

Hullbridge Parish Council

Remote Meeting Guidelines Policy

The Following Policy provides a guideline on how Hullbridge Parish Council will hold and conduct a remote meeting via Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

Guidelines Policy to Remote Parish Council Meetings

Remote Meeting Guidelines for members of the public

The Government have now issued the regulations that give local authorities greater flexibility in the conduct of meetings, including allowing members to attend remotely, and for public and press access to those meetings. These 'Regulations' (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020) came into force on 4 April 2020.

Following the new regulations Hullbridge Parish Council will be holding some Council meetings using Zoom or Microsoft Teams on line meeting platform.

1. Before the meeting

2. The Agenda will be placed on the website if available, our Facebook page and on the notice boards as normal (i.e. with three clear days of notice).
3. Any member of the public and press who wishes to attend the meeting will need to download Zoom. <https://zoom.us/meetings> or Microsoft Teams where you will be able to download the App. The website gives tutorials and demonstrations on how to download Zoom/Microsoft Teams and how to join meetings.
4. The Clerk will put a link on the website if available or Facebook, to join the Zoom / Microsoft Teams meeting by 7.10pm of the day of the meeting. The Clerk will also include the meeting ID and password.
5. Members of the public are welcome (as usual) to send any questions or comments to the Clerk prior to the meeting via email or by calling the Clerk. These must be received by 2pm on the day of the meeting. The Clerk will present any representations received to the Councillors to address.

Cont: Remote Meeting Guidelines Policy

The meeting

1. All Members and the Clerk will abide by this Policy and Etiquette Code.
2. The Chair of the Council or a Committee will Chair the meeting.
3. The Clerk of the Council will host the meeting on Zoom/Microsoft Teams.
4. Members of the public will enter a “waiting room” on Zoom / Microsoft Teams and wait for the Clerk to approve their attendance. It would be helpful if members of the public could “name their videos” so that the Chair and Clerk can refer to them correctly.
5. All attendees will be muted on entry to the meeting.
6. Members of the public will be able to make representation during the public forum Only.
7. Members of the public will be asked to “put their hand up” using the icon on Zoom/Microsoft Teams if they wish to speak during the public forum.
8. The Clerk will “unmute” members of the public who wish to speak at the instruction of the Chair.
9. At the conclusion of the public forum the Clerk will “mute” all members of the public.
10. The required standards of behaviour and discussion are the same whether in remote or face-to-face meetings. Members of the public who use or display inappropriate or offensive language and/or behaviour will be removed from the meeting to the waiting room. This includes any inappropriate backdrops on display on the video.
11. The Council will discuss, via email, prior to the meeting any items which are considered sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and will advise of the outcome of any discussions at the meeting.

After the meeting

1. The Clerk will take the minutes of the meeting as usual.
2. Members of the Council and the Clerk will review how the meeting went and may make some changes to the process if necessary.