

ASHILL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES FOR THE PUBLIC & PRESS ATTENDING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

POLITE REMINDER

Rights of Public & Press

The Meetings of the Council must be open to the Public (which includes the press) pursuant to 1960 Act. However, the Public may under s.1(2) of the Act be excluded for the whole or part of a meeting if it resolves the publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution. It is not lawful to exclude some of the public or press. The exclusion must apply to all.

Public Participation

The Parish Council welcomes the public to its meetings. However, the law does not allow members of the public to take part in the debates unless invited by the Chairman to provide information.

There is an allocated time of 10minutes on the Agenda which allows the public plus District Councillor and County Councillor an opportunity to speak . If you wish to raise a point which does not relate to an item on that evening's Agenda you are free to do so but the Council's discussion of the point might have to be delayed until a subsequent meeting as the Council is unable to make a decision binding in law unless a specific item is included on the Agenda.

Members are always willing to discuss topics put forward by the Public and if you wish an item to be included on the Agenda, you should contact the Clerk or Chairman at least 1 week prior to the Meeting.

Disturbance during a Meeting

The Chairman of the Meeting will be vigilant of and seek to control behaviour which obstructs the proceedings of a Meeting. The Chairman will ask people to modify any behaviour that disrupts a Meeting and if it continues, a Councillor may move a motion for those persons to be asked to leave. If a person refuses to leave after the resolution is passed and the Meeting cannot proceed due to disruptive behaviour, the Chairman can suspend or ultimately close the Meeting.

Jean Sangster
Clerk/RFO