

# **Meeting of South Leverton Council**

Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022, 6:00pm, South Leverton Memorial Institute

Members of the public are entitled to be at the following meeting Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 Section 1 extended by the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100 unless precluded by the Parish Council by resolution during whole or part of the proceedings. Such entitlement does not however include the right to speak on any matter except during the meeting adjournment for public forum. As issues raised during the public session may not relate to items on the agenda, no resolution for action can be taken. Notice to attend given by *Ed Knox* Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer the Parish Council. All Members of the Council are summoned to attend for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the proposed business transacted at the meeting as set out in the agenda below:

## **AGENDA**

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence
2. To Record Declarations of Interest in any item to be discussed
3. To Approve the previous meeting Minutes
4. To Receive District & County Cllrs Reports
- To Adjournment for 10 Minute Public Forum
5. Finance -
  - a) To Approve Payments
  - b) To Note Income Receipts & Bank Account Balance
  - c) To Approve 2022/23 Budget & Set a Precept
  - d) To Approve 2022/23 Confidential Staffing Element of the Budget
6. To Approve Purchase of Additional Lamppost Poppies
7. To Progress work at the Burial Ground
8. To Progress the Possibility of a Parish Council Playground
9. To Receive an update from Cllrs site meeting with Notts County Council Highways Manager
10. To Discuss the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
11. Closure of the Meeting

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 agenda item 5d, the council may vote to close the following item to members of the public due so that the Council can discuss Information which is relating to an individual for example Contracts of employment, salaries, financial or personal business affairs of the individual. Minutes of the decisions made under this item will be open to the public.

### **Omicron Covid-19 Plan B Notice:**

At the time of publication, the Govt have not altered legislation to allow virtual meetings this month during Plan B implementation, therefore, following advice from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) & ACRE, Action with Communities In Rural England, anyone present at the meeting is requested to socially distance. To increase airflow, some windows will be opened slightly and the doors left open, anyone attending is therefore requested to ensure they dress warmly. It is recommended to keep the meeting as brief as possible to limit the potential exposure time to the virus, therefore we will be moving through the agenda items as swiftly as possible.

### **Facemasks**

NALC & ACRE have now clarified that Council meetings fall under the category of '*most public indoor venues*', face masks are now compulsory at all times including when speaking (bar usual health exemptions). See further guidance as follows:

ACRE Advice - Government announced the tightening of selected Regulations, on the 8th December. The first of these to come into law relates to face coverings. These changes were introduced to Parliament on 9th December and became law on 10th December.

### **Face coverings**

**Community Centres (Village Halls) are now explicitly included in the list of places where face coverings must be worn unless the individual has an exemption.** The responsibility is the individual's not the building owner or organiser of an activity.

**NALC** – As we understand it you must wear a mask throughout the meeting. The Government website says:

### **When to wear a face covering**

There are some places where **you must wear a face covering by law**, unless you are exempt or have a reasonable excuse (see the 'When you do not need to wear a face covering' section below).

In England, you must wear a face covering in community centres (including village halls or similar), youth centres, members clubs and social clubs, libraries and public reading rooms, visitor attractions and entertainment venues (museums, galleries, cinemas, indoor theatres, concert halls, cultural and heritage sites, indoor areas at aquariums, zoos and visitor farms, bingo halls, amusement arcades, adventure activity centres, indoor sports stadiums, funfairs, indoor theme parks, casinos, skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor play areas including soft-play areas)

You are required to wear a face covering on entering any of these settings and must keep it on until you leave unless you are exempt or have a reasonable excuse for removing it. Examples of what would usually be a reasonable excuse are listed in the 'If you are not able to wear a face covering' section below.

You should continue to wear a face covering in other indoor places, especially those that are crowded and enclosed and where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

The police and police community support officers can enforce compliance if members of the public do not comply with this law without a reasonable excuse.

Staff in indoor settings (this includes Clerks to Parish Councils) are required to wear face coverings when they are in a part that is open to the public and when they are likely to come into close contact with members of the public.

### **Face visors, shields and transparent face coverings**

**A face visor or shield may be worn in addition to a face covering but not instead of one.** This is because face visors or shields do not adequately cover the nose and mouth, and do not filter airborne particles.

### **If you are not able to wear a face covering**

In settings where face coverings are required in England, there are some circumstances where people may not be able to wear a face covering.

Please be mindful and respectful of such circumstances. Some people are less able to wear face coverings, and the reasons for this may not be visible to others. This includes (but is not limited to):

children under the age of 11

people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability

people for whom putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause severe distress

people speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate

to avoid the risk of harm or injury to yourself or others

police officers and other emergency workers, given that this may interfere with their ability to serve the public

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

## Guidance for Members of the Public Present at Parish Council Meetings

1.1. Meetings, including virtual ones, 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. A reason shall be given on the Agenda for the public's exclusion and the following types of business shall be classed confidential:

- 1.1.1. **Staffing matters** (including, but not limited, to contracts of employment, salaries, terms of service, engagement, conduct and dismissal of employees, appointment of employees, financial or personal business affairs of the individual)
- 1.1.2. **Tenders & Contracts** (including, but not limited to, terms of tenders & contracts, proposals and counter proposals, consultations and negotiations of contracts, including tenancies and hire agreements and or negotiations relating to Contractor labour or financial/business affairs of a person.)
- 1.1.3. **Legal Proceedings** (including, but not limited to, preparations, proposals and discussions, correspondence/communications with the Councils legal representative, solicitor(s) or courts)
- 1.1.4. **Disputes** (the early stages of any dispute)
- 1.1.5. **Councillor Co-option** (to discuss the merits of each applicant and their personal attributes. To allow the Council to either decline the applicant or offer to co-opt the candidate to the Council.) Once each candidate has been seen, the Chairman will re-admit the members of the press and public.
- 1.1.6. **Crime** (Information relating to any action taken, or to be taken in connection with crime prevention, crime investigation or crime prosecution.) This is so that potential perpetrators of crime are not made aware.

Members of the public are allowed to attend as **observers** of our meetings; it is the public's statutory right under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972. However, the Public have the right to be present at the Council meetings (bar the above exceptions), the law does not give members of the public the right to participate in the meeting nor hear what the Council members or clerk is saying. Once the Chairman has commenced the meeting, all members of the public shall remain silent at all times.

1.2. Members of the public are requested to switch their mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

1.3. The Public Forum is outside of the Council meeting. It is regarded best practice (however there is **no** legal right to have this section or any interaction with the public) for councils to have an agenda item where members of the public are permitted to put questions to the council lasting for a maximum of 10 (ten) minutes, allows members of the public to speak.

1.4. A member of the public shall raise their hand (or wave if virtually) when requesting to speak (except when a person has a disability preventing the raising of their hand or is likely to suffer discomfort due to an injury).

1.5. A member of the public who speaks at a meeting shall direct their comments to the chairman of the meeting.

1.6. No individual member of the public shall speak for more than 2 minutes.

1.7. Only one member of the public is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wishes to speak, the chairman of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking

- 1.8. A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question from the Council. However, at the discretion of the Chairman, the Council may give a response or may start a debate or decide to add a question asked to the next Agenda.
- 1.9. All statements, questions and any responses potentially given should be fact related and not personal in nature. There should be no personal views about individuals made.
- 1.10. At the end of the 10-minute period the Chairman shall draw the public forum to a close and reconvene the Parish Council meeting
- 1.11. **All persons' present will act respectfully towards every other person present and must not act in any manner which demeans, insults, belittles, threatens, intimidates any another person.**
- 1.12. **All statements, questions, challenges, responses, or criticisms shall be made politely.**
- 1.13. Members of the public must not move towards the Councillors, away from the public seating area without consent of the Chairman during the meeting.
- 1.14. During the Council meeting, the Chairman may at their discretion, adjourn the meeting to allow a member of the public to speak on a subject, if the Chairman feels that it will be of benefit to the debate. The Chairman shall then reconvene the meeting.
- 1.15. **The Chairman's decision is final on public participation**
- 1.16. At the conclusion of the Public Forum members of the public shall remain silent except that the Council may, by resolution, agree to close the meeting to allow a member(s) of the public to comment.
- 1.17. No smoking or alcohol consumption shall be permitted at meetings.

## **2. Disorderly Conduct at meetings**

- 2.1. No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If disorderly conduct occurs, the chairman of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct. The clerk or chairman may eject such persons to the waiting room of the virtual meeting, remove them from the virtual meeting altogether or mute them.