

**Agenda Item: 95**

Hayton Parish Council

21 November 2018

**AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS**

Report by the Clerk

**Background**

Following the last meeting the Clerk was advised by a Parishioner that the Parish Council was not complying with its Standing Orders regarding Public Participation. This was on two counts 1. The suspension of Standing Orders and closing of meeting for public participation and 2. The Chairman having the authority to ask the Public to speak and give evidence out with the public participation period.

After consulting the Chairman, the Clerk took advice from CALC and they confirmed that the Parishioner was correct.

They advise that Public Participation should be an agenda item and is therefore no different from any other agenda item (Standing Orders apply and the meeting is not suspended). I have adopted this advice on the Agenda for this meeting. This does not require any amendment to Standing Orders.

**Recommendation For Amendment to Standing Orders**

However the current Standing Orders (adopted in June 2018) are silent on the matter of the Chairman inviting the Public to answer questions and give evidence out with the public participation item on the Agenda.

I recommend that Standing Order 3(e) be amended as follows (I have highlighted the proposed addition to the existing wording):

“Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda. **The Chairman can invite members of the public to answer questions and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda out with the period of time designated for public participation**”.

CALC advise that the Parish Council can continue this practice if the Standing Orders clearly state that it is allowed.

Hazel Broatch  
Clerk