

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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The following paper was submitted by the Clerk to the Parish Council at its meeting of 3 February 2021

Agenda Item 8:

Statutory Business:

- a) To carry out the annual review of the Council's Standing Orders
- b) To carry out the annual review of the Council's 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 2020. There have been no further guidance notes issued by NALC requiring further amendments.

b) The current adopted Financial Regulations were last reviewed on 15th January 2020 and are based on the Model Financial Regulations as produced by NALC in 2019. In July 2020, NALC produced further guidance on the Model Financial Regulations templates for England and Wales for the purpose of its member councils and county associations.

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 February 2021 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.

In July 2020, SALC advised of some minor changes Section 11 –Contracts - the footnotes should now read:

- a. For public supply and public service contracts £189,330
- b. For public works contracts £4,733,252

Recommendation: Council reviews and adopts the amended Financial Regulations dated February 2021 thereby confirming that its Financial Regulations are updated, fit for purpose and that it agrees to adhere to them as written.