

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Paper prepared by: Clerk to the Parish Council

1. Update 18.03.20 - Are 'virtual meetings' allowed?

Unless the council has delegated to an officer as above, the law requires decisions to be made by those present and voting at a meeting. Members unable to physically attend meetings may wish to 'join' a meeting by Skype, or other electronic means, which could be facilitated by the Council if desired.

This would not qualify as attendance and they would not be allowed to vote on any matter. It would be advisable for their opportunity to speak to be only during the public participation session or when otherwise invited to speak by the Chairman.

Meetings are also required to be held in public unless the council has resolved that they should be excluded, either because of the confidential nature of the business, or 'for other special reason'. The Government are apparently considering introducing legislation to temporarily allow meetings to be conducted by Skype or other conferencing technology.

This has not yet happened.

We are aware that some councils have already decided that they have no option but to do this.