

Honingham Parish Council

Delegation of Authority to the Parish Clerk (May 2020)

Adopted: 13 May 2020

Date Renewed: 4 May 2021

Date to be reviewed: May 2022

During the Covid-19 pandemic Honingham Parish Council have opted to hold meetings via video conferencing. Regulations permitting virtual meetings expire on 6th May 2021. The roadmap out of lockdown is scheduled to remove all restrictions by 21 June 2021 (to be confirmed by government nearer the time). During this time and until the impacts of the pandemic are no longer an issue the Council may choose to amend the meeting schedule. Should the Council not be able to hold a meeting, either by mutual agreement between the Clerk and Chairman, or due to the meeting not being quorate, or due to any other significant impact due to the pandemic, the Council resolves to delegate authority to the Parish Clerk as detailed below. This delegation is made under S101 of the Local Government Act 1972, which gives a parish council power to delegate decisions to a committee or the Clerk, being the council's proper officer.

This delegation will be reviewed on a yearly basis and is not restricted to the impacts of the pandemic.

In response to the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK and in the event that it is not possible to convene a meeting of the council in a reasonable time, the Clerk shall have delegated authority in conjunction with the Chairman/members to make decisions on behalf of the council where such decision cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline. Any actions taken are to protect the interests of the community and ensure council business continuity during the period of the pandemic Coronavirus. Decisions will be made where possible by consultation with the Chairman/members by electronic means or telephone. The Clerk will further consult with the Chairman for guidance as necessary. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations (via the next Council meeting and via the Council website and minutes).

This delegation includes but it not restricted to;

- *Enabling the Clerk to take action on any issue that cannot wait until the next Parish Council meeting.*
- *Where it has not been possible to obtain any necessary extension from the District Council to allow a planning application to be considered at the next Council meeting, the Clerk would, having consulted with the Chairman/members, make the necessary response.*
- *In respect of controversial or major development proposals/consultations, the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman, may decide that an extraordinary meeting of the council be called to consider the matter.*

- *To incur expenditure, subject to a limit of £500, which is necessary to carry out repair, replacement or any other work which is of 'extreme urgency', as detailed in the Financial Regulations.*