

Hetton Town Council - 18 May 2020

Item 5: Standing Orders re Coronavirus

Amendment to Standing Orders

COVID-19 Modification of meetings [\[1\]](#).

1. **Persons attending a council meeting do not need to be in the same place.** "Place" means more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.
2. **A member in remote attendance attends the meeting at any time if the member is able at that time:**
 - a) to hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, the other members in attendance,
 - b) to hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting in order to exercise a right to speak at the meeting, and
 - c) to be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by any other members of the public attending the meeting.
3. **Voting at remote meetings will be carried out by**
a show of hands, by a roll call of councillors' names and asking them to state their vote or by another method of voting, should a platform allow it.
4. The method of remote access for the press and public will be advertised on the meeting's agenda.
5. Notice of a meeting must be placed on the Council's website [\[2\]](#) or in a prominent physical place to meet advertising standards contained in Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.
6. The Council will take account of social distancing requirements before deciding to put notices in physical spaces.
7. There is no requirement for the Parish Council to hold its annual meeting.

[\[1\]](#) The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020; In force between the dates of 4 April 2020 – May 2021

[\[2\]](#) National Association of Local Councils, Legal Briefing Note, 3 April 2020.