

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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The following paper was submitted by the Clerk to the Parish Council at its meeting of 1 February 2023

Agenda Item 8b)

Statutory Business:

a) To carry out the annual review of the Council's Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Background:

a) The current adopted Standing Orders update the model contained in 'Local Councils Explained' produced by Meera Tharmarajah for the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) in 2013. The publication produced in 2018, upon which the Council's current Standing Orders are based, reference new legislation after 2013. Council reviewed and adopted the latest version at its meeting in March 2022. There have been no guidance notes issued by NALC requiring further amendments.

b) The current adopted Financial Regulations were last reviewed in March 2022 and are based on the Model Financial Regulations as produced by NALC in 2019. There have been no guidance notes issued by NALC requiring further amendments.

Annual Review:

a) In accordance with A Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory annual accounts and governance statements, all authorities need to have in place standing orders and financial regulations governing how it operates. Financial regulations need to incorporate provisions for securing competition and regulating the manner in which tenders are invited. These need to be regularly reviewed, fit for purpose, and adhered to.

Recommendation: Council reviews the Standing Orders dated March 2023 and confirms that they have been reviewed, are fit for purpose and that Council agrees to adhere to them as written.

b) In accordance with A Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory annual accounts and governance statements, all authorities need to have in place standing orders and financial regulations governing how it operates. Financial regulations need to incorporate provisions for securing competition and regulating the manner in which tenders are invited. These need to be regularly reviewed, fit for purpose, and adhered to. At the meeting in January 2020, Council adopted the revised 2019 Regulations which made changes to the 2016 model which were very minor.

Recommendation: Council reviews the Financial Regulations dated March 2023 and confirms that they have been reviewed, are fit for purpose and that Council agrees to adhere to them as written.