeting until a successor Mayor of the Council has been elected. The current Mayor of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Mayor of the Council but must give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes. ■
- i In an election year, if the current Mayor of the Council has been re-elected as a member of the council, they shall preside at the meeting until a new Mayor of the Council has been elected. They may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Mayor of the Council and must give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes. ■
- j Following the election of the Mayor of the Council and Deputy Mayor of the Council at the annual meeting of the council, the business of the annual meeting may include:
  - i. In an election year, delivery by the Mayor 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 Mayor of the Council of their acceptance of office form unless the council resolves for



**this to be done at a later date. ■**

- ii.** Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the council.
- iii.** Receipt of the minutes of the last meeting of a committee.
- iv.** Consideration of the recommendations made by a committee.
- v.** Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff, and other local authorities.
- vi.** Review of the terms of reference for committees.
- vii.** Appointment of members to outside bodies / committees
- viii.** Appointment of any new committees in accordance with standing order 4 above.
- ix.** Review and adoption of the council's standing orders and financial regulations.
- x.** Review of the eligibility criteria for the use of the general power of competence
- xi.** Review and adoption of the council's annual report
- xii.** Review and adoption of the council's training plan
- xiii.** Review of arrangements, including any charters and agency agreements, with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies, and businesses.
- xiv.** Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back.
- xv.** Review of inventory of land and assets including buildings and office equipment.
- xvi.** Review of the council's risk assessment schedule.
- xvii.** Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks.
- xviii.** Review of the council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies namely One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks.
- xix.** Review of the council's complaints procedure.
- xx.** Review the pay and conditions of service of existing employees.
- xxi.** Review of the Council's policies, procedures, and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (*see also* standing orders 11, 20 and 21)

**xxii.** Review of the council's policy for dealing with the press / media.

**xxiii.** Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972

**xxiv.** 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, Committees and Sub - Committees**

- a** The Mayor of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.
- b** If the Mayor of the Council does not call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within seven days of having been requested in writing to do so by two councillors, any two councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The public notice giving the time, place, and agenda for such a meeting shall be signed by the two councillors.
- c** The chair of a committee or a sub-committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee or the sub-committee at any time.
- d** If the chair of a committee or a sub-committee does not call an extraordinary meeting within (7) days of having been requested to do so by (2) members of the committee or the sub-committee, any (2) members of the committee or the sub-committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee or the sub-committee

**7. Previous Resolutions.**

- a** A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least (4) 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.

When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 7(a) above has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further six months.

**8. Voting on Appointments.**

- a** 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.**

- a** 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.
- b** No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least (7) clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.
- c** 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.
- d** If the Proper Officer considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 9(b) 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 (7) clear days before the meeting.
- e** 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 the councillors who have convened the meeting, to consider whether the motion shall be included in the agenda or rejected.
- f** The decision of the Proper Officer as to whether to include the motion on the agenda shall be final.
- g** Motions received shall be recorded in a book for that purpose and numbered in the order that they are received.
- h** Motions rejected shall be recorded in a book for that purpose with an explanation by the Proper Officer for their rejection.

**10. Motions at a meeting that do not require written notice.**

- a** The following motions may be moved at a meeting without written notice to the Proper Officer.
  - i.** To correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of a meeting
  - ii.** To move to a vote.
  - iii.** To defer consideration of a motion.
  - iv.** To refer a motion to a particular committee or sub-committee.

- v. To appoint a person to preside at a meeting.
- vi. To change the order of business on the agenda
- vii. To proceed to the next business on the agenda
- viii. To require a written report
- ix. To appoint a committee or sub-committee and their members
- x. To extend the time limits for speaking
- xi. To exclude the press and public from a meeting in respect of confidential or sensitive information which is prejudicial to the public interest
- xii. To not hear further from a councillor or a member of the public
- xiii. To exclude a councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct
- xiv. To temporarily suspend the meeting
- xv. To suspend a particular standing order (unless it reflects mandatory statutory requirements)
- xvi. To adjourn the meeting; or
- xvii. To close a meeting.

## 11. **Management of Information**

**See also standing order 20.**

- a The Council shall have in place and keep under review, technical and organisational measures to keep secure information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. Such arrangements shall include deciding who has access to personal data and encryption of personal data. Such data will include recordings of meetings held by the Council.
- b The Council shall have in place, and keep under review, policies for the retention and safe destruction of all information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. The Council's retention policy shall confirm the period for which information (including personal data) shall be retained or if this is not possible the criteria used to determine that period (e.g. the Limitation Act 1980).
- c The agenda, papers that support the agenda and the minutes of a meeting shall not disclose or otherwise undermine confidential information or personal data without legal justification.



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

**12. Draft Minutes.**

- a 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.
- b 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(a)(i)** above.
- c 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.
- d 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."**

- e Subject to standing order **20(a)** and following a resolution which confirms the accuracy of the minutes of a meeting, the draft minutes, or recordings of the meeting for which approved minutes exist shall be destroyed.
- f **No later than seven working days of a council meeting, the council must publish electronically a note setting out:**
- The names of the members who attended the meeting, and any apologies for absence.
  - Any declarations of interest; and
  - Any decisions taken at the meeting, including the outcomes of any votes.

The requirements regarding the note to be published after a council meeting do not apply for private business or where disclosure would be detrimental to acting on those decisions.

**13. Code of Conduct and Dispensations.**

**See also standing order 3(s) above.**

- a **Councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the council.**
- b All councillors shall undertake training in the code of conduct within six months of the delivery of their acceptance of office form.
- c **Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the standards committee of the County Borough** as soon as possible before the meeting that the dispensation is required for.

#### **14. Code of Conduct Complaints.**

- a Upon notification by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales 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 13, report this to the Council.
- b Where the notification in standing order 14(a) relates to a complaint made by the Proper Officer, the Proper Officer shall notify the Mayor of Council of this fact, and the Mayor shall nominate another staff member to assume the duties of the Proper Officer in relation to the complaint until it has been determined.
- c The Council may:
  - i. provide information or evidence where such disclosure is necessary to investigate the complaint or is a legal requirement.
  - ii. seek information relevant to the complaint from the person or body with statutory responsibility for investigation of the matter.
  - iii. indemnify the councillor or non-councillor with voting rights in respect of their related legal costs and any such indemnity is subject to approval by a meeting of the Council.

#### **15. Proper Officer.**

- a The Proper Officer shall be either (i) the Chief Officer or (ii) other staff member(s) nominated by the Council to undertake the work of the Proper Officer when the Proper Officer is absent.
  - i. The Proper Officer shall **at least three clear days before a meeting of the council, a committee, or a sub-committee:**
    - a) Arrange for the serving of the notice (including how the meeting may be accessed virtually, (if applicable) which must be published electronically and in a conspicuous place in the community at least three clear days before the meeting, or if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, at the time it is convened.
    - b) If a member wants to receive the summons in writing rather than electronically, they must give notice in writing to the Chief Officer and specify the postal address to which the summons should be sent.



c) The notice must provide details about how to access the meeting remotely , and the time and place of the meeting. The place may be omitted if the meeting is held by remote means only.

d) The notice must be available in a conspicuous place giving notice of the time, place and agenda (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the Council convened by councillors is signed by them) and published electronically with notice of the time and place and, as far as reasonably practicable, any documents relating to the business to be transacted at the meeting unless they relate to business which is likely to be considered in private or if their disclosure would be contrary to any enactment.

See standing order **3 (a) and (b) (Meetings Generally - Other)** for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a full council and for a meeting of a committee.

- ii. subject to standing order **9**, include on the agenda all motions in the order received unless a councillor has given written notice at least ( **7** ) days before the meeting confirming their withdrawal of it.
- iii. **convene a meeting of Council for the election of a new Mayor of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in their office.**
- iv. **facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors.**
- v. **receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities.**
- vi. hold acceptance of office forms from councillors.
- vii. hold a copy of every councillor's register of interests where the Council has resolved to require councillors to declare interests upfront.
- viii. assist with responding to requests made under freedom of information legislation and rights exercisable under data protection legislation, in accordance with the Council's relevant policies and procedures.
- ix. liaise, as appropriate, with the Council's Data Protection Officer (if there is one).
- x. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary.
- xi. assist in the organisation of, storage of, access to, security of and destruction of information held by the Council in paper and electronic form subject to the requirements of freedom of information and data protection legislation and other legitimate requirements (e.g., the Limitation Act 1980).
- xii. arrange for legal deeds to be executed.

**See also standing order **23**.**

- xiii. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with its financial regulations.

- xiv. record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council's response to the local planning authority in a book or file for such purpose.
- xv. refer a planning application received by the Council to the Mayor or in their absence the Deputy Mayor of the Council] within two 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 Council
- xvi. manage access to information about the Council via the publication scheme; and
- xvii. retain custody of the seal of the Council which shall not be used without a resolution to that effect.

See also standing order 23.

#### 16. **Responsible Financial Officer.**

- a 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.**

- a "Proper practices" in standing orders refer to the most recent version of **Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales – A Practitioners' Guide**.
- b All payments by the council shall be authorised, approved, and paid in accordance with the law, proper practices, and the council's financial regulations.
- c 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:
  - i. The council's receipts and payments for each quarter.
  - ii. The council's aggregate receipts and payments for the year to date.
  - iii. The balances held at the end of the quarter being reported which also includes, a comparison with the budget for the financial year and highlights any actual or potential overspends.
- d As soon as possible after the financial year end at 31 March, the Responsible Financial Officer shall provide:
  - i. Each councillor with a statement summarising the council's **(receipts and payments or income and expenditure)** for the last quarter and the year to date for information; and
  - ii. To the Full Council the accounting statements for the year in the form of Section 2 of the annual return, as required by proper practices, for consideration and approval.



- e 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 governance and accountability return shall be presented to all councillors at least 14 days prior to the anticipated approval by the council. The annual governance and accountability return of the council, which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to council for consideration and formal approval before 30 June.

## **18. Financial Controls and Procurement.**

- a 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:
  - i. The keeping of accounting records and systems of internal controls.
  - ii. The assessment and management of financial risks faced by the council
  - iii. 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 six monthly and at least annually.
  - iv. The inspection and copying by councillors and local electors of the council's accounts and/or orders of payments; and
  - v. Whether contracts with an estimated value below **£25,000** due to special circumstances are exempt from a tendering process or procurement exercise.
- b Financial regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for fitness of purpose by the Full Council.
- c A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of **£25,000** but less than the relevant thresholds referred to in standing order **18(f)** is subject to the "light touch" arrangements under Regulations 109-114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 unless it proposes to use an existing list of approved suppliers (framework agreement).
- d 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:
  - i. A specification for the goods, materials, services, or the execution of works shall be drawn up.

- ii. 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.
  - iii. The invitation to tender shall be advertised in a local newspaper and in any other manner that is appropriate.
  - iv. Tenders are to be submitted in writing in a sealed marked envelope addressed to the Proper Officer.
  - v. Tenders shall be opened by the Proper Officer in the presence of at least one councillor after the deadline for submission of tenders has passed.
  - vi. Tenders are to be reported to and considered by the appropriate meeting of the council or a committee or sub-committee with delegated responsibility.
- e Neither the council, nor a committee or a sub-committee with delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound to accept the lowest value tender.
- f. **Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed the threshold specified by the Office of Government Commerce from time to time, the Council must consider whether the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 apply to the contract and, if either of those Regulations apply, the Council must comply with procurement rules. OVW can supply Council's with further information in this regard.**

**19. Handling Staff Matters.**

- a A matter personal to a member of staff that is being considered by a meeting of the council is subject to standing order 11 above.
- b Subject to the council's policy regarding absences from work, the council's most senior member of staff shall notify the Mayor or in their absence the Deputy Mayor of the absence occasioned by illness or other reason and that person shall report such absence to the Full Council at its next meeting.
- c The Mayor or in their absence, the Deputy Mayor shall upon a resolution conduct a review of the performance and annual appraisal of the work of the Chief Officer / Responsible Financial Officer. The reviews and appraisal shall be reported in writing and is subject to approval by the Full Council.
- d Subject to the council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the council's most senior member of staff shall contact the Mayor or in their absence, the Deputy Mayor in respect of an informal or formal grievance matter, and this matter shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the Full Council



- e Subject to the council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter raised by the Chief Officer relates to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor this shall be communicated to another Council member which shall be reported back and progressed by the Council's discipline and staffing panel.
- f 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.
- g 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.
- h Only persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to staff records referred to in standing orders **19(f) and (g)** above if so justified.
- i Access and means of access by keys and/or computer passwords to records of employment referred to in standing orders **19(f) and (g)** above shall be provided only to (post holder) and/or the Mayor of the Council

**20. Responsibilities to provide information.**

**See also standing order 21.**

- a In accordance with freedom of information legislation, the Council shall publish information in accordance with its publication scheme and respond to requests for information held by the Council.

**21. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

**See also standing order 11.**

- a The Council may appoint a Data Protection Officer.
- b The Council shall have policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning his personal data.
- c The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.
- d The Council shall keep a record of all personal data breaches comprising the facts relating to the personal data breach, its effects and the remedial action taken.
- e The Council shall ensure that information communicated in its privacy notice(s) is in an easily accessible and available form and kept up to date.
- f The Council shall maintain a written record of its processing activities.

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

- a Requests from the press or other media for an oral or written comment or statement from the Council, its councillors or staff shall be handled in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media.

**23. Execution and sealing of legal deeds.**

*See also standing orders 15(a)(xii) and (xvii) above.*

- a A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the council unless authorised by a resolution.
- b [Subject to standing order 23(a) above, the council's common seal shall alone be used for sealing a deed required by law. It shall be applied by the Proper Officer in the presence of two councillors who shall sign the deed as witnesses.]

*The above is applicable to a council with a common seal.*

OR

[Subject to standing order 23(a) 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.*

**24. Communicating with County Borough and Councillors.**

- a An invitation to attend a meeting of the council shall be sent, together with the agenda, to the ward councillor(s) of the County Borough representing the area of the council.
- b Unless the council determines otherwise, a copy of each letter sent to the County Borough shall be sent to the ward councillor(s) representing the area of the council.

**25. Restrictions on Councillor Activities.**

- a. Unless duly authorised no councillor shall:
  - i. Inspect any land and/or premises which the council has a right or duty to inspect; or
  - ii. Issue orders, instructions, or directions to the Proper Officer of the Council

**26. Standing Orders Generally.**

- a 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.

- b** 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.
- c** 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.
- d** The decision of the Mayor in relation to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.

**Resolved to accept the amended Standing Orders submitted to the Council on the 1st of May 2024.**

Signed by Mayor: 

Signed by Proper Officer:



**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2024**

