

# GREAT GLEMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL MEETINGS

### 1) Participation in the public forum

A council meeting is not a public meeting, it is a meeting conducted in public and there is no requirement in law to provide a public forum. As the council meets and makes its decisions in public and is committed to community engagement, we warmly invite members of the public, the press, the police and district and county councillors to attend our meetings and contribute **within the public forum**. Please respect the fact that this is a meeting to conduct council business.

- Public participation will be for a period of 15 minutes (reference Standing Order 3f)
- The agenda will indicate when the public participation will take place
- Questions and comments should address the business on the agenda
- Otherwise, in most cases, the matter will be carried forward, without discussion, to the next meeting
- Verbal questions / comments must be addressed to the Chairman and must not exceed 3 minutes in length, or longer at the Chairman's discretion
- Only one question on a topic to be received from each person but supplementary questions will be at the Chairman's discretion
- Questions asked by a member of the public during a public participation session at a meeting will not require a response or debate
- The Chairman may direct that a response to a question posed by a member of the public be referred to a Councillor for an oral response or to an employee for a written or oral response
- Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wishes to speak the Chairman shall direct the order of speaking.

Interjections during council business are not permitted. If you disrupt business in any way you may be asked to leave. If you feel for any reason that you do not wish to take part in the public forum or if your problem is complex, you might wish to provide information to the council prior to the meeting in plenty of time before the meeting (at least seven clear days) using the contact details below.

### 2) Reports in the public forum

This council will also provide an opportunity for the County and District Councillors to provide reports to the meeting and an opportunity to pose questions to them will be given, at the Chairman's discretion. The overall time limit allowed for such reports will be a maximum of 15 minutes including questions.

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