

Playdale Playgrounds



Annual Inspection

Isfield Parish Council

Isfield Play Area
Station Road, Isfield, East Sussex, TN22 5XN

Inspection Scope for RPII Inspection Methodology

This document outlines the RPII scope for inspections undertaken by the Inspectors listed as Annual Inspectors on the RPII Register of Inspectors when undertaking Indoor Annual, Outdoor Annual, Outdoor Operational and Outdoor Routine inspections.

Inspections are undertaken with reference to the standards listed in this preamble only; where no date for the standard is given it will be the standard that is current at the time of inspection except where overlap periods are granted by the standards committee when standards are updated. The information contained in reports is provided to assist the owner/operator in fulfilling their responsibilities as detailed in the relevant standard. Other standards referenced within the listed standards do not form part of the inspection, unless they are also explicitly listed here.

The following standards are relevant to all installations of equipment that are publicly accessible to users; this includes public parks, pay and play parks, schools, nurseries, public houses, holiday parks, indoor play centres, farm parks etc. All equipment used or employed in publicly accessible areas should meet with the requirements of the relevant standards (listed below):

BS EN 1176 Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 & 11 Playground equipment intended for permanent installation outdoors & indoors.

BS EN 1176 Part 7 - 'Guidance on Installation, Inspection, Maintenance and Operation' (this document gives guidance to the owners/operators of the facility on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of playground equipment, excluding ancillary items).

In the United Kingdom the National Foreword forms an important part to the understanding and implementation of the recommendations set out in this document. It clarifies the application of the document within the UK as best practice guidance, as the document has been used since its initial publication. Therefore, in the UK this standard (BS EN 1176 – Part 7) contains no requirements and needs to be read and implemented as guidance, with the use of the term 'shall' therefore becoming a recommendation, as in the term 'should'.

Domestic play equipment falls outside of the scope of BS EN 1176 and has its own standards (BS EN 71 series – Safety of Toys). Where domestic equipment can be identified this will be acknowledged in the report but any comments concerning compliance will follow the requirements and recommendations of BS EN 1176.

When water play items, including spray parks, are inspected any comments concerning compliance within the inspection will refer to BS EN 1176. We have not assessed these against the requirements of BS EN 17232 (Water play equipment and features).

Other equipment that is not clearly identified as unsupervised or domestic (natural play, self-build equipment etc.) will be assessed for compliance with the relevant standard listed below:

BS EN 15312 Free access multi-sports equipment
BS EN 14974 Skateparks
BS EN 16630 Permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment
BS EN 16899 Parkour equipment (plus RPII/API guidance notes)

Annual and Post Installation inspections will take into consideration compliance with these current standards, and defects related to wear and vandalism. Items not listed in the report have not been included in the inspection. The inspection will cover the playground equipment and the active area (that area which is obviously part of the playground), nominally up to three metres around, the fence line if closer, or other areas as agreed.

Operational inspections only take into consideration defects related to cleanliness, equipment ground clearances, ground surface finishes, exposed foundations, sharp edges, missing parts, excessive wear (of moving parts) structural integrity, wear and vandalism.

Routine visual inspections relate only to the most obvious defects such as broken or missing parts, litter, vandalism and issues created by severe weather conditions (the intention is to identify hazards created by storm damage).

All inspections are non-dismantling, non-destructive and do not include any structural, toxicology or impact assessments defined in the standard; however, the inspector will undertake a manual test for stability and if equipment fails under manual load, or any other hazard is identified as an unacceptable risk, the owner/operator will be notified as soon as practicably possible.

The inspector will access all reasonably accessible equipment and will assess all reasonably accessible parts above the standing surface. Where it is not possible to access parts of the equipment without employing an alternative means of access the report will record the action required by the owner/operator to ensure the continued safe use of the equipment.

Ancillary equipment will be assessed using the inspector's knowledge and experience of the standards named in this document. (Note: Ancillary items are not included in the specific equipment-type parts of the EN 1176 series; hence they are not assessed for compliance with EN 1176 series and are subject to a general safety assessment).

The owner/operator is responsible for the overall safety of the equipment and area.

The inspector will not undertake any of the following works unless specifically agreed in writing at the time of order:

Checking the depth and underlying structural integrity of any surface areas and/or carrying out any testing of the impact attenuating properties of any surfaces; the identification of any corrosion, rot or other deterioration in any apparatus or equipment other than by an external inspection; the inspection of any equipment (or part thereof) that is beneath the playing surface (loose-fill materials may be moved to expose foundations); tightening any bolts, hinges or other fixing devices on any apparatus or equipment; assessing or inspecting any electrical installations contained on any site and/or apparatus and/or equipment; assessing or inspecting any water supplies and/or water features and/or any associated computerised systems (including carrying out any programming); where planting or trees are mentioned in the report no assessments of toxicity, suitability or condition are undertaken – the owner/operator should have suitable inspections provided by a competent person.

The owner/operator should have a 'design risk assessment' provided by the manufacturer/designer of the area for the equipment and location in which the facility is installed.

The operator is responsible for managing risks of their provision and is required by law to carry out a 'suitable and sufficient assessment' of the risks associated with a site or activity. This inspection shall be considered as contributing to the operator's discharge of this responsibility.

The details contained within the report are a snapshot of the condition at the time of inspection only and subsequent events may affect the condition of the facility. Suggested remedial actions are based on the knowledge and experience of the inspector and/or that of the inspection company. The owner/operator should always seek the advice of the manufacturer or a competent person when undertaking repairs and/or modifications to equipment.

The operator is responsible for following the guidance of the relevant standards. The standards give guidance on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of the various types of facilities. The inspection guidance is listed in Table 1, with an indication of which parts will be included in an RPII Annual or Post-Installation Inspection. The relevant standards also contain additional parts which the operator should follow.

Inspection recommendations of relevant standards Refer to relevant standards for full text	Annual Main	RPII Annual/ Post Installation Inspection
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of equipment (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of foundations (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of playing surfaces (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]
6.1 d) Compliance with the relevant parts of the standard and or risk assessment (see note 3)	✓	✓ [3]
6.1 d) Effects of weather	✓	✓
6.1 d) Presence of rot, decay or corrosion (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.1 d) Assessment of repairs made or added or replaced components (see note 4)	✓	✓ [4]
6.1 d) Excavation or dismantling/additional measures	✓	✗
6.2.1 Assessment of glass reinforced plastics (see note 5)	✓	✓ [5]
6.2.1 Inspection of one post equipment (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.2.4 Undertaking the Operators inspection protocol	✓	✗

NB: The clause numbers in table 1 are taken from BS EN 1176 - Part 7:2020. The content is equally applicable to all other relevant standards listed herein. Playgrounds contain a range of equipment from different manufacturers and installed over a number of years; operators should implement any guidance provided by the manufacturer. Item specific detail is not readily available to RPII Playground Inspectors, whose report contributes to the operator's overall Annual Main Inspection as detailed in the relevant standards.

[1] A manual test only is undertaken for stability. Wear and instability are only detectable where readily apparent without dismantling or destruction and without the use of tools, excavation or specialist equipment. Rot and corrosion are tested or with a hammer and/or steel rod. Decay in timber may exist which can only be found with specialist equipment.

[2] Only the visible condition and dimensional compliance of surface extent is considered. Neither testing of impact attenuating properties nor measurement of the thickness of bound surfaces are undertaken on RPII annual inspections.

[3] The inspection assesses compliance where this can be tested on site using manual methods without dismantling, destruction and without the use of tools or specialist equipment.

[4] The operator should use manufacturer's recommended parts, or equivalent. We are unable to verify if such parts have been used, and any subsequent change in quality or performance.

[5] Visible glass fibres will be noted in reports. The operator is responsible for repairs or replacement.

Risk Assessment Matrix

			Scores in the report are multiplication factors of Likelihood x Severity					
			Severity>>					
Likelihood	Very High probability, if the situation is not addressed an accident is almost certain.	5	Very High	VL (5)	L (10)	M (15)	H (20)	VH (25)
	High probability an accident is probable without any added factor.	4	High	VL (4)	L (8)	M (12)	H (16)	H (20)
	Moderate probability an incident is foreseeable.	3	Moderate	VL (3)	L (6)	L (9)	M (12)	M (15)
	Some probability, requires a combination of factors to take place.	2	Low	VL (2)	VL (4)	L (6)	L (8)	L (10)
	No significant probability; lightning strike, freak accident.	1	Very Low	VL (1)	VL (2)	VL (3)	VL (4)	VL (5)
				Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
				1	2	3	4	5
				No injury likely e.g. damaged or soiled clothing, minor bruising, grazes	Minor injury, laceration or bruising requiring first aid only	Injury requiring medical intervention e.g. cuts requiring stitches	Serious injury including concussions or fracture of long bones	Severe injury involving a potential life changing injury or fatality
				Severity>>				
Note 1: The total risk scores included within our reports are a multiplication factor of the calculated Likelihood and Severity of each finding. Both Likelihood and Severity are given a number between 1 - 5 as shown on the matrix above and these two numbers are then multiplied together to give the total risk score that is shown against defects on the report. Total risk scores can be divided in both directions, i.e. a total risk score of 12 could be a Likelihood (3) x Severity (4) or Likelihood (4) x Severity (3). Note 2: When we inspect we only see a snapshot of the current condition of the equipment. It is the operators responsibility to ensure that there is a continuing level of maintenance to keep the equipment in good working order and the site fit for use.								

Isfield Play Area

Inspection Ref: 2744238

Site Ref: 72245

Inspected: 21-June-2025 - 05:58 by Andrew Parkinson

Risk Assessment: 12 Moderate Risk



Location:

The site is located in an area of public open space and is not directly overlooked by any properties in the local community.

Disabled Access:

Generally accessible; an area accessible to most.

Facility Details: This site was inspected at 1.00pm on the 17.6.25

 12 - Moderate Risk

Item: Multi Play (Junior)
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Bonded Rubber Mulch
Surface Nominal Depth: 60mm
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: No
Surface Area Compliance: Yes
Total Findings: 4



Finding 1

There is a finger entrapment in panel, which fails the requirements of BS EN1176 - Monitor Use

Finding 3

Some panel brackets are loose - Tighten the coach bolts (Done whilst on site)

Finding 2

The pull-up rope forms an entrapment off the side of the ramp, this may be caused the rope been to long (2130) - Refer to the manufacturer

Finding 4

There is some rope wear showing - Monitor use

 4 - Very Low Risk

Item: 2 Bay Swing
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Bonded Rubber Mulch
Surface Nominal Depth: 60mm
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: N/A
Surface Area Compliance: N/A
Total Findings: 2



Finding 1

The swing is in satisfactory condition - See below

Finding 2

There is some chain and shackle wear - Monitor use

i 5 - Very Low Risk

Item: Multi Play (Toddler)
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Bonded Rubber Mulch
Surface Nominal Depth: 60mm
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: Yes
Surface Area Compliance: Yes
Total Findings: 2



Finding 1

The tower is in satisfactory condition - See below

Finding 2

Some panel brackets have worked loose - Tighten the coach bolts (Done)

i 4 - Very Low Risk

Item: 1 Bay Swing
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Bonded Rubber Mulch
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: No
Surface Area Compliance: Yes
Total Findings: 2



Finding 1

There is a finger entrapment in a bracket slot - Monitor Use

Finding 2

The swing is in satisfactory condition - None required

i 4 - Very Low Risk

Item: Inclusive Roundabout
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Bonded Rubber Mulch
Surface Nominal Depth: 60mm
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: No
Surface Area Compliance: Yes
Total Findings: 2



Finding 1

The identification label is illegible, due to wear - None required

Finding 2

The roundabout is in satisfactory condition - None required

i 3 - Very Low Risk

Item: Bridge
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: Yes
Surface Area Compliance: Yes
Total Findings: 1



Finding 1

The mini- suspension bridge is in satisfactory condition - None required

 3 - Very Low Risk

Item: Balance Beam
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: Yes
Surface Area Compliance: Yes

Total Findings: 1



Finding 1

The parallel beams are in satisfactory condition - None required

 3 - Very Low Risk

Item: Balance Beam
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: Yes
Surface Area Compliance: Yes

Total Findings: 1



Finding 1

The stepper beams are in satisfactory condition - None required

i 3 - Very Low Risk

Item: Balance Beam
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: Yes
Surface Area Compliance: Yes

Total Findings: 1



Finding 1

The twin balance beam is in satisfactory condition - None required

i 3 - Very Low Risk

Item: Intertwine
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: Yes
Surface Area Compliance: Yes

Total Findings: 2



Finding 1

The intertwine is in satisfactory condition - See below

Finding 2

A leg is loose in it's ground fixing - Tighten the coach bolts (Done)

i 4 - Very Low Risk

Item: Tractor
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: Yes
Surface Area Compliance: Yes

Total Findings: 2



Finding 1

The tractor is in satisfactory condition - See below

Finding 2

4no plugs are missing from the frame - Replace the missing plugs as required

i 3 - Very Low Risk

Item: Spinner Bowl
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: Yes
Surface Area Compliance: Yes

Total Findings: 1



Finding 1

The spinner is in satisfactory condition - None required

3 - Very Low Risk

Item: Spring See-Saw
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: Yes
Surface Area Compliance: Yes

Total Findings: 1



Finding 1

The see-saw is in satisfactory condition - None required

2 - Very Low Risk

Item: Table Tennis
Manufacturer: Concrete Sports
Surface Type: Concrete
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: N/A
Surface Area Compliance: N/A

Total Findings: 1



Finding 1

The table is in satisfactory condition - None required

i 2 - Very Low Risk

Item: Swing Barrier
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 2
Equipment Compliance: N/A
Surface Area Compliance: N/A

Total Findings: 1



Finding 1

The barriers are in satisfactory condition - None required

i 5 - Very Low Risk

Item: Seat
Manufacturer: Unknown
Surface Type: Concrete
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: N/A
Surface Area Compliance: N/A

Total Findings: 3



Finding 1

There is some evidence of rot in the timber - Monitor for any further deterioration

Finding 2

The memorial seat is slightly loose on it's ground fixings - Monitor use

Finding 3

A timber is not secure - Refix the timber

 2 - Very Low Risk

Item: Picnic Table
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 2
Equipment Compliance: N/A
Surface Area Compliance: N/A

Total Findings: 1



Finding 1

The tables are in satisfactory condition - None required

 2 - Very Low Risk

Item: Seat
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 2
Equipment Compliance: N/A
Surface Area Compliance: N/A

Total Findings: 1



Finding 1

The seat are in satisfactory condition - None required

i 8 - Low Risk

Item: Litter Bin
Manufacturer: Unknown
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: N/A
Surface Area Compliance: N/A



Total Findings: 2

Finding 1

The bin is in satisfactory condition - See below

Finding 2

The bin is not securely fixed to the surface and there is some possibility of it tipping or rolling over - Secure the bin to the fence or a post

i 3 - Very Low Risk

Item: Gate
Manufacturer: Zaun Fencing
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 2
Equipment Compliance: N/A
Surface Area Compliance: N/A



Total Findings: 2

Finding 1

The gates are in satisfactory condition - See below

Finding 2

A gate catch is missing - Replace as required

2 - Very Low Risk

Item: Fence
Manufacturer: Zaun Fencing
Surface Type: Grass
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: N/A
Surface Area Compliance: N/A

Total Findings: 1



Finding 1

The fence is in satisfactory condition - None required

8 - Low Risk

Item: Site General
Manufacturer: Owner/Operator
Surface Type: N/A
Item Quantity: 1
Equipment Compliance: N/A
Surface Area Compliance: N/A

Total Findings: 6



Finding 1

Some of the equipment timbers are rough or splintered in places - Sand the affected areas (Done)

Finding 3

There are bird droppings on some items - Clean the affected areas

Finding 5

Tree canopies overhang the area and have sharp branch ends - Lift tree canopy to ensure a minimum clearance of 2.0m from ground level

Finding 2

There is algae on the surface of some equipment, which could mark clothing - Clean and treat appropriately

Finding 4

There are weeds growing bonded rubber mulch - Remove the weeds, to avoid damage to the surfacing

Finding 6

It is recommended that information signs with emergency contact details are installed at each entrance/exit point to the playground - Provide in accordance with the recommendations set out in BS EN 1176

Findings information

5 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Activity Equipment - Multi Play (Junior)
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



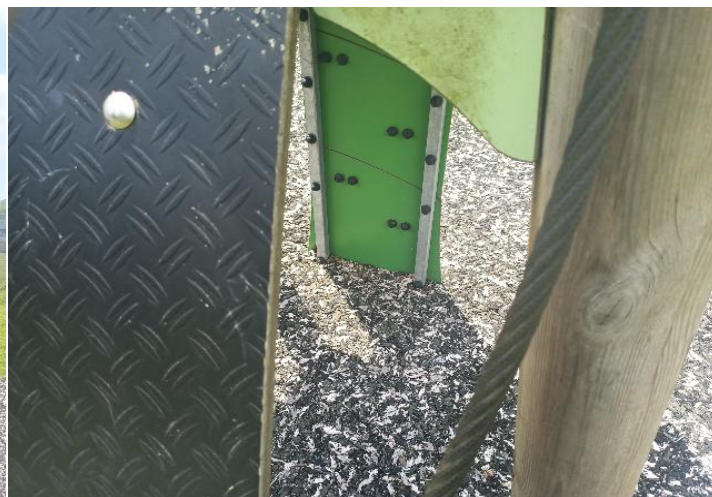
Finding: There is a finger entrapment in panel, which fails the requirements of BS EN1176

Action: Monitor Use

12 - Moderate Risk (Finding 2)

Item: Activity Equipment - Multi Play (Junior)
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: M - Moderate Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



Finding: The pull-up rope forms an entrapment off the side of the ramp, this may be caused the rope been too long (2130)

Action: Refer to the manufacturer

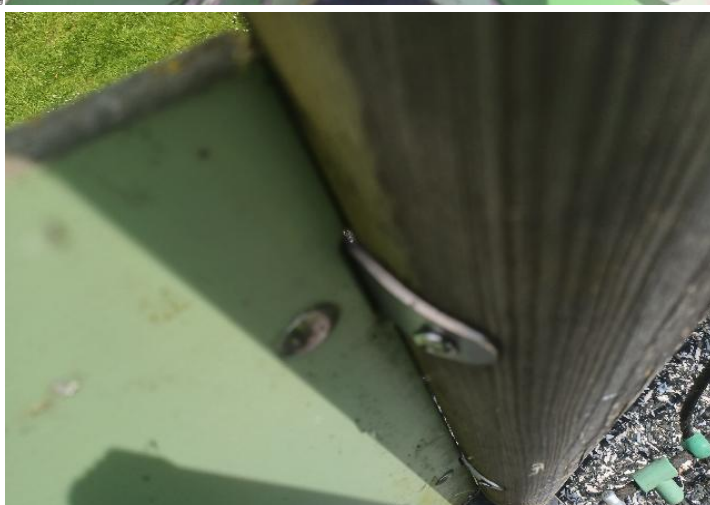
i 5 - Very Low Risk (Finding 3)

Item: Activity Equipment - Multi Play (Junior)
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



Finding: Some panel brackets are loose



Action: Tighten the coach bolts (Done whilst on site)

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 4)

Item: Activity Equipment - Multi Play (Junior)
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



Finding: There is some rope wear showing

Action: Monitor use

i 4 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Swings - 2 Bay Swing
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



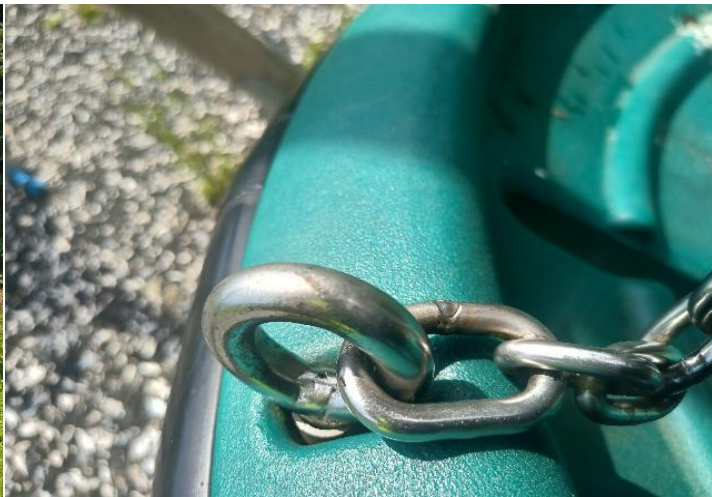
Finding: The swing is in satisfactory condition

Action: See below

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 2)

Item: Swings - 2 Bay Swing
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



Finding: There is some chain and shackle wear

Action: Monitor use

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Activity Equipment - Multi Play (Toddler)
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



Finding: The tower is in satisfactory condition

Action: See below

i 5 - Very Low Risk (Finding 2)

Item: Activity Equipment - Multi Play (Toddler)
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



Finding: Some panel brackets have worked loose

Action: Tighten the coach bolts (Done)

i 4 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Swings - 1 Bay Swing
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



Finding: There is a finger entrapment in a bracket slot

Action: Monitor Use

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 2)

Item: Swings - 1 Bay Swing
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



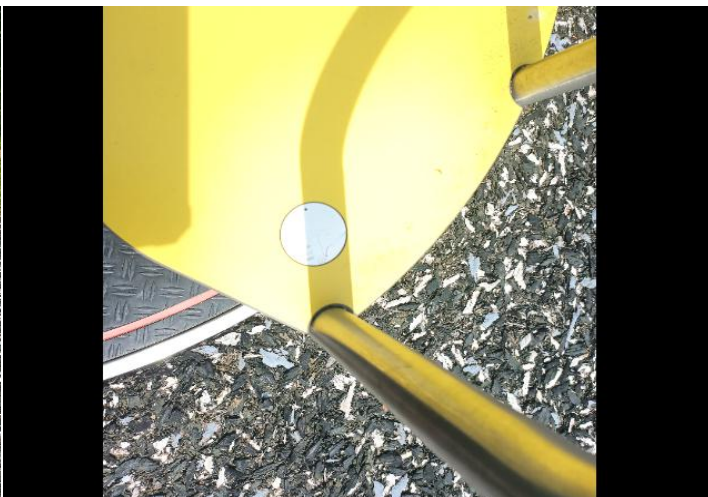
Finding: The swing is in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 1 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Rotor Play - Inclusive Roundabout
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



Finding: The identification label is illegible, due to wear

Action: None required

i 4 - Very Low Risk (Finding 2)

Item: Rotor Play - Inclusive Roundabout
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Bonded Rubber Mulch



Finding: The roundabout is in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Activity Equipment - Bridge
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The mini- suspension bridge is in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Activity Equipment - Balance Beam
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The parallel beams are in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Activity Equipment - Balance Beam
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The stepper beams are in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Activity Equipment - Balance Beam
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The twin balance beam is in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Activity Equipment - Intertwine
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The intertwine is in satisfactory condition

Action: See below

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 2)

Item: Activity Equipment - Intertwine
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: A leg is loose in it's ground fixing

Action: Tighten the coach bolts (Done)

i 2 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Activity Equipment - Tractor
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The tractor is in satisfactory condition



Action: See below

i 4 - Very Low Risk (Finding 2)

Item: Activity Equipment - Tractor
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: 4no plugs are missing from the frame



Action: Replace the missing plugs as required

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Rotor Play - Spinner Bowl
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The spinner is in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Rocking Equipment - Spring See-Saw
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The see-saw is in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 2 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Other - Table Tennis
Manufacturer: Concrete Sports

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Concrete



Finding: The table is in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 2 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Swings - Swing Barrier
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The barriers are in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Ancillary Items - Seat
Manufacturer: Unknown

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Concrete



Finding: There is some evidence of rot in the timber

Action: Monitor for any further deterioration

i 4 - Very Low Risk (Finding 2)

Item: Ancillary Items - Seat
Manufacturer: Unknown

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Concrete



Finding: The memorial seat is slightly loose on it's ground fixings

Action: Monitor use

i 5 - Very Low Risk (Finding 3)

Item: Ancillary Items - Seat
Manufacturer: Unknown

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Concrete



Finding: A timber is not secure

Action: Refix the timber

i 2 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Ancillary Items - Picnic Table
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The tables are in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 2 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Ancillary Items - Seat
Manufacturer: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The seat are in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 2 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Ancillary Items - Litter Bin
Manufacturer: Unknown

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The bin is in satisfactory condition

Action: See below

i 8 - Low Risk (Finding 2)

Item: Ancillary Items - Litter Bin
Manufacturer: Unknown

Risk Level: L - Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The bin is not securely fixed to the surface and there is some possibility of it tipping or rolling over

Action: Secure the bin to the fence or a post

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Gates - Gate
Manufacturer: Zaun Fencing

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The gates are in satisfactory condition

Action: See below

i 3 - Very Low Risk (Finding 2)

Item: Gates - Gate
Manufacturer: Zaun Fencing

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: A gate catch is missing

Action: Replace as required

i 2 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Fences - Fence
Manufacturer: Zaun Fencing

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: Grass



Finding: The fence is in satisfactory condition

Action: None required

i 6 - Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item: Ancillary Items - Site General
Manufacturer: Owner/Operator

Risk Level: L - Low Risk
Surface: N/A



Finding: Some of the equipment timbers are rough or splintered in places

Action: Sand the affected areas (Done)

i 5 - Very Low Risk (Finding 2)

Item: Ancillary Items - Site General
Manufacturer: Owner/Operator

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: N/A



Finding: There is algae on the surface of some equipment, which could mark clothing
Action: Clean and treat appropriately

i 6 - Low Risk (Finding 3)

Item: Ancillary Items - Site General
Manufacturer: Owner/Operator

Risk Level: L - Low Risk
Surface: N/A



Finding: There are bird droppings on some items

Action: Clean the affected areas

i 5 - Very Low Risk (Finding 4)

Item: Ancillary Items - Site General
Manufacturer: Owner/Operator

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: N/A



Finding: There are weeds growing bonded rubber mulch

Action: Remove the weeds, to avoid damage to the surfacing

i 8 - Low Risk (Finding 5)

Item: Ancillary Items - Site General
Manufacturer: Owner/Operator

Risk Level: L - Low Risk
Surface: N/A



Finding: Tree canopies overhang the area and have sharp branch ends

Action: Lift tree canopy to ensure a minimum clearance of 2.0m from ground level

i 2 - Very Low Risk (Finding 6)

Item: Ancillary Items - Site General
Manufacturer: Owner/Operator

Risk Level: V - Very Low Risk
Surface: N/A



Finding: It is recommended that information signs with emergency contact details are installed at each entrance/exit set out in BS EN 1176 point to the playground

Action: Provide in accordance with the recommendations

Isfield Parish Council
Year to Date Accounts as at 16th July 2025
All reserves
Payments

	Year to date		
	Budget	Actual	Variance
Other Payments			
Miscellaneous Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Maintenance			
General Maintenance	41.67	0.00	41.67
Total General Maintenance	41.67	0.00	41.67
Website			
Website	35.42	255.00	-219.58
Total Website	35.42	255.00	-219.58
Communication/Newsletter			
Communication/Newsletter	42.92	133.54	-90.62
Total Communication/Newsletter	42.92	133.54	-90.62
Pavilion Expenses			
Pavilion Expenditure	83.33	0.00	83.33
Total Pavilion Expenses	83.33	0.00	83.33
Defib expenses			
Defib expenses	6.25	0.00	6.25
Total Defib expenses	6.25	0.00	6.25
Elections			
Elections	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Elections	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sundries			
Sundries	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Sundries	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Infrastructure Levy ex			
CIL Expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Community Infrastructure Levy ex	0.00	0.00	0.00
S106 Expenditure			
S106 Expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total S106 Expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants and Subscriptions			
Grants and Subscriptions	28.75	383.83	-355.08
Total Grants and Subscriptions	28.75	383.83	-355.08
Litter picking			
Litter Picking	100.00	0.00	100.00
Total Litter picking	100.00	0.00	100.00
Pavilion cleaning			
Pavilion Cleaning	131.25	120.00	11.25
Total Pavilion cleaning	131.25	120.00	11.25
Hedge cutting			
Hedge Cutting	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Hedge cutting	0.00	0.00	0.00
Salaries			
Salaries	1,164.17	830.19	333.98
Total Salaries	1,164.17	830.19	333.98
Pension			
Total Pension	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employers PAYE/NIC			
Total Employers PAYE/NIC	0.00	0.00	0.00
Clerk expenses			
Clerk Expenses	6.67	14.49	-7.82
Total Clerk expenses	6.67	14.49	-7.82
Stationery			
Total Stationery	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hall Hire			
Hall Hire	20.00	28.00	-8.00
Total Hall Hire	20.00	28.00	-8.00
Conf/Course/Travel expenses			
Conf/Course/Travel	16.67	0.00	16.67
Total Conf/Course/Travel expenses	16.67	0.00	16.67
Insurance			
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Audit/Professional Fees			
Audit/Professional Fees	275.00	220.00	55.00
Total Audit/Professional Fees	275.00	220.00	55.00
Grass cutting			
Grass Cutting	193.75	0.00	193.75
Total Grass cutting	193.75	0.00	193.75
Community Grants			
Community Grants	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total Community Grants	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total Payments	2,145.85	2,085.05	60.80

Receipts

	Year to date		
	Budget	Actual	Variance
Other Receipts			
VAT Repayments	0.00	5,348.58	5,348.58
Miscellaneous Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Receipts	0.00	5,348.58	5,348.58
Precept			
Precept	12,945.00	12,945.00	0.00
Total Precept	12,945.00	12,945.00	0.00
VAT reclaim			
Total VAT reclaim	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations			
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank interest			
Bank Interest	0.83	0.00	-0.83
Total Bank interest	0.83	0.00	-0.83
Other			
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Infrastructure Levy			
Community Infrastructure Levy	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Community Infrastructure L	0.00	0.00	0.00
S106			
S106 Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total S106	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Receipts	12,945.83	18,293.58	5,347.75

Isfield Parish Council
July 2025 Expenditure

Date	Reference	Supplier / Customer	Description	Payment
16/07/2025	252631	ES Pension Scheme	Pension Contributions Mth 4	157.41
16/07/2025	252632	Barcombe Landscapes	Grass Cutting playing field	464.40
16/07/2025	252633	HMRC	HMRC Mth 4	145.88
16/07/2025	252634	A Emery	Salaries Mth 4	464.88
16/07/2025	252635	Clean Corner	Pavilion Cleaning	144.00
16/07/2025	252636	Cllr S Crammond	Expenses fete donation	50.00
16/07/2025	252637	Easy PC Accounts	Annual accounts package	99.00
Total July expenditure				1,525.57

List of Correspondence received

From 21st May 2025

	Issued to
1. WDC – Planning various	Clerk
2. ESALC – Devolution	Clerk/IPC
3. WDC - Devolution	Clerk/IPC
4. Zurich – address update	Clerk
5. M Taylor (WDC) – planning app 1075/6	Clerk/IPC
6. D French (WDC) – Owlsbury Farm objection	Clerk/IPC
7. The Keep Archives – Land registry docs	Clerk
8. Kate Jackson – SHS Land registry	Clerk
9. R Galley – Parish Report	Clerk
10. R Galley – Mthly report	Clerk/IPC
11. ESCC – Iconnect Pension	Clerk
12. Laura Sparshatt – Little Horsted School end of year party	Clerk/AK
13. Little Horsted bonfire society – PF hire	Clerk/AK/DW
14. Kate Jackson – Land registry	Clerk
15. Wealden Clerks meeting -	Clerk
16. WDC – Owlsbury extension	Clerk/GS
17. Chris Walker – insurance various	Clerk
18. Kate Jackson – land registry	Clerk
19. Kate Jackson – ST3 form	Clerk
20. Zurich – acknowledgement	Clerk/IPC
21. B Still – Maresfield Dynamos – PF hire	Clerk/AK
22. WDC Planning enforcement – Roebuck Stud	Clerk/AK/CC(DC)
23. Ben Still – PF hire Aug	Clerk/AK
24. Flexibus update	Clerk/IPC
25. WDALC – AGM	Clerk/IPC
26. Adele Scantlebury – IPC logo	Clerk/SC
27. Chris Walker – insurance claim	Clerk
28. WDC – SCI consultation	Clerk/IPC
29. ESALC – ES Housing Strategy Survey	Clerk/IPC
30. PKF – query	Clerk
31. Mulberry & Co – Internal audit 25/26	Clerk
32. D Jenner – Uckfield Colts U17 PF usage	AK/Clerk

33. Traffic Safety – Warning signs
34.

Clerk/IPC



ISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS 2024 FOR ENGLAND

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These Financial Regulations were adopted by the council at its meeting held on 23RD July 2025

1. General

- 1.1. These Financial Regulations govern the financial management of the council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the council. They are one of the council's governing documents and shall be observed in conjunction with the council's Standing Orders.
- 1.2. Councillors are expected to follow these regulations and not to entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow these regulations brings the office of councillor into disrepute.
- 1.3. Wilful breach of these regulations by an employee may result in disciplinary proceedings.
- 1.4. In these Financial Regulations:
 - 'Accounts and Audit Regulations' means the regulations issued under Sections 32, 43(2) and 46 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, or any superseding legislation, and then in force, unless otherwise specified.
 - "Approve" refers to an online action, allowing an electronic transaction to take place.
 - "Authorise" refers to a decision by the council, or a committee or an officer, to allow something to happen.
 - 'Proper practices' means those set out in *The Practitioners' Guide*
 - *Practitioners' Guide* refers to the guide issued by the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) and published by NALC in England or Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales – A Practitioners Guide jointly published by One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks in Wales.
 - 'Must' and **bold text** refer to a statutory obligation the council cannot change.
 - 'Shall' refers to a non-statutory instruction by the council to its members and staff.
- 1.5. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) holds a statutory office, appointed by the council. The Clerk has been appointed as RFO and these regulations apply accordingly. The RFO;
 - acts under the policy direction of the council;
 - administers the council's financial affairs in accordance with all Acts, Regulations and proper practices;
 - determines on behalf of the council its accounting records and control systems;
 - ensures the accounting control systems are observed;
 - ensures the accounting records are kept up to date;
 - seeks economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of council resources; and
 - produces financial management information as required by the council.
- 1.6. **The council must not delegate any decision regarding:**
 - **setting the final budget or the precept (council tax requirement);**
 - **the outcome of a review of the effectiveness of its internal controls**
 - **approving accounting statements;**

- **approving an annual governance statement;**
- **borrowing;**
- **declaring eligibility for the General Power of Competence; and •**
addressing recommendations from the internal or external auditors

1.7. In addition, the council shall:

- determine and regularly review the bank mandate for all council bank accounts;
- authorise any grant or single commitment in excess of £5,000; and

2. Risk management and internal control

2.1. The council must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control, which delivers effective financial, operational and risk management.

2.2. The Clerk with the RFO shall prepare, for approval by the council, a risk management policy covering all activities of the council. This policy and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.

2.3. When considering any new activity, the Clerk with the RFO shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration by the council.

2.4. At least once a year, the council must review the effectiveness of its system of internal control, before approving the Annual Governance Statement.

2.5. The accounting control systems determined by the RFO must include measures to:

- **ensure that risk is appropriately managed;**
- **ensure the prompt, accurate recording of financial transactions;**
- **prevent and detect inaccuracy or fraud; and**
- **allow the reconstitution of any lost records;**
- **identify the duties of officers dealing with transactions and**
- **ensure division of responsibilities.**

2.6. At the end of each financial year, a member other than the Chair shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO/Clerk. The member shall sign and date the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of this. This activity, including any exceptions, shall be reported to and noted by the Finance Committee.

2.7. Regular back-up copies shall be made of the records on any council computer and stored either online or in a separate location from the computer. The council shall put measures in place to ensure that the ability to access any council computer is not lost if an employee leaves or is incapacitated for any reason.

3. Accounts and audit

3.1. All accounting procedures and financial records of the council shall be determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

- 3.2. **The accounting records determined by the RFO must be sufficient to explain the council's transactions and to disclose its financial position with reasonable accuracy at any time. In particular, they must contain:**
- **day-to-day entries of all sums of money received and expended by the council and the matters to which they relate;**
 - **a record of the assets and liabilities of the council;**
- 3.3. The accounting records shall be designed to facilitate the efficient preparation of the accounting statements in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.
- 3.4. The RFO shall complete and certify the annual Accounting Statements of the council contained in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with proper practices, as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year. Having certified the Accounting Statements, the RFO shall submit them (with any related documents) to the council, within the timescales required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.5. **The council must ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and internal control system in accordance with proper practices.**
- 3.6. **Any officer or member of the council must make available such documents and records as the internal or external auditor consider necessary for the purpose of the audit** and shall, as directed by the council, supply the RFO, internal auditor, or external auditor with such information and explanation as the council considers necessary.
- 3.7. The internal auditor shall be appointed by the council and shall carry out their work to evaluate the effectiveness of the council's risk management, control and governance processes in accordance with proper practices specified in the Practitioners' Guide.
- 3.8. The council shall ensure that the internal auditor:
- is competent and independent of the financial operations of the council;
 - reports to council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one written report during each financial year;
 - can demonstrate competence, objectivity and independence, free from any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, including those arising from family relationships; and
 - has no involvement in the management or control of the council
- 3.9. Internal or external auditors may not under any circumstances:
- perform any operational duties for the council;
 - initiate or approve accounting transactions;
 - provide financial, legal or other advice including in relation to any future transactions; or
 - direct the activities of any council employee, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to assist the internal auditor.

- 3.10. For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to internal audit the terms 'independent' and 'independence' shall have the same meaning as described in The Practitioners Guide.
- 3.11. The RFO shall make arrangements for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the accounts, including the opportunity to inspect the accounts, books, and vouchers and display or publish any notices and documents required by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, or any superseding legislation, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.12. The RFO shall, without undue delay, bring to the attention of all councillors any correspondence or report from internal or external auditors.

4. Budget and precept

- 4.1. **Before setting a precept, the council must calculate its council tax (England) requirement for each financial year by preparing and approving a budget, in accordance with The Local Government Finance Act 1992 or succeeding legislation.**
- 4.2. Budgets for salaries and wages, including employer contributions shall be reviewed by personnel committee at least annually in October for the following financial year and the final version shall be evidenced by a hard copy schedule signed by the Clerk and the Chair of the Council or relevant committee. The RFO will inform committees of any salary implications before they consider their draft their budgets.
- 4.3. No later than November each year, the RFO shall prepare a draft budget with detailed estimates of all receipts and payments/income and expenditure for the following financial year.
- 4.4. Unspent budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year. Unspent funds for partially completed projects may only be carried forward (by placing them in an earmarked reserve) with the formal approval of the full council.
- 4.5. Each committee (if any) shall review its draft budget and submit any proposed amendments to the finance committee not later than the end of October each year.
- 4.6. The draft budget with any committee proposals, including any recommendations for the use or accumulation of reserves, shall be considered by the finance committee and a recommendation made to the council.
- 4.7. Having considered the proposed budget the council shall determine its council tax requirement by setting a budget. The council shall set a precept for this amount no later than the end of December for the ensuing financial year.
- 4.8. **Any member with council tax unpaid for more than two months is prohibited from voting on the budget or precept by Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and must and must disclose at the start of the meeting that Section 106 applies to them.**
- 4.9. The RFO shall **issue the precept to the billing authority no later than the end of February** and supply each member with a copy of the agreed annual budget.
- 4.10. The agreed budget provides a basis for monitoring progress during the year by comparing actual spending and income against what was planned.

- 4.11. Any addition to, or withdrawal from, any earmarked reserve shall be agreed by the council or relevant committee.

5. Procurement

- 5.1. **Members and officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times.** Any officer procuring goods, services or works should ensure, as far as practicable, that the best available terms are obtained, usually by obtaining prices from several suppliers.
- 5.2. The RFO should verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before it is made and in the case of new or infrequent purchases, should ensure that the legal power being used is reported to the meeting at which the order is authorised and also recorded in the minutes.
- 5.3. Every contract shall comply with these the council's Standing Orders and these Financial Regulations and no exceptions shall be made, except in an emergency.
- 5.4. **For a contract for the supply of goods, services or works where the estimated value will exceed the thresholds set by Parliament, the full requirements of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or any superseding legislation ("the Legislation"), must be followed in respect of the tendering, award and notification of that contract.**
- 5.5. Where the estimated value is below the Government threshold, the council shall (with the exception of items listed in paragraph 6.12) obtain prices as follows:
- 5.6. For contracts estimated to exceed £60,000 including VAT, the Clerk shall seek formal tenders from at least three suppliers agreed by the council OR advertise an open invitation for tenders in compliance with any relevant provisions of the Legislation. Tenders shall be invited in accordance with Appendix 1.
- 5.7. **For contracts estimated to be over £30,000 including VAT, the council must comply with any requirements of the Legislation¹ regarding the advertising of contract opportunities and the publication of notices about the award of contracts.**
- 5.8. For contracts greater than £5,000 excluding VAT the Clerk or RFO shall seek at least 3 fixed-price quotes;
- 5.9. where the value is between £500 and £5,000 excluding VAT, the Clerk or RFO shall try to obtain 3 estimates which might include evidence of online prices, or recent prices from regular suppliers.
- 5.10. For smaller purchases, the clerk shall seek to achieve value for money.
- 5.11. **Contracts must not be split into smaller lots to avoid compliance with these rules.**

-
- 5.12. The requirement to obtain competitive prices in these regulations need not apply to contracts that relate to items (i) to (iv) below:

¹ The Regulations require councils to use the Contracts Finder website if they advertise contract opportunities and also to publicise the award of contracts over £30,000 including VAT, regardless of whether they were advertised.

- i. specialist services, such as legal professionals acting in disputes;
- ii. repairs to, or parts for, existing machinery or equipment;
- iii. works, goods or services that constitute an extension of an existing contract;
- iv. goods or services that are only available from one supplier or are sold at a fixed price.

5.13. When applications are made to waive this financial regulation to enable a price to be negotiated without competition, the reason should be set out in a recommendation to the council or relevant committee. Avoidance of competition is not a valid reason.

5.14. The council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.

5.15. Individual purchases within an agreed budget for that type of expenditure may be authorised by:

- the Clerk, under delegated authority, for any items up to £1000 excluding VAT.
- the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Council or Chair of the appropriate committee, for any items up to £2,000 excluding VAT.
- a duly delegated committee of the council for all items of expenditure within their delegated budgets for items under £5,000 excluding VAT
- in respect of grants, a duly authorised committee within any limits set by council and in accordance with any policy statement agreed by the council.
- the council for all items over £5,000;

Such authorisation must be supported by a minute (in the case of council or committee decisions) or other auditable evidence trail.

5.16. No individual member, or informal group of members may issue an official order unless instructed to do so in advance by a resolution of the council or make any contract on behalf of the council.

5.17. No expenditure may be authorised that will exceed the budget for that type of expenditure other than by resolution of the council or a duly delegated committee acting within its Terms of Reference except in an emergency.

5.18. In cases of serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises, the clerk may authorise expenditure of up to £2,000 excluding VAT on repair, replacement or other work that in their judgement is necessary, whether or not there is any budget for such expenditure. The Clerk shall report such action to the Chair as soon as possible and to the council as soon as practicable thereafter.

5.19. No expenditure shall be authorised, no contract entered into or tender accepted in relation to any major project, unless the council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available and that where a loan is required, Government borrowing approval has been obtained first.

5.20. An official order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods and services above £3000 excluding VAT unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of orders shall be retained, along with evidence of receipt of goods.

5.21. Any ordering system can be misused and access to them shall be controlled by the RFO.

6. Banking and payments

6.1. The council's banking arrangements, including the bank mandate, shall be made by the RFO and authorised by the council; banking arrangements shall not be delegated to a committee. The council has resolved to bank with Barclays Bank. The arrangements shall be reviewed annually for security and efficiency.

6.2. The council must have safe and efficient arrangements for making payments, to safeguard against the possibility of fraud or error. Wherever possible, more than one person should be involved in any payment, for example by dual online authorisation or dual cheque signing. Even where a purchase has been authorised, the payment must also be authorised and only authorised payments shall be approved or signed to allow the funds to leave the council's bank.

6.3. All invoices for payment should be examined for arithmetical accuracy, analysed to the appropriate expenditure heading and verified to confirm that the work, goods or services were received, checked and represent expenditure previously authorised by the council before being certified by the RFO. Where the certification of invoices is done as a batch, this shall include a statement by the RFO that all invoices listed have been 'examined, verified and certified' by the RFO.

6.4. Personal payments (including salaries, wages, expenses and any payment made in relation to the termination of employment) may be summarised to avoid disclosing any personal information.

6.5. All payments shall be made by online banking/cheque, in accordance with a resolution of the council or duly delegated committee or a delegated decision by an officer, unless the council resolves to use a different payment method.

6.6. For each financial year the RFO may draw up a schedule of regular payments due in relation to a continuing contract or obligation (such as Salaries, PAYE, National Insurance, pension contributions, rent, rates, regular maintenance contracts and similar items), which the council or a duly delegated committee may authorise in advance for the year.

6.7. A copy of this schedule of regular payments shall be signed by two members on each and every occasion when payment is made - to reduce the risk of duplicate payments.

6.8. A list of such payments shall be reported to the next appropriate meeting of the council or Finance Committee for information only.

6.9. The Clerk and RFO shall have delegated authority to authorise payments only in the following circumstances:

- i. any payments of up to £1000 excluding VAT, within an agreed budget.
- ii. payments of up to £2,000 excluding VAT in cases of serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises.
- iii. any payment necessary to avoid a charge under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 or to comply with contractual terms, where the due date for payment is before the next scheduled meeting of the finance committee/council, where the Clerk and RFO certify that there is no dispute or

other reason to delay payment, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council or finance committee.

- iv. Fund transfers within the councils banking arrangements up to the sum of £25,000, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council or finance committee.

6.10. The RFO shall present a schedule of payments requiring authorisation, forming part of the agenda for the meeting, to the council or finance committee. The council or committee shall review the schedule for compliance and, having satisfied itself, shall authorise payment by resolution. The authorised schedule shall be initialled immediately below the last item by the person chairing the meeting. A detailed list of all payments shall be disclosed within or as an attachment to the minutes or part of the meeting pack of that meeting.

7. Electronic payments

- 7.1. Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the RFO shall be appointed as the Service Administrator. The bank mandate agreed by the council shall identify two councillors who will be authorised to approve transactions on those accounts and a minimum of two people will be involved in any online approval process with the Clerk/RFO raising the payments and one out of the two Councillors approving the online payments. The Clerk may be an authorised signatory, but no signatory should be involved in approving any payment to themselves.
- 7.2. All authorised signatories shall have access to view the council's bank accounts online.
- 7.3. No employee or councillor shall disclose any PIN or password, relevant to the council or its banking, to anyone not authorised in writing by the council or a duly delegated committee.
- 7.4. The Service Administrator (The Clerk/RFO) shall set up all items due for payment online. A list of payments for approval, together with copies of the relevant invoices, shall be sent by email to two authorised signatories.
- 7.5. In the prolonged absence of the Service Administrator an authorised signatory shall set up any payments due before the return of the Service Administrator.
- 7.6. Two councillors who are authorised signatories shall check the payment details against the invoices before approving each payment using the online banking system.
- 7.7. A full list of all payments made in a month shall be provided to the next finance committee meeting and appended to the minutes.
- 7.8. With the approval of the council in each case, regular payments (such as gas, electricity, telephone, broadband, water, National Non-Domestic Rates, refuse collection, pension contributions and HMRC payments) may be made by variable direct debit, provided that the instructions are signed/approved online by the RFO after approval by the finance committee. The approval of the use of each variable direct debit shall be reviewed by finance committee at least every two years.
- 7.9. Payment may be made by BACS or CHAPS by resolution of the council provided that each payment is approved online by one authorised bank signatory, evidence is retained and any payments are reported to the council at the next meeting. The

approval of the use of BACS or CHAPS shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every two years.

- 7.10. If thought appropriate by the council, regular payments of fixed sums may be made by banker's standing order, provided that the instructions are signed or approved online by two members, evidence of this is retained and any payments are reported to council when made. The approval of the use of a banker's standing order shall be reviewed by finance committee at least every two years.
- 7.11. Account details for suppliers may only be changed upon written notification by the supplier verified by the Clerk and/or the RFO. This is a potential area for fraud and the individuals involved should ensure that any change is genuine. Data held should be checked with suppliers every two years.
- 7.12. Members and officers shall ensure that any computer used for the council's financial business has adequate security, with anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software installed and regularly updated.
- 7.13. Remembered password facilities other than secure password stores requiring separate identity verification should not be used on any computer used for council banking.

8. Cheque payments

- 8.1. Cheques or orders for payment in accordance with a resolution or delegated decision shall be signed by one member and countersigned by the Clerk.
- 8.2. A signatory having a family or business relationship with the beneficiary of a payment shall not, under normal circumstances, be a signatory to that payment.
- 8.3. To indicate agreement of the details on the cheque with the counterfoil and the invoice or similar documentation, the signatories shall also initial the cheque counterfoil and invoice.
- 8.4. Cheques or orders for payment shall not normally be presented for signature other than at, or immediately before or after a council or committee} meeting. Any signatures obtained away from council meetings shall be reported to the council or Finance Committee at the next convenient meeting.

9. Payment cards

- 9.1. Any Debit Card issued for use will be specifically restricted to the Clerk and the RFO and will also be restricted to a single transaction maximum value of £500 unless authorised by council or finance committee in writing before any order is placed.
- 9.2. A pre-paid debit card may be issued to employees with varying limits. These limits will be set by the council. Transactions and purchases made will be reported to the council and authority for topping-up shall be at the discretion of the council.
- 9.3. Any corporate credit card or trade card account opened by the council will be specifically restricted to use by the Clerk and RFO and Village Hall Manager and any balance shall be paid in full each month.
- 9.4. Personal credit or debit cards of members or staff shall not be used unless absolutely necessary.

10. Petty Cash

10.1. The council will not maintain any form of cash float. All cash received must be banked intact. Any payments made in cash by the Clerk or RFO (for example for postage or minor stationery items) shall be refunded on a regular basis, at least quarterly.

a) Cash income received must not be paid into the petty cash float but must be separately banked, as provided elsewhere in these regulations.

11. Payment of salaries and allowances

11.1. **As an employer, the council must make arrangements to comply with the statutory requirements of PAYE legislation.**

11.2. **Councillors allowances (where paid) are also liable to deduction of tax under PAYE rules and must be taxed correctly before payment.**

11.3. Salary rates shall be agreed by the council, or a duly delegated committee. No changes shall be made to any employee's gross pay, emoluments, or terms and conditions of employment without the prior consent of the council or relevant committee.

11.4. Payment of salaries shall be made, after deduction of tax, national insurance, pension contributions and any similar statutory or discretionary deductions, on the dates stipulated in employment contracts.

11.5. Deductions from salary shall be paid to the relevant bodies within the required timescales, provided that each payment is reported, as set out in these regulations above.

11.6. Each payment to employees of net salary and to the appropriate creditor of the statutory and discretionary deductions shall be recorded in a payroll control account or other separate confidential record, with the total of such payments each calendar month reported in the cashbook. Payroll reports will be reviewed by the finance committee to ensure that the correct payments have been made.

11.7. Any termination payments shall be supported by a report to the council, setting out a clear business case. Termination payments shall only be authorised by the full council.

11.8. Before employing interim staff, the council must consider a full business case.

12. Loans and investments

12.1. Any application for Government approval to borrow money and subsequent arrangements for a loan must be authorised by the full council and recorded in the minutes. All borrowing shall be in the name of the council, after obtaining any necessary approval.

12.2. Any financial arrangement which does not require formal borrowing approval from the Secretary of State/Welsh Assembly Government (such as Hire Purchase, Leasing of tangible assets or loans to be repaid within the financial year) must be authorised by the full council, following a written report on the value for money of the proposed transaction.

12.3. The council shall consider the requirement for an Investment Strategy and Policy in accordance with Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments, which must be written in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance. Any Strategy and Policy shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.

- 12.4. All investment of money under the control of the council shall be in the name of the council.
- 12.5. All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO.
- 12.6. Payments in respect of short term or long-term investments, including transfers between bank accounts held in the same bank, shall be made in accordance with these regulations.

13. Income

- 13.1. The collection of all sums due to the council shall be the responsibility of and under the supervision of the RFO.
- 13.2. The council will review all fees and charges for work done, services provided, or goods sold at least annually as part of the budget-setting process, following a report of the Clerk. The RFO shall be responsible for the collection of all amounts due to the council.
- 13.3. Any sums found to be irrecoverable and any bad debts shall be reported to the council by the RFO and shall be written off in the year. The council's approval shall be shown in the accounting records.
- 13.4. All sums received on behalf of the council shall be deposited intact with the council's bankers, with such frequency as the RFO considers necessary. The origin of each receipt shall clearly be recorded on the paying-in slip or other record.
- 13.5. Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the council.
- 13.6. The RFO shall ensure that VAT is correctly recorded in the council's accounting software and that any VAT Return required is submitted from the software on 1st October and 1st April each year.
- 13.7. Where significant sums of cash are regularly received by the council, the RFO shall ensure that more than one person is present when the cash is counted in the first instance, that there is a reconciliation to some form of control record such as ticket issues, and that appropriate care is taken for the security and safety of individuals banking such cash.
- 13.8. Any income that is the property of a charitable trust shall be paid into a charitable bank account. Instructions for the payment of funds due from the charitable trust to the council (to meet expenditure already incurred by the authority) will be given by the Managing Trustees of the charity meeting separately from any council meeting.

14. Payments under contracts for building or other construction works

- 14.1. Where contracts provide for payment by instalments the RFO shall maintain a record of all such payments, which shall be made within the time specified in the contract based on signed certificates from the architect or other consultant engaged to supervise the works.
- 14.2. Any variation of, addition to or omission from a contract must be authorised by the Clerk to the contractor in writing, with the council being informed where the final cost is likely to exceed the contract sum by 5% or more, or likely to exceed the budget available.

15. Stores and equipment

- 15.1. The officer in charge of each section shall be responsible for the care and custody of stores and equipment in that section.
- 15.2. Delivery notes shall be obtained in respect of all goods received into store or otherwise delivered and goods must be checked as to order and quality at the time delivery is made.
- 15.3. Stocks shall be kept at the minimum levels consistent with operational requirements.
- 15.4. The RFO shall be responsible for periodic checks of stocks and stores, at least annually.

16. Assets, properties and estates

- 16.1. The Clerk shall make arrangements for the safe custody of all title deeds and Land Registry Certificates of properties held by the council.
- 16.2. The RFO shall ensure that an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date, with a record of all properties held by the council, their location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which held, in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 16.3. The continued existence of tangible assets shown in the Register shall be verified at least annually, possibly in conjunction with a health and safety inspection of assets.
- 16.4. No interest in land shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the council, together with any other consents required by law. In each case a written report shall be provided to council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate where required by law).

No tangible moveable property shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of, without the authority of the council, together with any other consents required by law, except where the estimated value of any one item does not exceed £500. In each case a written report shall be provided to council with a full business case.

17. Insurance

- 17.1. The RFO shall keep a record of all insurances effected by the council and the property and risks covered, reviewing these annually before the renewal date in conjunction with the council's review of risk management.
- 17.2. The Clerk shall give prompt notification to the RFO of all new risks, properties or vehicles which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.
- 17.3. The RFO shall be notified of any loss, liability, damage or event likely to lead to a claim, and shall report these to the council at the next available meeting. The RFO shall negotiate all claims on the council's insurers in consultation with the Clerk.

- 17.4. All appropriate members and employees of the council shall be included in a suitable form of security or fidelity guarantee insurance which shall cover the maximum risk exposure as determined annually by the council, or duly delegated committee.

18. Charities

- 18.1. Where the council is sole managing trustee of a charitable body the Clerk and RFO shall ensure that separate accounts are kept of the funds held on charitable trusts and separate financial reports made in such form as shall be appropriate, in accordance with Charity Law and legislation, or as determined by the Charity Commission. The Clerk and RFO shall arrange for any audit or independent examination as may be required by Charity Law or any Governing Document.]

19. Suspension and revision of Financial Regulations

- 19.1. The council shall review these Financial Regulations annually and following any change of clerk or RFO. The Clerk shall monitor changes in legislation or proper practices and advise the council of any need to amend these Financial Regulations.
- 19.2. The council may, by resolution duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of council, suspend any part of these Financial Regulations, provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been presented to all members. Suspension does not disapply any legislation or permit the council to act unlawfully.
- 19.3. The council may temporarily amend these Financial Regulations by a duly notified resolution, to cope with periods of absence, local government reorganisation, national restrictions or other exceptional circumstances.

Appendix 1 - Tender process

- 1) Any invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Clerk shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases.
- 2) The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Clerk in the ordinary course of post, unless an electronic tendering process has been agreed by the council.
- 3) Where a postal process is used, each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract. All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Clerk in the presence of at least one member of council.
- 4) Where an electronic tendering process is used, the council shall use a specific email address that will be monitored to ensure that nobody accesses any tender before the expiry of the deadline for submission.
- 5) Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall be subject to the councils relevant Standing Order and shall refer to the terms of the Bribery Act 2010.
- 6) Where the council, or duly delegated committee, does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, the work is not allocated and the council requires further pricing, no

person shall be permitted to submit a later tender, estimate or quote who was present when the original decision-making process was being undertaken.



ISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Standing Orders

2025

These Standing Orders were adopted at the meeting held on 23rd July 2025

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INTRODUCTION

This is an update to Model Standing Orders 14 and 18.

HOW TO USE MODEL STANDING ORDERS

Standing orders are the written rules of a local council. Standing orders are essential to regulate the proceedings of a meeting. A council may also use standing orders to confirm or refer to various internal organisational and administrative arrangements. The standing orders of a council are not the same as the policies of a council but standing orders may refer to them.

Local councils operate within a wide statutory framework. NALC model standing orders incorporate and reference many statutory requirements to which councils are subject. It is not possible for the model standing orders to contain or reference all the statutory or legal requirements which apply to local councils. For example, it is not practical for model standing orders to document all obligations under data protection legislation. The statutory requirements to which a council is subject apply whether or not they are incorporated in a council's standing orders.

The model standing orders do not include model financial regulations. Financial regulations are standing orders to regulate and control the financial affairs and accounting procedures of a local council. The financial regulations, as opposed to the standing orders of a council, include most of the requirements relevant to the council's Responsible Financial Officer. Model financial regulations are available to councils in membership of NALC.

1. **RULES OF DEBATE AT MEETINGS**

- a Motions on the agenda shall be considered in the order that they appear unless the order is changed at the discretion of the chair of the meeting.
- b A motion (including an amendment) shall not be progressed unless it has been moved and seconded.
- c A motion on the agenda that is not moved by its proposer may be treated by the chair of the meeting as withdrawn.
- d If a motion (including an amendment) has been seconded, it may be withdrawn by the proposer only with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- e An amendment is a proposal to remove or add words to a motion. It shall not negate the motion.
- f If an amendment to the original motion is carried, the original motion (as amended) becomes the substantive motion upon which further amendment(s) may be moved.
- g An amendment shall not be considered unless early verbal notice of it is given at the meeting and, if requested by the chair of the meeting, is expressed in writing to the chair.
- h A councillor may move an amendment to their own motion if agreed by the meeting. If a motion has already been seconded, the amendment shall be with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- i If there is more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion, the amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the chair of the meeting.
- j Subject to standing order 1(k), only one amendment shall be moved and debated at a time, the order of which shall be directed by the chair of the meeting.
- k One or more amendments may be discussed together if the chair of the meeting considers this expedient but each amendment shall be voted upon separately.
- l A councillor may not move more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion.
- m The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the end of debate on it.
- n Where a series of amendments to an original motion are carried, the mover of the original motion shall have a right of reply either at the end of debate on the first amendment or at the very end of debate on the final substantive motion immediately before it is put to the vote.

- o Unless permitted by the chair of the meeting, a councillor may speak once in the debate on a motion except:
 - i. to speak on an amendment moved by another councillor;
 - ii. to move or speak on another amendment if the motion has been amended since he last spoke;
 - iii. to make a point of order;
 - iv. to give a personal explanation; or
 - v. to exercise a right of reply.
- p During the debate on a motion, a councillor may interrupt only on a point of order or a personal explanation and the councillor who was interrupted shall stop speaking. A councillor raising a point of order shall identify the standing order which he considers has been breached or specify the other irregularity in the proceedings of the meeting he is concerned by.
- q A point of order shall be decided by the chair of the meeting and their decision shall be final.
- r When a motion is under debate, no other motion shall be moved except:
 - i. to amend the motion;
 - ii. to proceed to the next business;
 - iii. to adjourn the debate;
 - iv. to put the motion to a vote;
 - v. to ask a person to be no longer heard or to leave the meeting;
 - vi. to refer a motion to a committee or sub-committee for consideration;
 - vii. to exclude the public and press;
 - viii. to adjourn the meeting; or
 - ix. to suspend particular standing order(s) excepting those which reflect mandatory statutory or legal requirements.
- s Before an original or substantive motion is put to the vote, the chair of the meeting shall be satisfied that the motion has been sufficiently debated and that the mover of the motion under debate has exercised or waived their right of reply.
- t Excluding motions moved under standing order 1(r), the contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed (10) minutes without the consent of the chair of the meeting.

2. DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT MEETINGS

- a No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If this standing order is ignored, the chair of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct.
- b If person(s) disregard the request of the chair of the meeting to moderate or improve their conduct, any councillor or the chairman of the meeting may move that the person be no longer heard or be excluded from the meeting. The motion, if seconded, shall be put to the vote without discussion.
- c If a resolution made under standing order 2(b) is ignored, the chair of the meeting may take further reasonable steps to restore order or to progress the meeting. This may include temporarily suspending or closing the meeting.

3. MEETINGS GENERALLY

Full Council meetings	●
Committee meetings	●
Sub-committee meetings	●

- a **Meetings shall not take place in premises which at the time of the meeting are used for the supply of alcohol, unless no other premises are available free of charge or at a reasonable cost.**
- b **The minimum three clear days for notice of a meeting does not include the day on which notice was issued, the day of the meeting, a Sunday, a day of the Christmas break, a day of the Easter break or of a bank holiday or a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.**
- c **The minimum three clear days' public notice for a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued or the day of the meeting unless the meeting is convened at shorter notice**
- d **Meetings 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. The public's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public's exclusion.**
- e Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.
- f The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed (15) minutes unless

directed by the chair of the meeting.

- g Subject to standing order 3(f), a member of the public shall not speak for more than (5) minutes.
- h In accordance with standing order 3(e), a question shall not require a
- i response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
- j A person shall raise their hand when requesting to speak and stand when speaking (except when a person has a disability or is likely to suffer discomfort). The chairman of the meeting may at any time permit a person to be seated when speaking.
- k A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct their comments to the chair of the meeting.
- l Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wants to speak, the chair of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking.
- m **Subject to standing order 3(m), a person who attends a meeting is permitted to report on the meeting whilst the meeting is open to the public. To “report” means to film, photograph, make an audio recording of meeting proceedings, use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear the meeting as it takes place or later or to report or to provide oral or written commentary about the meeting so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later to persons not present.**
- n **A person present at a meeting may not provide an oral report or oral commentary about a meeting as it takes place without permission.**
- o **The press shall be provided with reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present.**
- p **Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chair of the Council may in their absence be done by, to or before the Vice-Chair of the Council (if there is one).**
- q **The Chair of the Council, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chair is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Council (if there is one) if present, shall preside. If both the Chair and the Vice-Chair are absent from a meeting, a councillor as chosen by the councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.**
- r **Subject to a meeting being quorate, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the councillors and non-councillors with voting**

- rights present and voting.
- s The chair of a meeting may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may exercise their casting vote whether or not he gave an original vote.
-

See standing orders 5(h) and (i) for the different rules that apply in the election of the Chair of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council.

- t **Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on a question shall be by a show of hands. At the request of a councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each councillor present and voting gave their vote for or against that question.** Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda.
- u The minutes of a meeting shall include an accurate record of the following:
 - i. the time and place of the meeting;
 - ii. the names of councillors who are present and the names of councillors who are absent;
 - iii. interests that have been declared by councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
 - iv. the grant of dispensations (if any) to councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
 - v. whether a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered;
 - vi. if there was a public participation session; and
 - vii. the resolutions made.
- v **A councillor or a non-councillor with voting rights who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest as set out in the Council's code of conduct in a matter being considered at a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or restrictions under the code on their right to participate and vote on that matter.**
- w **No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least one-third of the whole number of members of the Council are present and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less than three.**

See standing order 4d(viii) for the quorum of a committee or sub-committee meeting.

- x **If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted**
- and the meeting shall be closed. The business on the agenda for the meeting
- shall be adjourned to another meeting.
- y A meeting shall not exceed a period of 2.5 hours.

4. **COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

- a **Unless the Council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by the committee.**
- b **The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the Council.**
- c **Unless the Council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee and a sub-committee of the advisory committee may be non-councillors.**
- d The Council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, and:
 - i. shall determine their terms of reference;
 - ii. shall determine the number and time of the ordinary meetings of a standing committee up until the date of the next annual meeting of the Council;
 - iii. shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings;
 - iv. shall, subject to standing orders 4(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee;
 - v. may, subject to standing orders 4(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of the substitute members to a committee whose role is to replace the ordinary members at a meeting of a committee if the ordinary members of the committee confirm to the Proper Officer (7) days before the meeting that they are unable to attend;
 - vi. shall, after it has appointed the members of a standing committee, appoint the chair of the standing committee;
 - vii. shall permit a committee other than a standing committee, to appoint its own chair at the first meeting of the committee;
 - viii. shall determine the place, notice requirements and quorum for a meeting of a committee and a sub-committee which, in both cases, shall be no less than three;
 - ix. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a committee;
 - x. shall determine if the public and press are permitted to attend the meetings of a sub-committee and also the advance public notice

requirements, if any, required for the meetings of a sub-committee;

- xi. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a sub-committee that they are permitted to attend; and
- xii. may dissolve a committee or a sub-committee.

5. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a **In an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the councillors elected take office.**
- b **In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on such day in May as the Council decides.**
- c **If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 6pm.**
- d **In addition to the annual meeting of the Council, at least three other ordinary meetings shall be held in each year on such dates and times as the Council decides.**
- e **The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the Council shall be the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair (if there is one) of the Council.**
- f **The Chair of the Council, unless he has resigned or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the annual meeting until their successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the Council.**
- g **The Vice-Chair of the Council, if there is one, unless he resigns or becomes disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chairman of the Council at the next annual meeting of the Council.**
- h **In an election year, if the current Chair of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, he shall preside at the annual meeting until a successor Chair of the Council has been elected. The current Chair of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council but shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- i **In an election year, if the current Chair of the Council has been re-elected as a member of the Council, he shall preside at the annual meeting until a new Chair of the Council has been elected. He may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council and shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- j Following the election of the Chair of the Council and Vice-Chair (if there is one) of the Council at the annual meeting, the business shall include:
 - i. **In an election year, delivery by the Chair of the Council and councillors of their acceptance of office forms unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date. In a year which is not an**

election year, delivery by the Chair of the Council of their acceptance of office form unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date;

- ii. Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council;
- iii. Receipt of the minutes of the last meeting of a committee;
- iv. Consideration of the recommendations made by a committee;
- v. Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff and other local authorities;
- vi. Review of the terms of reference for committees;
- vii. Appointment of members to existing committees;
- viii. Appointment of any new committees in accordance with standing order 4;
- ix. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations;
- x. Review of arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses.
- xi. Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back;
- xii. In an election year, to make arrangements with a view to the Council becoming eligible to exercise the general power of competence in the future;
- xiii. Review of inventory of land and other assets including buildings and office equipment;
- xiv. Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks;
- xv. Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;
- xvi. Review of the Council's complaints procedure;
- xvii. Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (*see also standing orders 11, 20 and 21*);
- xviii. Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;
- xix. Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures;
- xx. Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the general power of competence.
- xxi. Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

6. **EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

- a **The Chair of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.**
- b **If the Chair of the Council does not call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within seven days of having been requested in writing to do so by two councillors, any two councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The public notice giving the time, place and agenda for such a meeting shall be signed by the two councillors.**
- c The chair of a committee [or a sub-committee] may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee [or the sub-committee] at any time.
- d If the chair of a committee [or a sub-committee] does not call an extraordinary meeting within (3) days of having been requested to do so by (3) members of the committee [or the sub-committee], any (3) members of the committee [or the sub-committee] may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee [or a sub-committee].

7. **PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

- a A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least (3) councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.
- b When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 7(a) has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved for a further six months.

8. **VOTING ON APPOINTMENTS**

- a Where more than two persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the Council and none of those persons has received an absolute majority of votes in their favour, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken. This process shall continue until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person. A tie in votes may be settled by the casting vote exercisable by the chair of the meeting.

9. **MOTIONS FOR A MEETING THAT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE TO BE GIVEN TO THE PROPER OFFICER**

- a A motion shall relate to the responsibilities of the meeting for which it is tabled and in any event shall relate to the performance of the Council's statutory functions, powers and obligations or an issue which specifically affects the Council's area or its residents.
- b No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least (5)
- c clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.
- d The Proper Officer may, before including a motion on the agenda received in accordance with standing order 9(b), correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.
- e If the Proper Officer considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 9(b) is not clear in meaning, the motion shall be rejected until the mover of the motion resubmits it, so that it can be understood, in writing, to the Proper Officer at least (5) clear days before the meeting.
- f If the wording or subject of a proposed motion is considered improper, the Proper Officer shall consult with the chair of the forthcoming meeting or, as the case may be, the councillors who have convened the meeting, to consider whether the motion shall be included in the agenda or rejected.
- g The decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the motion on the agenda shall be final.
- h Motions received shall be recorded and numbered in the order that they are received.
- i Motions rejected shall be recorded with an explanation by the Proper Officer of the reason for rejection.

10. **MOTIONS AT A MEETING THAT DO NOT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE**

- a The following motions may be moved at a meeting without written notice to the Proper Officer:
 - i. to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of a meeting;
 - ii. to move to a vote;
 - iii. to defer consideration of a motion;
 - iv. to refer a motion to a particular committee or sub-committee;
 - v. to appoint a person to preside at a meeting;
 - vi. to change the order of business on the agenda;
 - vii. to proceed to the next business on the agenda;

- viii. to require a written report;
- ix. to appoint a committee or sub-committee and their members;
- x. to extend the time limits for speaking;
- xi. to exclude the press and public from a meeting in respect of confidential or other information which is prejudicial to the public interest;
- xii. to not hear further from a councillor or a member of the public;
- xiii. to exclude a councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct;
- xiv. to temporarily suspend the meeting;
- xv. to suspend a particular standing order (unless it reflects mandatory statutory or legal requirements);
- xvi. to adjourn the meeting; or
- xvii. to close the meeting.

11. **MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION**

See also standing order 20.

- a **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.**
- b **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).**
- c **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.**
- d **Councillors, staff, the Council's contractors and agents shall not disclose confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**

12. **DRAFT MINUTES**

Full Council meetings	●
Committee meetings	●
Sub-committee meetings	●

- a If the draft minutes of a preceding meeting have been served on councillors with the agenda to attend the meeting at which they are due to be approved for accuracy, they shall be taken as read.
- b There shall be no discussion about the draft minutes of a preceding meeting except in relation to their accuracy. A motion to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes shall be moved in accordance with standing order 10(a)(i).
- c The accuracy of draft minutes, including any amendment(s) made to them, shall be confirmed by resolution and shall be signed by the chair of the meeting and stand as an accurate record of the meeting to which the minutes relate.
- d If the chair of the meeting does not consider the minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting to which they relate, he shall sign the minutes and include a paragraph in the following terms or to the same effect:

“The chair of this meeting does not believe that the minutes of the meeting of the () held on [date] in respect of () were a correct record but this view was not upheld by the meeting and the minutes are confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.”
- e **If the Council's gross annual income or expenditure (whichever is higher) does not exceed £25,000, it shall publish draft minutes on a website which is publicly accessible and free of charge not later than one month after the meeting has taken place.**
- f Subject to the publication of draft minutes in accordance with standing order 12(e) and standing order 20(a) and following a resolution which confirms the accuracy of the minutes of a meeting, the draft minutes or recordings of the meeting for which approved minutes exist shall be destroyed.

13. **CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISPENSATIONS**

See also standing order 3(u).

- a All councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council.
- b Unless they have been granted a dispensation, a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which he has a disclosable pecuniary interest. They may return to the meeting after it has considered the matter in which he had the interest.
- c Unless they have been granted a dispensation, a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which he has another interest if so required by the Council's code of conduct. They may return to the meeting after it has considered the matter in which they had the interest.
- d **Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Proper**

Officer as soon as possible before the meeting, or failing that, at the start of the meeting for which the dispensation is required.

- e A decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made at a meeting of the Council, or committee or sub-committee for which the dispensation is required and that decision is final.
- f A dispensation request shall confirm:
 - i. the description and the nature of the disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest to which the request for the dispensation relates;
 - ii. whether the dispensation is required to participate at a meeting in a discussion only or a discussion and a vote;
 - iii. the date of the meeting or the period (not exceeding four years) for which the dispensation is sought; and
 - iv. an explanation as to why the dispensation is sought.
- g Subject to standing orders 13(d) and (f), a dispensation request shall be considered at the beginning of the meeting of the Council, or committee or sub-committee for which the dispensation is required.
- h A dispensation may be granted in accordance with standing order 13(e) if having regard to all relevant circumstances any of the following apply:**
 - i. without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in the particular business would be so great a proportion of the meeting transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business;**
 - ii. granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Council's area; or**
 - iii. it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.**

14. **CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

- a Upon notification by the Principal Council that a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Council shall consider what, if any, action to take against them. Such action excludes disqualification or suspension from office.**

15. **PROPER OFFICER**

a The Proper Officer shall be either (i) the clerk or (ii) other staff member(s) nominated by the Council to undertake the work of the Proper Officer when the Proper Officer is absent.

b The Proper Officer shall:

- i. **at least three clear days before a meeting of the council, a committee or a sub-committee,**
 - **serve on councillors by delivery or post at their residences or by email authenticated in such manner as the Proper Officer thinks fit, a signed summons confirming the time, place and the agenda (provided the councillor has consented to service by email), and**
 - **Provide, in a conspicuous place, public notice of the time, place and agenda (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the Council convened by councillors is signed by them).**

See standing order 3(b) for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a full council and standing order 3(c) for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a committee;

- ii. subject to standing order 9, include on the agenda all motions in the order received unless a councillor has given written notice at least (5) days before the meeting confirming their withdrawal of it;
- iii. convene a meeting of the Council for the election of a new Chair of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in their office;
- iv. **facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors;**
- v. **receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities;**
- vi. hold acceptance of office forms from councillors;
- vii. hold a copy of every councillor's register of interests;
- viii. assist with responding to requests made under freedom of information legislation and rights exercisable under data protection legislation, in accordance with the Council's relevant policies and procedures;
- ix. liaise, as appropriate, with the Council's Data Protection Officer (if there is one);
- x. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary;
- xi. assist in the organisation of, storage of, access to, security of and destruction of information held by the Council in paper and electronic form subject to the requirements of data protection and freedom of

information legislation and other legitimate requirements (e.g. the Limitation Act 1980);

- xii. arrange for legal deeds to be executed;
(*see also standing order 23*);
- xiii. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with its financial regulations;
- xiv. record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council's response to the local planning authority in a book for such purpose;
- xv. refer a planning application received by the Council to the Chair or in their absence the Vice-Chair (if there is one) of the Council within two working days of receipt to facilitate an extraordinary meeting if the nature of a planning application requires consideration before the next ordinary meeting of the Council.
- xvi. manage access to information about the Council via the publication scheme; and
- xvii. retain custody of the seal of the Council (if there is one) which shall not be used without a resolution to that effect.
(*see also standing order 23*).

16. **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- a The Council shall appoint appropriate staff member(s) to undertake the work of the Responsible Financial Officer when the Responsible Financial Officer is absent.

17. **ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS**

- a "Proper practices" in standing orders refer to the most recent version of "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – a Practitioners' Guide".
- b All payments by the Council shall be authorised, approved and paid in accordance with the law, proper practices and the Council's financial regulations.
- c The Responsible Financial Officer shall supply to each councillor as soon as practicable after 30 June, 30 September and 31 December in each year a statement to summarise:
 - i. the Council's receipts and payments for each quarter;
 - ii. the Council's aggregate receipts and payments for the year to date;
 - iii. the balances held at the end of the quarter being reported and

which includes a comparison with the budget for the financial year and highlights any actual or potential overspends.

- d. As soon as possible after the financial year end at 31 March, the Responsible Financial Officer shall provide:
 - i. each councillor with a statement summarising the Council's receipts and payments for the last quarter and the year to date for information; and
 - ii. to the Council the accounting statements for the year in the form of Section 2 of the annual governance and accountability return, as required by proper practices, for consideration and approval.
- e. The year-end accounting statements shall be prepared in accordance with proper practices and apply the form of accounts determined by the Council (receipts and payments, or income and expenditure) for the year to 31 March. A completed draft annual governance and accountability return shall be presented to all councillors at least 14 days prior to anticipated approval by the Council. The annual governance and accountability return of the Council, which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to the Council for consideration and formal approval before 30 June.

18. **FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND PROCUREMENT**

- a. The Council shall consider and approve financial regulations drawn up by the Responsible Financial Officer, which shall include detailed arrangements in respect of the following:
 - i. the keeping of accounting records and systems of internal controls;
 - ii. the assessment and management of financial risks faced by the Council;
 - iii. the work of the independent internal auditor in accordance with proper practices and the receipt of regular reports from the internal auditor, which shall be required at least annually;
 - iv. the inspection and copying by councillors and local electors of the Council's accounts and/or orders of payments; and
 - v. whether contracts with an estimated value below £60,000 due to special circumstances are exempt from a tendering process or procurement exercise.
- b. Financial regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for fitness of purpose.
- c. 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. tenders are to be submitted in writing in a sealed marked envelope addressed to the Proper Officer;
 - iv. 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;
 - v. tenders are to be reported to and considered by the appropriate meeting of the Council or a committee or sub-committee with delegated responsibility.
- d. Neither the Council, nor a committee or a sub-committee with delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound to accept the lowest value tender.
- e. **Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed the threshold specified by the Government from time to time, the Council must consider whether the contract is subject to the requirements of the current procurement legislation and, if so, the Council must comply with procurement rules. NALC's procurement guidance contains further details.**

19. HANDLING STAFF MATTERS

- a A matter personal to a member of staff that is being considered by a meeting of Council is subject to standing order 11.
- b Subject to the Council's policy regarding absences from work, the Council's most senior member of staff shall notify the chair or, if he is not available, the vice-chair (if there is one) of the Council at its next meeting.
- c The chair of the Council or in their absence, the vice-chair shall upon a resolution conduct a review of the performance and annual appraisal of the work of Clerk and RFO. The reviews and appraisal shall be reported in writing and are subject to approval by resolution by the Council.
- d Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the Council's most senior member of staff (or other members of staff) shall contact the chair of the Council or in their absence, the vice-chair of the Council in respect of an informal or formal grievance matter, and this matter shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the Council.
- e Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter raised by Clerk/RFO relates to the chair or vice-chair of the Council, this shall be communicated to another member of the Council which shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the Council.

- f Any persons responsible for all or part of the management of staff shall treat as confidential the written records of all meetings relating to their performance, capabilities, grievance or disciplinary matters.
- g In accordance with standing order 11(a), persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to staff records referred to in standing order 19(f).

20. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION**

See also standing order 21.

- a **In accordance with freedom of information legislation, the Council shall publish information in accordance with its publication scheme and respond to requests for information held by the Council.**

21. **RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION**
(Below is not an exclusive list).

See also standing order 11.

- a The Council may appoint a Data Protection Officer.
- b **The Council shall have policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning their personal data.**
- c **The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.**
- d **The Council shall keep a record of all personal data breaches comprising the facts relating to the personal data breach, its effects and the remedial action taken.**
- e **The Council shall ensure that information communicated in its privacy notice(s) is in an easily accessible and available form and kept up to date.**
- f **The Council shall maintain a written record of its processing activities.**

22. **RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS/MEDIA**

- a Requests from the press or other media for an oral or written comment or statement from the Council, its councillors or staff shall be handled in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media.

23. **EXECUTION AND SEALING OF LEGAL DEEDS**

See also standing orders 15(b)(xii) and (xvii).

- a A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the Council unless authorised by a resolution.
- b **Subject to standing order 23(a), any two councillors may sign, on behalf of the Council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.**

24. **COMMUNICATING WITH DISTRICT AND COUNTY OR UNITARY COUNCILLORS**

- a An invitation to attend a meeting of the Council shall be sent, together with the agenda, to the ward councillor(s) of the District and County Council OR Unitary Council representing the area of the Council.
- b Unless the Council determines otherwise, a copy of each letter sent to the District and County Council OR Unitary Council shall be sent to the ward councillor(s) representing the area of the Council.

25. **RESTRICTIONS ON COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES**

- a. Unless duly authorised no councillor shall:
 - i. inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect; or
 - ii. issue orders, instructions or directions.

26. **STANDING ORDERS GENERALLY**

- a All or part of a standing order, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements, may be suspended by resolution in relation to the consideration of an item on the agenda for a meeting.
- b A motion to add to or vary or revoke one or more of the Council's standing orders, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements, shall be proposed by a special motion, the written notice by at least (2) councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9.

- c The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the Council's standing orders to a councillor as soon as possible.
- d The decision of the chair of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.

National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

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Bank reconciliation (Isfield Parish Council 2025-2026) - registered on 02/04/2025

Isfield Parish Council

Bank account: Current Account Reconciliation as at: 16/07/2025

Balance per bank statement at 16/07/2025 93459.13

Uncleared payments

Date	Customer / supplier	Reference	Amount
16/07/2025	ES Pension Scheme	252631	-157.41
16/07/2025	Barcombe Landscapes	252632	-464.40
16/07/2025	HMRC	252633	-145.88
16/07/2025	A Emery	252634	-464.88
16/07/2025	Clean Corner	252635	-144.00
16/07/2025	Easy PC Accounts	252637	-99.00

-1475.57

TOTAL NET BANK BALANCES at 16/07/2025

91983.56

The total net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments) as follows

Opening balance at 01/04/2025	81413.53
Total receipts	18368.58
Total payments	-7798.55
Total transfers	-

Closing balance per cash book as at 16/07/2025 (must equal net bank balances above)

91983.56



Bank reconciliation (Isfield Parish Council 2025-2026) - registered on

02/04/2025

Isfield Parish Council

Bank account: Premium Acc 7720 Reconciliation as at: 16/07/2025

Balance per bank statement at 16/07/2025	1145.84
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TOTAL NET BANK BALANCES at 16/07/2025	1145.84
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The total net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments) as follows

Opening balance at 01/04/2025	1142.05
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Total receipts	3.79
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Total payments	-
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Total transfers	-
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Closing balance per cash book as at 16/07/2025 (must equal net bank balances above)	1145.84
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