1. Introduction
This policy is to be delivered within ‘The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020’, that are currently enacted for meetings on and up to 7 May 2021.

2. Publishing the agenda and providing documents
Councillors are to be summoned as per regulation with the agenda and documents being placed on the Parish Council’s website. No agendas will be published on physical noticeboards.

3. Virtual Meeting ‘platform’
Waltham Parish Council will use Zoom to provide video communications. Zoom enables video and audio conferencing for persons using mobile devices, desktops, and fixed room systems. In preparation for the meeting the Clerk to the Council will publish via the summons:
  • The zoom meeting link
  • Meeting ID
  • Meeting passcode

4. Standing Orders
Standing Orders will be used to guide the meeting in a similar way as if persons were present in a physical meeting place.

5. Specific Virtual Meeting Arrangements
a. Discussions
*This section applies if members are experiencing good connectivity. In the case of poor connectivity see Sc.*

During the meeting all persons other than members will be muted. During the public participation period, members of the public will be required to ‘enable video’ in order for them to be visible to the Chairman, and will raise their hand to indicate that they wish to speak. Their microphone will then be unmuted and they can address the meeting. Following the conclusion of their address the microphone will be muted.

During the meeting members and officers will raise their hand to indicate to the Chairman that they wish to speak on an agenda item.

All members attending the meeting will monitor their own background noise and mute their own microphones, except when speaking, to negate interference with the meeting.

b. Voting
Voting will be undertaken by a show of hands. In the event of members connecting to the meeting without video, or by telephone, the Chairman may decide to take a roll call.

c. Poor connectivity
In the case of poor connectivity the Chairman will decide whether to continue with the meeting or to reconvene.
In the case of video not being available for some or all of members attending the Chairman can choose to continue but to operate on a roll call for councillor views on individual agenda items.

d. **Attendance**
   If a member is believed to have ‘dropped out’ this will be noted. If ‘drop outs’ result in the meeting becoming inquorate, members will endeavour to re-join for a period of 15 minutes. After 15 minutes if the meeting is still inquorate, the Chairman will suspend the meeting and reconvene at a later time and date subject to the statutory days of notice. Members will be telephoned to advise of the suspension.

e. **Telephone attendance**
   Persons wishing to attend by telephone are advised to contact the Clerk in advance in order that processes can be put in place to enable appropriate engagement.

6. **Virtual Meeting Etiquette**
   Normal Standing Orders apply with regard to conduct at meetings and all attendees are expected to be mindful of the difficulties people experience with regard to the operation of technology.

   Behaviour that is contrary to the intended outcomes of the meeting will be dealt with at the discretion of the Chairman. For a member of the public or press this may result in them being removed from the Zoom meeting.

7. **Declaration of Interests**
   A councillor that has declared an interest requiring him/her to leave the meeting will be placed in the waiting room. On conclusion of the item for which the declaration is made, the councillor will be re-admitted to the meeting.

8. **Confidential Matters**
   Confidential matters will be dealt with through a separate Zoom meeting that is available to members only. On conclusion of the non-confidential matters on an agenda, the meeting will be suspended for members to re-join using the confidential Zoom meeting link that will have been provided to members only.

9. **Recording**
   The Waltham Parish Council Recording of Meetings Policy will apply, apart from sections which refer to a physical location (2.2, 2.3 and 2.5).

10. **Information**
    The chat view box on the Zoom meeting will be disabled however it will provide additional information to attendees depending of the specific meeting.

Policy adopted: 2 June 2020
Date for Review: May 2021

For further information see The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/392/contents/made