

## THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Paper prepared by: Clerk to the Parish Council for Parish Council Meeting: of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### **Agenda Item 8: Statutory Business:**

- d) To carry out the annual review of the Council's Standing Orders**
- e) To carry out the annual review of the Council's Financial Regulations**

### **Background:**

**i)** The current adopted Standing Orders update the model contained in 'Local Councils Explained' produced by Meera Tharmarajah for the National Association of Local Council's (NALC) in 2013. The publication produced in 2018, upon which the Council's current Standing Orders are based, reference new legislation after 2013. The Policy and Resources Committee reviewed and adopted the latest version at its meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019, as noted by full Council at its meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019. There have been no further guidance notes issued by NALC requiring further amendments.

**ii)** The current adopted Financial Regulations were adopted by the Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018, reviewed on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and are based on the Model Financial Regulations as produced by NALC in January 2016. In July 2019, NALC produced guidance on the Model Financial Regulations (FRs) templates for England and Wales for the purpose of its member councils and county associations. Council's current Financial Regulations have been amended with reference to the Model FRs as produced by NALC.

### **Proposal:**

**d)** 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.

**Proposal: Council reviews the adopted Standing Orders of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and confirms that they have been reviewed, are fit for purpose and that Council agrees to adhere to them as written.**

**e)** 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.

**Proposal: Council reviews and adopts the amended Financial Regulations dated March 2020 thereby confirming that its Financial Regulations are updated, fit for purpose and that it agrees to adhere to them as written.**