

Market Lavington Parish Council Standing Orders  
Approved at Parish Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Key:**

Matters that are detailed in **bold** contain statutory requirements

Matters detailed in **red** are specific to Market Lavington Parish Council

**Notes:**

All gender specific terms used within the document are to be considered to refer to both male and female

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Rules of debate at meetings</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>b A motion (including an amendment) shall not be progressed unless it has been moved and seconded.</p> <p>c A motion on the agenda that is not moved by its proposer may be treated by the chairman of the meeting as withdrawn.</p> <p>d If a motion (including an amendment) has been seconded, it may be withdrawn by the proposer only with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.</p> <p>e An amendment is a proposal to remove or add words to a motion. It shall not negate the motion.</p> <p>f If an amendment to the original motion is carried, the original motion ceases, and the amended motion becomes the substantive motion upon which further amendment(s) may be moved.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>l A councillor may not move more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion.</p> <p>m The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the end of debate on it.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>o Unless permitted by the chairman of the meeting, a councillor may speak once in the debate on a motion except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. to speak on an amendment moved by another councillor;</li><li>ii. to move or speak on another amendment if the motion has been amended since he last spoke;</li><li>iii. to make a point of order;</li><li>iv. to give a personal explanation; or</li><li>v. in exercise of a right of reply.</li></ul> <p>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</p>
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	<p>by.</p> <p>q A point of order shall be decided by the chairman of the meeting and his decision shall be final.</p> <p>r When a motion is under debate, no other motion shall be moved except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. to amend the motion;</li> <li>ii. to proceed to the next business;</li> <li>iii. to adjourn the debate;</li> <li>iv. to put the motion to a vote;</li> <li>v. to ask a person to be no longer heard or to leave the meeting;</li> <li>vi. to refer a motion to a committee or sub-committee for consideration;</li> <li>vii. to exclude the public and press;</li> <li>viii. to adjourn the meeting; or</li> <li>ix. to suspend particular standing order(s) excepting those which reflect mandatory statutory requirements.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Disorderly conduct at meetings</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Meetings generally</b></p> <p>a <b>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. Market Lavington Parish Council meetings will be held in the Old School, Church Street, Market Lavington.</b></p> <p>b <b>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. The Clerk will consult with the Chairman and prepare the agenda for the Full Parish Council meeting, or with the Committee Chairman for Committee meetings.</b></p> <p>c <b>Meetings shall be open to the public and press 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 or press's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for their exclusion.</b></p> <p>d Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a</p>

meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.

- e The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(d) above shall not exceed **five minutes for each adjournment** unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. **There will be two adjournments during the meeting, the first to allow comments and questions on agenda items only and the second to refer to any parish matter. The public participation does not form part of the meeting and hence, will not be part of the minutes. If it is felt necessary, the matter being raised will then be included as an agenda item for the next full Parish Council meeting for further discussion.**
- f 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 chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
- g A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct his comments to the chairman of the meeting.
- h 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.
- i **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.**
- j The amended Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 wef. 6/8/14 provides that a person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if he is present at the meeting of a Parish Council or its committees but otherwise may:
- Film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting
  - Use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place, or later
  - Report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting or orally report or comment after the meeting
- k **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.**
- l **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.**
- m **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.**
- n **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(h) and (i) below for the different rules that apply in the election of the Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting of the council.*
- o **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.
- p The minutes of a meeting shall **be taken by the Clerk (in the absence of the Clerk, a suitable deputy shall be appointed by the Chairman).** The minutes will include an accurate record of the following:
- i. the time and place of the meeting;
  - ii. the names of councillors present and absent;
  - iii. interests that have been declared by councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
  - iv. whether a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered;

- v. if there was a public participation session; and
- vi. the resolutions made.

q **A councillor or a non-councillor with voting rights who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest as set out in the council's code of conduct in a matter being considered at a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or restrictions under the code on his right to participate and vote on that matter.**

r **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. Five councillors of Market Lavington Parish Council shall constitute a quorum.**

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

s **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.

t All councillors are expected to attend the meetings.

u In the case of unavoidable absence, the councillor is to tender their apology either to the Clerk or the Chairman, as soon as possible, in any event before the meeting. Councillors who do not tender their apologies will be deemed to be absent. If a councillor fails to attend a meeting for a period of six consecutive months, they shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the council before the expiry of the period, cease to be a councillor.

#### 4 **Committees, sub-committees and advisory committees (working group)**

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. For Market Lavington Parish Council this is the 'Management & Finance' committee.**

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 committees, sub-committees or advisory committees as may be necessary, and:

- i. shall determine their terms of reference;
- ii. shall, after it has appointed the members of the 'Management & Finance' committee, appoint the chairman of that committee;
- iii. shall permit a committee other than the 'Management & Finance' committee, to appoint its own chairman at the first meeting of the committee;
- iv. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a committee;
- v. 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;
- vi. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a sub-committee that they are permitted to attend;
- vii. may dissolve a committee; and
- viii. a quorum for any type of committee shall be no less than three councillors

e **Arrangements for reporting/circulating committee minutes –**

- i. Clerk to circulate draft committee minutes to all councillors with the agenda papers for the following Parish Council meeting.
- ii. The item on the full Parish Council agenda – 'to note the unapproved minutes, ask any questions arising from the minutes, and (where necessary) consider approval of any recommendations' (all recommendations to be individually listed for committees with no

executive powers).

- f Regulation 3 of The Parish and Community Councils (Committees) Regulations 1990 (SI 1990/2476) confirms that non-councillor members of committees and sub-committees have voting rights in respect of:
- the management of land owned or occupied by the council;
  - any function under s. 144 of the 1972 Act relating to the promotion of tourism; and
  - any function under s. 145 of the 1972 Act relating to the management of a festival.
- The term “management” does not include making decisions about the total amount of money which may be spent by the council in a financial year in respect of land or a festival.

**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 6pm. All Market Lavington Parish Council meetings will start at 7.15pm, unless otherwise notified.
- d 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. Market Lavington full Parish Council will meet on the third Tuesday of every month (except August).
- e The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the council shall be the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council.
- f The Chairman of the Council, unless he has resigned or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the annual meeting until his successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the council.
- g The Vice-Chairman of the Council, if any, unless he resigns or becomes disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chairman of the Council at the next annual meeting of the council.
- h In an election year, if the current Chairman of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the council, he shall preside at the meeting until a successor Chairman of the Council has been elected. The current Chairman of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chairman of the Council but must give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.
- i In an election year, if the current Chairman of the Council has been re-elected as a member of the council, he shall preside at the meeting until a new Chairman of the Council has been elected. He may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chairman of the Council and must give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.
- j Following the election of the Chairman of the Council and Vice-Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting of the council, the business of the annual meeting shall include:
- i. In an election year, delivery by the Chairman and Vice-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 and Vice-Chairman of the Council of his 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;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v. Review of the terms of reference for committees;</li> <li>vi. Appointment of members to existing committees;</li> <li>vii. Appointment of any new committees in accordance with standing order 4 above;</li> <li>viii. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations <b>Full comprehensive review carried out bi-annually, basic overview undertaken in the interim year;</b></li> <li>ix. 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;</li> <li>x. Review of inventory of land and assets including buildings and office equipment;</li> <li>xi. Review of the council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;</li> <li>xii. Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the full council up to and including the next annual meeting of full council.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Extraordinary meetings of the Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a <b>The Chairman of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the council at any time.</b></li> <li>b <b>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.</b></li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Previous resolutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least <b>two</b> 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.</li> <li>b 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.</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Voting on appointments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Motions for a meeting that require written notice to be given to the Proper Officer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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 <b>ten</b> clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

	<p>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 <b>eight</b> clear days before the meeting.</p> <p>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, 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.</p> <p>f 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.</p> <p>g Motions received shall be recorded in a book for that purpose and numbered in the order that they are received.</p> <p>h Motions rejected shall be recorded in a book for that purpose with an explanation by the Proper Officer for their rejection.</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Motions at a meeting that do not require written notice</b></p> <p>a The following motions may be moved at a meeting without written notice to the Proper Officer;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of a meeting;</li> <li>ii. to move to a vote;</li> <li>iii. to defer consideration of a motion;</li> <li>iv. to refer a motion to a particular committee or sub-committee;</li> <li>v. to appoint a person to preside at a meeting;</li> <li>vi. to change the order of business on the agenda;</li> <li>vii. to proceed to the next business on the agenda;</li> <li>viii. to require a written report;</li> <li>ix. to appoint a committee or sub-committee and their members;</li> <li>x. to extend the time limits for speaking;</li> <li>xi. to exclude the press and public from a meeting in respect of confidential or sensitive information which is prejudicial to the public interest;</li> <li>xii. to not hear further from a councillor or a member of the public;</li> <li>xiii. to exclude a councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct;</li> <li>xiv. to temporarily suspend the meeting;</li> <li>xv. to suspend a particular standing order (unless it reflects mandatory statutory requirements);</li> <li>xvi. to adjourn the meeting; or</li> <li>xvii. to close a meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Handling confidential or sensitive information</b></p> <p>a 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.</p> <p>b Councillors and staff shall not disclose confidential or sensitive information which for special reasons would not be in the public interest.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Draft minutes</b></p> <p>a If the draft minutes of a preceding meeting have been served on councillors with the</p>

	<p>agenda to attend the meeting at which they are due to be approved for accuracy, they shall be taken as read.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>e 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.</p>
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Code of conduct and dispensations</b></p> <p><i>See also standing order 3(q) above.</i></p> <p>a All councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the council.</p> <p>b 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.</p> <p>c 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.</p> <p>d <b>Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Proper Officer. Please refer to Market Lavington Parish Council’s Policy for considering Dispensation Requests</b></p> <p>e <b>A dispensation may be granted in accordance with standing order 13(d) above if having regard to all relevant circumstances the following applies:</b></p> <p>iii. <b>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></p> <p>iv. <b>granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the council’s area or</b></p> <p>v. <b>it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.</b></p>
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Code of conduct complaints</b></p> <p>a <b>Any allegation of breaches of the code of conduct or other inappropriate behaviour concerning a councillor, non-councillor with voting rights, or employee shall be referred to the Chairman, who will select one appropriate Parish Councillor to sit with him and the Clerk to consider the breach, and recommend appropriate action. Pending such action, alleged breaches will remain confidential.</b></p> <p>b Upon notification by Wiltshire Council that it is dealing with a complaint that a councillor or</p>



	<p>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.</p> <p>c Where the notification in standing order 14(b) 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 <b>a Councillor</b> 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(d) below.</p> <p>d The council may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. provide information or evidence where such disclosure is necessary to progress an investigation of the complaint or is required by law;</li> <li>ii. seek information relevant to the complaint from the person or body with statutory responsibility for investigation of the matter;</li> </ul> <p>e <b>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.</b></p>
15	<p><b>Proper Officer</b></p> <p>a <b>The Clerk is the Proper Officer for Market Lavington Parish Council.</b></p> <p>b The Proper Officer shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. at least three clear days before a meeting of the council, a committee and a sub-committee serve on councillors a summons, by email, confirming the time, place and the agenda provided any such email contains the electronic signature and title of the Proper Officer. <b>The Clerk will provide a hard copy of the agenda for all Councillors, at every Parish Council meeting.</b> <i>See standing order 3(b) above for the meaning of clear days for a meeting .</i></li> <li>ii. <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); A copy of the agenda will be placed on the notice board in the Market Place and on the village website.</b></li> <li>iii. 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 <b>eight</b> days before the meeting confirming his withdrawal of it;</li> <li>iv. <b>convene a meeting of full council for the election of a new Chairman of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his office;</b></li> <li>v. facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors;</li> <li>vi. <b>receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities;</b></li> <li>vii. retain acceptance of office forms from councillors;</li> <li>viii. 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;</li> <li>ix. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the council except where there is a resolution to the contrary;</li> <li>x. manage the organisation, storage of, access to and destruction of information held by the council in paper and electronic form;</li> <li>xi. arrange for legal deeds to be executed; <i>See also standing order 22 below.</i></li> <li>xii. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any</li> </ul>

	<p>payments to be made by the council in accordance with the council's financial regulations;</p> <p>xiii. record every planning application notified to the council and the council's response to the local planning authority <b>in the minutes</b>;</p> <p>xiv. refer a planning application received by the council to the <b>Chairman of the Planning Committee</b> within two working days of receipt and <b>arrange a Planning meeting immediately before the next full Parish Council meeting if instructed by the Planning Committee Chairman (a request for extension of time in order to consider any planning application should be submitted to the assigned Planning Officer if necessary)</b>; and</p> <p>xv. manage access to information about the council via the publication scheme</p>
<b>16</b>	<p><b>Responsible Financial Officer</b></p> <p>The Clerk is the Responsible Financial Officer for Market Lavington Parish Council. Please refer to the Parish Council's Financial Regulations for further information concerning this role.</p>
<b>17</b>	<p><b>Accounts and accounting statements</b></p> <p>Please refer to the Parish Council's Financial Regulations.</p>
<b>18</b>	<p><b>Financial controls and procurement</b></p> <p>Please refer to the Parish Council's Financial Regulations.</p>
<b>19</b>	<p><b>Handling staff matters</b></p> <p>a A matter personal to a member of staff that is being considered by a meeting of council OR the <b>Management &amp; Finance</b> committee is subject to standing order 11 above.</p> <p>b <b>Staff matters to be addressed by the Management &amp; Finance committee in the first instance, and then referred to a Full Parish Council meeting for approval or further discussion of any unresolved issue.</b></p> <p>c 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.</p> <p>d The council shall keep all written records relating to employees secure. All paper records shall be secured and locked.</p> <p>e Only persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to staff records referred to in standing orders 19(c) and (d) above if so justified.</p> <p>f Access and means of access by keys to records of employment referred to in standing orders 19(c) and (d) above shall be provided only to <b>the Clerk, Chairman of the Parish Council, or Chairman of the Management &amp; Finance committee.</b></p>
<b>20</b>	<p><b>Requests for information</b></p> <p>a 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.</p> <p>b Correspondence from, and notices served by, the Information Commissioner shall be referred by the Proper Officer to the chairman of the <b>Management &amp; Finance</b> committee. The said committee shall have the power to do anything to facilitate compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</p> <p>c <b>Information available from Market Lavington Parish Council, and by what method it can be obtained, (any costs etc.) is detailed in the Council's 'Model Publication Scheme' document.</b></p>

<b>21</b>	<p><b>Relations with the press/media</b></p> <p>a Requests from the press or other media for an oral or written comment or statement from the Council, its councillors or staff shall <b>not be made without first consulting with the Parish Council Chairman or his deputy.</b></p>
<b>22</b>	<p><b>Execution and sealing of legal deeds</b></p> <p><i>See also standing orders 15(b)(xi) above.</i></p> <p>a A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the council unless authorised by a resolution.</p> <p>b <b>Subject to standing order 22(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.</b></p>
<b>23</b>	<p><b>Communicating with Unitary Councillor who represents the Parish</b></p> <p>a An invitation to attend a meeting of the council shall be sent, together with the agenda, <b>and minutes of the last meeting</b> to ward councillor(s) of the Unitary Council representing the area of the council.</p> <p>b Unless the council determines otherwise, a copy of each letter sent to the Unitary Council shall be sent to the ward councillor(s) representing the area of the council.</p>
<b>24</b>	<p><b>Restriction on councillor activities</b></p> <p>a. Unless authorised by a resolution, no councillor shall:</p> <p>i. inspect any land and/or premises which the council has a right or duty to inspect; or</p> <p>ii. issue orders, instructions or directions.</p>
<b>25</b>	<p><b>Standing orders generally</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 <b>two</b> councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9 above.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>d The decision of the chairman of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.</p>

**Review of Standing Orders:** Full comprehensive review of Standing Orders to be undertaken bi-annually by the Management & Finance Committee, and submitted to full council for consideration of approval. In the interim year a basic overview of the Standing Orders will be undertaken to ensure they incorporate any changes in legislation that have been published during the year.

**Date next full comprehensive review of Standing Orders due:** June 2019

<b>Date of meeting at which any amendment to document approved</b>	<b>Details of amendment</b>
18/7/2017 17/18-85	Wording of paragraph 1f amended
