

BRYMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING PROTOCOL

1. Introduction

1.1 On 4th April 2020 the government introduced The Local Authorities(Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 to allow local councils to meet remotely. This protocol sets out how Brympton will continue to operate during the pandemic.

1.2 Brympton Parish Council is operating on the Zoom platform.

1.3 The Parish Clerk has paid for a subscription and informed all councillors of how to access the platform. Councillors have been asked to contact the Parish Clerk if they have any technical issues in relation to access.

2.0 Planning and Preparation

2.1 The meeting will be advertised in the normal manner (other than on the public noticeboard) and an agenda will be issued within the normal time frames.

2.2 Minutes will be taken from the meetings and displayed on the website in the normal manner. Minutes will be circulated after the meeting and signed when the council finally meets face to face.

2.3 Apologies need to be given in the normal manner.

2.4 The public are invited to observe the meeting. If they have a question to raise they have been asked to submit it in advance of the meeting.

2.5 The normal required standards of behaviour and discussion must be applied in the same manner of a face to face meeting. Please also be patient with those who are less experienced in this platform. Please also respect confidentiality and do not breach the code of conduct, and do not make enquiries about private matter, health, home etc.

2.6 If a councillor is deemed to have an interest in a matter and would normally leave a physical meeting, then they will be invited to leave and will receive a text message (or asked to wait in the waiting room) when they can be invited back into the meeting.

2.7 There might be technical issues during the meeting and the Parish Clerk might have to ask for clarification, for dialogue to be repeated in order to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to be heard.

3.0 Process to host meetings for Councillors

3.1 The Parish Clerk will host the meeting and set up the meeting perimeters. An email invitation will be sent to councillors from the Parish Clerk. They need to click on the link and enter the meeting ID number and the password.

3.2 Before entering the meeting please ensure that you are in a private place where there is little background interference/noise/people. It is difficult to hear on occasions and some might wish to use a headset with a microphone.

3.3 On entering the meeting, you will be placed in a waiting room. The Parish Clerk allows access and you will join with their microphone muted. When the Parish Clerk has seen you and can verify you, you will be unmuted.

3.4 A check will be done to establish that you can be heard, but then all councillors other than the Chairman and the Clerk will be muted. If the Chairman invites someone to speak they can be unmuted. Please do not interrupt others. If you wish to speak during the meeting, please raise your hand for the attention of the Clerk. When you speak please state your name as you speak for the benefit of those who might not be able to see you.

3.5 The meeting will still be chaired in the normal manner. The Parish Clerk might have a greater input to guide the meeting to the next item, as some will not have access to an agenda for the duration of the meeting (if they do not have a printer).

3.6 If there is to be a vote, please raise your hand until asked to put your hand down.

3.7 If you struggle with hearing during the meeting, please use the chat box to type a message which will be seen by the Parish Clerk.

3.8 If people speak over others or if there is a time delay and matters are not heard the Parish Clerk will ask for people to repeat, and to speak in turn. All councillors have the text number of the Parish clerk and can send a message during the meeting if they are experiencing issues.