

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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The following paper was submitted by the Clerk to the Parish Council at its meeting of 5 February 2025

Agenda Item 8a)

Statutory Business:

a) To carry out the annual review of the Council's Standing Orders & 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 that latest version at its meeting in March 2022. In 2024, NALC introduced version two of the Model Standing Orders with amendments only to Model Standing Order 18.

b) The current adopted Financial Regulations were last reviewed in May 2024 and are now brought back to council for a review based on changes to Standing Order 18 and updates to Standing Order 20.

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 2025 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 June 2024, Council adopted the revised model 2024 Regulations which made changes to the 2019 model. The model document was developed to accord with the parish council's own financial regulations and made suitable for the size of the council and the activities it undertakes.

Recommendation: Council reviews the Financial Regulations dated February 2025 and confirms that they have been reviewed, are fit for purpose and that council agrees to adhere to them as written.