



## **Ramsgate Town Council**

### **STANDING ORDERS**

#### **1. MEETINGS**

- 1.1** Meetings of the Town Council (including Committee, Sub Committee or Working Group meetings) shall be normally held at 19.00 hrs on a Wednesday at the Custom House Ramsgate. Extraordinary meetings of the Council and its Committees/Sub Committees or Working groups may vary from this schedule under notice at a prior meeting of the relevant Council, Committee, Sub Committee or Working group.
- 1.2** Meetings shall not last longer than two hours unless the Council resolves to continue for a maximum of one further hour.
- 1.3** Meetings shall have three clear working days' notice prior to the meeting. Not including the day of issue, public holidays, or Sundays.
- 1.4** The public may attend all meetings of the Council unless specifically excluded by reason of confidentiality. The public may only be excluded by resolution of the meeting giving the reasons for the exclusion.
- 1.5** Persons attending any meeting may record the meeting using film, photograph, audio or written means (includes digital methods), but should inform the Chair before doing so and agree not to hamper the meeting by intrusive methods of recording. They should also accept directions from the Chair if their activities hamper the conduct of business. Those recording meetings are also reminded that editing or comments made in a defamatory manner may be actionable.

#### **2. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

- 2.1** In an election year the Annual Town Council Meeting shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the councillors elected take office.
- 2.2** In a year which is not an election year the Annual Town Council Meeting shall be held on such day in May as the Council may direct.

**2.3** In addition to the Annual Town Council Meeting, at least three other meetings shall be held in each year.

### **3. CHAIR OF THE MEETING**

**3.1** The Chair of Council will preside at Council meetings. In the absence of the Chair of Council, the Vice Chair of Council will preside as Chair over Council meetings. If neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair of Council are present, then the Council shall elect a Chair for the meeting from among the Councillors present; who shall be entitled to exercise all the powers and duties of the Chair in relation to the conduct of the meeting. Committee meetings of all Committees will be Chaired by Chairs appointed at the annual meeting it being presumed that the Council Chair/Vice Chair have declined to Chair these meetings.

**3.2** The posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor will have the status of unpaid officers of the Council and their function will be to represent the Town (not the Council) at all Civic functions including Cinque Ports functions or events. These unpaid posts will be funded from the Civic budget. The posts will be fulfilled by annual election either at the Annual Town Council meeting or by a separate Mayor Making ceremony as the Council sees fit.

**3.3** At Civic functions where the Town (Ramsgate) is being represented, the Mayor will take precedence, but for all matters where the Council is being represented the Chair will have precedence. The Clerk will advise and arbitrate as to which function is being represented and his/her word shall be respected by both parties.

### **4. PROPER OFFICER**

**4.1** The Clerk to the Town Council shall hold the office referred to in legislation as the proper officer). The duties of the proper officer are as follows:

- i) to receive declarations of acceptance of office.
- ii) to receive and record notices disclosing interests at meetings.
- iii) to receive and retain plans and documents.
- iv) to sign notices or other documents on behalf of the Council.
- v) to receive copies of bylaws made by another local authority.
- vi) to certify copies of bylaws made by the Council.
- vii) to sign and issue the summons to attend meetings of the Council.
- viii) to keep proper records for all Council meetings.

### **5. QUORUM OF THE COUNCIL**

**5.1** The quorum at meetings of the Council shall be one half of the total membership or a minimum of 7 councillors whichever is the greater and a minimum of 5 councillors for any Committee or Sub Committee of the Council.

**5.2** If a quorum is not present or if during a meeting the number of councillors

present (not counting those debarred by reason of a declared interest) falls below the required quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned, and business not transacted shall be transacted at the next meeting or on such other day as the Chair may fix.

## **6. VOTING**

- 6.1** Members shall vote by show of hands or, if at least two members so request, by signed ballot.
- 6.2** If a member so requires, the Clerk shall record the names of the members who voted on any question so as to show whether they voted for or against it. Such a request must be made before moving on to the next business.
- 6.3** Subject to Standing Orders 6.4 and 6.5 below the Chair may vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may exercise a second or casting vote to determine the matter.
- 6.4** If the person presiding at the annual meeting would have ceased to be a member of the Town Council but for the statutory provisions which preserve the membership of the Chair and Vice-Chair until the end of their term of office that person may not exercise a first vote in an election for Chair
- 6.5** The person presiding must give a casting vote whenever there is an equality of votes in an election for Chair.

## **7. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- 7.1** At each Annual Town Council Meeting the first business shall be:-
- i) To elect a Mayor to hold the office of Chair of the Council;
  - ii) To receive the Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office;
  - iii) In the ordinary year of election of the Council to fill any vacancies left unfilled at the election by reason of insufficient nominations;
  - iv) To decide when any Declarations of Acceptance of office which have not been received as provided by law shall be received;
  - v) To appoint a Deputy Mayor to act as Vice-Chair of the Council;
  - vi) To receive the Deputy Mayors Declaration of Acceptance of Office
  - vii) To appoint representatives to outside bodies;
  - viii) To appoint committees and sub-committees;
  - ix) And shall thereafter follow the usual order of council business.
- 7.2** After the first business has been completed, the order of business, unless the Council otherwise decides on the ground of urgency, shall be as follows:-
- i) To read and consider the Minutes; provided that if a copy has been circulated to each member not later than the day of issue of the summons to attend the meeting, the Minutes may be taken as read;
  - ii) To approve the signature of the Minutes by the person presiding as a correct record;
  - iii) To deal with business expressly required by statute to be done;
  - iv) To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting;
  - v) To receive such communications as the person presiding may wish to lay before the Council;

- vi) To answer questions from Councillors;
- vii) To receive and consider reports and minutes of committees;
- viii) To receive and consider resolutions or recommendations in the order in which they have been notified;
- ix) To authorise the sealing of documents; and
- x) If necessary, to authorise the signing of orders for payment.

## **8. URGENT BUSINESS**

- 8.1** A motion to vary the order of business on the ground of urgency may be proposed by the Chair or by any member and, if proposed by the Chair, may be put to the vote without being seconded, and shall be put to the vote without discussion.

## **9. RESOLUTIONS MOVED ON NOTICE**

- 9.1** Except as provided by these Standing Orders, no resolution may be moved unless the business to which it relates has been put on the Agenda by the Clerk or the mover has given notice in writing of its terms and has delivered the notice to the Clerk at least seven clear days before the next meeting of the Council.
- 9.2** The Clerk shall insert in the summons for every meeting all notices of motion or recommendation properly given in the order in which they have been received unless the member giving a notice of motion has stated in writing that he intends to move at some later meeting or that he withdraws it.
- 9.3** If a resolution or recommendation specified in the summons is not moved either by the member who gave notice of it or by any other member, it shall, unless postponed by the Council, be treated as withdrawn and shall not be moved without fresh notice.
- 9.4** If the subject matter of a resolution comes within the province of a committee of the Council, it shall, upon being moved and seconded, stand referred without discussion to such committee or to such other committee as the Council may determine for report; provided that the Chair, considers it to be a matter of urgency, the Chair may exercise discretion and allow it to be dealt with at the meeting at which it was moved.
- 9.5** Every resolution or recommendation shall be relevant to some subject over which the Council has power or duties, which affects its area.

## **10. RESOLUTIONS MOVED WITHOUT NOTICE**

- 10.1** Resolutions dealing with the following matters may be moved without notice:
- i) To appoint a Chair of the meeting;
  - ii) To correct the Minutes;
  - iii) To approve the Minutes;
  - iv) To alter the order of business;
  - v) To proceed to the next business;
  - vi) To close or adjourn the debate;
  - vii) To refer a matter to a committee;
  - viii) To appoint a committee or any members thereof;

- ix) To adopt a report;
- x) To authorise the sealing of documents;
- xi) To amend a motion;
- xii) To give leave to withdraw a resolution or amendment;
- xiii) To extend the time limit for speeches;
- xiv) To exclude the press and public;
- xv) To silence or eject from the meeting a member named for misconduct;
- xvi) To give the consent of the Council where such consent is required by these Standing Orders;
- xvii) To suspend any Standing Order; and
- xviii) To adjourn the meeting.

## **11. QUESTIONS**

- 11.1** A member may ask the Chair of the Council or the Clerk any question concerning the business of the Council, provided three clear days' notice of the question has been given to the person to whom it is addressed.
- 11.2** No questions not connected with business under discussion shall be asked except during the part of the meeting set aside for questions.
- 11.3** Every question shall be put and answered without discussion.
- 11.4** A person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer.

## **12. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- 12.1** A period of fifteen minutes shall be allowed for Public Questions at the beginning of each meeting of the Council excluding the Annual Meeting.
- 12.2** A member of the Public present at a meeting of the Council may ask the Chair any question on any matter in relation to which Council has powers or duties or which affects the parish.
- 12.3** Every question shall only be put during the item on the Agenda which refers specifically to "Questions from the Public".
- 12.4** Every question shall be put and answered without discussion by the Chair or, at his/her invitation, by another member, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. Any member of the Council who wishes to contribute to, or amplify the answer given, may do so at the discretion of the Chair.
- 12.5** An answer may take the form of :-
  - i) direct oral answer or
  - ii) the desired information is contained in a publication of the Council, a reference to that publication, or
  - iii) the reply to the question cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer sent to the questioner, copies of which shall be circulated to members of the Council.
- 12.6** Questions for the public shall be limited to a maximum of five minutes per question.

### **13. RULES OF DEBATE**

- 13.1** No discussion of the Minutes shall take place except upon their accuracy. Corrections to the Minutes shall be made by resolution and must be initialed by the Chair.
- 13.2** A resolution or amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded, and, unless proper notice has already been given, it shall, if required by the Chair, be reduced to writing and handed to him before it is further discussed or put to the meeting.
- 13.3** A member when seconding a resolution or amendment may, if he then declares his intention to do so, reserve his speech until a later period of the debate.
- 13.4** A member shall direct his speech to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or to a question of order.
- 13.5** No speech by a mover of a resolution shall exceed three minutes and no other speech shall exceed three minutes except by consent of the Council.
- 13.6** An amendment shall be either:-  
i) To leave out words.  
ii) To leave out words and insert others.  
iii) To insert or add words.
- 13.7** An amendment shall not have the effect of negating the resolution before the Council.
- 13.8** If an amendment be carried, the resolution, as amended, shall take the place of the original resolution, and shall become the resolution upon which any further amendment may be moved.
- 13.9** A further amendment shall not be moved until the Council has disposed of every amendment previously moved.
- 13.10** The mover of a resolution or of an amendment shall have a right of reply, not exceeding 3 minutes.
- 13.11** A member, other than the mover of a resolution, shall not, without leave of the Council, speak more than once on any resolution except to move an amendment or further amendment, or on an amendment, or on a point of order, or in personal explanation, or to move a closure.
- 13.12** A member may speak on a point of order or a personal explanation. A member speaking for these purposes shall be heard forthwith. A personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by the member, which may have been misunderstood.
- 13.13** A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the proposer with the consent of the Council, which shall be signified without discussion, and no member may speak upon it after permission has been asked for its withdrawal unless such permission has been refused.

**13.14** When a resolution is under debate no other resolution shall be moved except the following:-

- i) To amend the resolution.
- ii) To proceed to the next business.
- iii) To adjourn the debate.
- iv) That the question be now put.
- v) that a member named be not further heard.
- vi) That a member named leave the meeting.
- vii) The resolution be referred to a committee.
- viii) To exclude the public and press.
- ix) To adjourn the meeting.

**13.15** A member shall remain seated when speaking unless requested to stand by the Chair.

**13.16** The ruling of the Chair on a point of order or on the admissibility of a personal explanation shall not be discussed.

**13.17** Members shall address the Chair. If two or more members wish to speak, the Chair shall decide who to call upon.

**13.18** Whenever the Chair speaks during a debate all other members shall be silent.

#### **14. CLOSURE**

**14.1** At the end of any speech a member may, without comment, move "that the question be now put", "that the debate be now adjourned" or "that the Council do now adjourn". If such motion is seconded, the Chair shall put the motion but, in the case of a motion "that the question be now put", only if the Chair is of the opinion that the question before the Council has been sufficiently debated. If the motion "that the question be now put" is carried, the Chair shall call upon the mover to exercise or waive the right of reply and shall put the question immediately after that right has been exercised or waived. The adjournment of a debate or of the Council shall not prejudice the mover's right of reply at the resumption.

#### **15. DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

**15.1** No member shall at a meeting persistently disregard the ruling of the Chair, willfully obstruct business, or behave irregularly, offensively, improperly or in such a manner as to bring the office or the Council into disrepute. If, in the opinion of the Chair, a member has broken these provisions, the Chair shall express that opinion to the Council, and thereafter, any member may move that the member named be no longer heard or that the member named do leave the meeting, and the motion, if seconded, shall be put forth with and without discussion. If either of these motions are disobeyed, the Chair may adjourn the meeting or take such further steps as may reasonably be necessary to enforce them.

#### **16. RIGHT OF REPLY**

**16.1** The mover of a resolution shall have a right to reply immediately before the resolution is put to the vote. If an amendment is proposed the mover of the amendment shall be entitled to reply immediately before the amendment is put

to the vote. A member exercising a right of reply shall not introduce a new matter. After the right of reply has been exercised or waived, a vote shall be taken without further discussion.

## **17. ALTERATION OF RESOLUTION**

- 17.1** A member may, with the consent of his secondary, move amendments to his own resolution.

## **18. RESCISSION OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTION**

- 18.1** A decision (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special resolution, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least four members of the Council, or by a resolution moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a committee. When a special resolution or any other resolution moved under this provision has been disposed of, no similar resolution may be moved within a further six months.

## **19. VOTING ON APPOINTMENTS**

- 19.1** Where more than two persons have been nominated for any position to be filled by the Council and of the votes given there is not an absolute majority in favour of one person, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken, and so on until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person.

## **20. DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING EMPLOYEES**

- 20.1** If at a meeting there arises any question relating to the appointment, conduct, promotion, dismissal, salary, or conditions of service, of any person employed by the Council, it shall not be considered until the Council or committee (as the case may be) has decided whether or not the press and public shall be excluded.

## **21. EXPENDITURE**

- 21.1** Orders for the payment of money shall be authorised by resolution of the Council and signed by two members.

## **22. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

- 22.1** A document shall not be sealed on behalf of the Council unless its sealing has been authorised by a resolution. Any two members of the Council named in the resolution may seal, on behalf of the Council, any document required by law to be issued under seal.

## **23. COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

- 23.1** The Council may at its Annual Meeting appoint standing committees and may at any other time appoint such other committees as are necessary, but subject to any statutory provision in that behalf:-

- i) Shall not appoint any member of a committee so as to hold office later than the next Annual Meeting.
- ii) May dissolve or alter the membership of the committee.
- iii) The Chair and Vice-Chair, ex-officio, shall be voting members of every committee.

**23.2** Every committee shall at its first meeting before proceeding to any other business, elect a Vice-Chair (if the Chair has been elected at the Council statutory annual meeting), who shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the council, and shall settle its programme of meetings for the year.

**23.3** The membership of all Committees and Sub Committees shall consist of 13 named members and the ex officio Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Council.

**23.4** To be quorate all Committees must have a minimum of 5 Councillors in attendance and Sub Committees a minimum of 5 Councillors in attendance.

**23.5** The Council may delegate its powers of scrutiny, expenditure, and policy where necessary by Council resolution to any named Committee. It may revoke these delegated powers at its Annual Statutory meeting in full or in part by Council resolution at that meeting. The powers of delegation automatically cease on the election of a new Council and must be renewed/alterd etc accordingly by the new Council on succession.

**23.6** The Council may only delegate powers to Committees or Sub Committees and may not delegate powers to working groups of Councillors or co-opted members of the public. The Council may instead delegate any specific power to the Clerk, but subject to Standing orders 4 and 38.

**23.7** Councillors who are members of the District Council Planning Committee may belong to the RTC Planning Committee. All members are reminded that if they have a closed mind they will be regarded as having a bias and therefore meet the test of being predetermined, which may be actionable in law.

(The LGA document: 'Probity in Planning for Councillors and Officers explains this matter).

## **24. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

**24.1** The Chair of a committee or the Chair of the Council may summon an additional meeting of that committee at any time. An additional meeting shall also be summoned on the requisition in writing of not less than a quarter of the members of the committee. The summons shall set out the business to be considered at the special meeting and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting.

## **25. SUB-COMMITTEES**

**25.1** Every committee may appoint sub-committees for purposes to be specified by the committee.

**25.2** The Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee shall be members of every

sub-committee appointed by it unless they signify that they do not wish to serve.

- 25.3** Except where ordered by the Council in the case of a committee, or by the Council or by the appropriate committee in the case of a sub-committee, the quorum of a committee or sub-committee shall be one-half of its members.
- 25.4** The Standing Orders on rules of debate (except those parts relating to standing and to speaking more than once) and the Standing Order on interests of members in contracts and other matters shall apply to committee and sub-committee meetings.
- 25.5** Members of committees and sub-committees entitled to vote, shall vote by show of hands, or, if at least two members so request, by signed ballot.
- 25.6** Chairmen of committees and sub-committees shall in the case of an equality of votes have a second or casting vote.
- 25.7** A member who has proposed a resolution, which has been referred to any committee of which he is not a member, may explain his resolution to the committee but shall not vote.

## **26. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

- 26.1** All accounts for payment and claims upon the Council shall be laid before the Council.
- 26.2** Where it is necessary to make a payment before it has been authorised by the Council, such payment shall be certified as to its correctness and urgency by the appropriate officer. Such payment shall be authorised by the committee, if any, having charge of the business to which it relates, or by the proper officer for payment with the approval of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Council. All such payments shall be included in the next schedule of payments before the Council.
- 26.3** The Responsible Financial Officer shall supply to each member as soon as practicable after 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year a statement of the receipts and payments of the Council for the completed financial year. A Financial Statement prepared on the appropriate accounting basis (receipts and payments, or income and expenditure) for a year to 31<sup>st</sup> March shall be presented to each member before the end of the following month of May. The Statement of Accounts of the Council (which is subject to external audit) shall be presented to Council for formal approval at the appropriate time prior to completion of the annual return.

## **27. ESTIMATES/PRECEPT**

- 27.1** The council shall approve written estimates for the coming financial year at its meeting before the end of the month of November. Any committee desiring to incur expenditure shall give the Clerk a written estimate of the expenditure recommended for the coming year no later than 30<sup>th</sup> October.

## **28. INTERESTS**

- 28.1** If a member has a personal interest as defined by the Code of Conduct, then he shall declare such interest as soon as it becomes apparent, disclosing the existence and nature of that interest as required.
- 28.2** If a member who has declared a personal interest, then considers the interest to be prejudicial, he must withdraw from the room or chamber during consideration of the item to which the interest relates.
- 28.3** All declarations of interests shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and the Clerk shall keep and maintain for inspection by the External Auditor and Monitoring Officer of Thanet District Council a register of declarations of interests at meetings.

## **29. APPOINTMENTS**

- 29.1** If a candidate for any appointment under the Council is to his knowledge related to any member of or the holder of any office under the Council, he and the person to whom he is related shall disclose the relationship in writing to the Clerk. A candidate who fails so to do shall be disqualified for such appointment, and, if appointed, may be dismissed without notice. The Clerk shall report to the Council or to the appropriate committee any such disclosure.
- 29.2** Canvassing of members of the Council or of any committee, directly or indirectly, for any appointment under the Council shall disqualify the candidate for such appointment. A member of the Council or of any committee shall not solicit for any person any appointment under the Council or recommend any person for such appointment or for promotion; but, nevertheless, any such member may give a written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience, or character for submission to the Council with an application for appointment.

## **30. INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS**

- 30.1** A member may inspect any document in possession of the Council or a committee, and if copies are available shall, on request, be supplied for the like purpose with a copy.
- 30.2** All minutes kept by the Council and by any committee shall be open for the inspection of any member of the Council.

## **31. UNAUTHORISED ACTIVITIES**

- 31.1** No member of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee shall in the name of or on behalf of the Council, inspect any lands or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect or issue orders, instructions, or directions, unless authorised to do so by the Council or the relevant committee or sub-committee.

## **32. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS TO MEETINGS**

**32.1** Subject to Standing Order 32.2 below, the public and press shall be admitted to all meetings of the Council and its committees and sub-committees.

**32.2** The Council or one of its committees or sub-committees may temporarily exclude the public and press from a meeting for the transaction of confidential business or for some other special reason recorded in the minutes, by means of the following resolution:

*“That in view of the [special] [confidential] nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw”.*

**32.3** At all meetings of the Council the Chair may at his discretion and at a convenient members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting.

**32.4** The Clerk shall afford to the press reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of any proceedings at which they are entitled to be present. There shall be no audio or video recording or photographs of the meeting without the express approval of the Council.

**32.5** If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any meeting, the Chair may, after warning, order that he be removed from the meeting and may adjourn the meeting for such period as is necessary to restore order.

## **33. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**33.1** No member of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee shall disclose to any person not a member of the Council any business declared to be confidential by the Council, the committee or the sub-committee as the case may be. Any member in breach of this Standing Order shall be removed from any committee or sub-committee of the Council by the Council.

## **34. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**34.1** The Clerk shall, as soon as practicable, refer every planning application to the planning committee or the Council (if there is no planning committee).

## **35. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**35.1** The Council shall consider and approve Financial Regulations drawn up by the Responsible Financial Officer. **The Financial regulations were approved by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.**

**35.2** Such Regulations shall include detailed arrangements for the following:

- i) The accounting records and systems of internal control;
- ii) The assessment and management of risks faced by the Council;
- iii) The work of the Internal Auditor and the receipt of regular reports from the Internal Auditor;
- iv) The financial reporting requirements of members and local electors; and
- v) Procurement policies.

**35.3** 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 in standing order 18(f) is subject to Regulations 109-114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include a requirement on the Council to advertise the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website regardless of what other means it uses to advertise the opportunity.

**35.4** Subject to additional requirements in the financial regulations of the Council, the tender process for contracts for the supply of goods, materials, services, or the execution of works shall include, as a minimum, the following steps:

- 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.

**35.6** Neither the Council, nor a committee or a sub-committee with delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound to accept the lowest value tender.

**35.7** A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £181,302 for a public service or supply contract or in excess of £4,551,413 for a public works contract (or other thresholds determined by the European Commission every two years and published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)) shall comply with the relevant procurement procedures and other requirements in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include advertising the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website and in OJEU.

**35.8** A public contract in connection with the supply of gas, heat, electricity, drinking

water, transport services, or postal services to the public; or the provision of a port or airport; or the exploration for or extraction of gas, oil or solid fuel with an estimated value in excess of £363,424 for a supply, services or design contract; or in excess of £4,551,413 for a works contract; or £820,370 for a social and other specific services contract (or other thresholds determined by the European Commission every two years and published in OJEU) shall comply with the relevant procurement procedures and other requirements in the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016.

**35.9** The Financial Regulations of the Council shall be subject to regular review, at least once every four years. (Last reviewed 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015)

## **36. COMPLAINTS**

**36.1** The Council shall deal with complaints of maladministration allegedly committed by the Council or by any officer or member in such manner as adopted by the Council except for those complaints which should be properly directed to the Standards Committee of Thanet District Council for consideration.

## **37. VARIATION, REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

**37.1** Any or every part of the Standing Orders except those printed in **bold type** may be suspended by resolution in relation to any specific item of business.

**37.2** A resolution permanently to add, vary or revoke a Standing Order shall when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

## **38. DELEGATION TO CLERK**

**38.1** The Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, to take action deemed desirable on any matters which the Committee concerned has delegated powers, but which require urgent action.

**38.2** In addition to those powers already listed in Standing Order 4, the Clerk shall have full day to day authority to deal with the business of the Council, within the agreed policies and budgets of the Council, subject to the adherence with Standing Orders. This is specifically defined as follows:

- i) Purchase of goods and services within the confines of the approved budget;
- ii) To implement decisions of the Council/Standing Committees, subject to compliance with Financial Regulations and these Standing Orders
- iii) To institute proceedings under the Council's byelaws;
- iv) Urgent action to ensure or safeguard staff and/or public welfare;
- v) Letting of Council facilities;
- vi) Payment of salaries, wages, pension, and taxes of staff employed by the Council or retired from service;
- vii) Negotiation of insurance agreements for Council property and services;
- viii) To deal with the provision and maintenance of allotments cemeteries and recreation grounds; and

- ix) Dealing with the provision and maintenance of:
  - Litter bins
  - Seats
  - Noticeboards
  - Footpaths
  - Hanging baskets
  - War memorials
  - Children's playgrounds
- x) The management and maintenance of grounds maintenance contracts;
- xi) Dealing with the production and publication of the related promotional publications and publicity matters in respect of the Town Council;
- xii) Co-ordinating and directing the Council's involvement in any annual events in the parish;
- xiii) To manage the Council's office premises, including all operational issues and budgets;
- xiv) To administer compliance with the Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, and related matters.
- xv) The Town Clerk or in the absence of the Town Clerk, the Assistant Town Clerk is authorised to act as and carry out the duties of the Responsible Financial Officer'.

## **39 MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION**

- 39.1** 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.
- 39.2** 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).
- 39.3** 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.
- 39.4** Councillors, staff, the Council's contractors, and agents shall not disclose confidential information or personal data without legal justification.

## **40 COPIES TO BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS**

- 40.1** A copy of these Standing Orders shall be given to each member by the Clerk upon delivery to him of the member's declaration of acceptance of office and written undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.

**DATE** these Standing Orders adopted by Council

**15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009**

**REVISED: 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**

**REVISED: 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012**

**REVISED: 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**REVISED: 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2017**

**REVISED: 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2018**

**REVISED: 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2018**

**REVISED: 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2018**

**REVISED: 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

**REVIEWED: 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

**REVIEWED: 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

**REVISED: 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2021**