



ACASTER MALBIS PARISH COUNCIL

SO/2016/01

RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The purpose of this standing order is to advise any person attending any council meeting of their rights and their responsibilities when attending council meetings; these rights are as determined by law, in particular as set out in schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972, the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s.13 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Localism Act 2011.

Meetings of the council are 'meetings in public' as opposed to 'public meetings'. Residents or electors, members of the press or other interested and legitimate bodies may attend and may remain in the meetings but may not participate, in any way, other than in the time set aside for questions.

The Council sets aside 15 minutes of each meeting from 19:30 hrs to 19:45 hrs during which time residents / electors, members of the press or other interested and legitimate bodies may put questions to the chair. Questions need not be related to items on the published agenda but it will be at the Chair's discretion whether questions raised will be answered at the meeting or dealt with after the meeting by written response to the enquirer. Questions addressed to the clerk electronically will be treated as correspondence and dealt with accordingly during the course of the meeting.

Space will be provided for members of the press to record, by any means, the process of the meeting but they may not, during the course of the meeting, make any commentary.

Further important details on the rights and responsibilities of the press and the public relating to the photographing, video recording, and audio recording of the proceedings can be obtained from the clerk. Should there be children present during the meeting they may not, under any circumstances, be photographed. A separate area for children and any other person not wishing to be photographed will be provided.

Under the 1960 Act (above) the chair of the council has the right to exclude residents / electors, members of the press or other interested and legitimate bodies for all or part of the meeting if it is resolved that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The Chair of the council will control the meeting and his decisions upon proceedings are final. Good manners and respect are expected during the meeting at all times.

10/01/16