

APPENDIX

COUNCIL – 6th SEPTEMBER 2021

MEETINGS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared to inform councillors of their options for meetings. The pandemic remains of concern however there is a drive of government to 'return to more normal' and the temporary legislation that enabled councils to make decisions via online meetings has ended. The council currently operates remote meetings that make recommendations to the clerk who has delegated decision making powers.

2.0 THE CURRENT COVID RELATED GUIDANCE AND REQUIREMENTS

There are no limits on gatherings inside and outside – this means there are no limits on members of the public attending council meetings subject to building capacity. Social distancing requirements have ended although guidance advises people to stay apart.

It is not mandatory requirement to wear face coverings in places where they were previously required. The Prime Minister referred to the Government's expectation that people should continue to wear masks in crowded places from 19 July. Councils can ask but cannot compel staff, councillors and the public to wear masks or provide proof of vaccination or COVID negative tests.

NALC continues to advise councils to undertake risk assessments and implement measures accordingly and advise that outside of formal risk assessments councils should also consider what reasonable measures they can take to balance the end of social contact restrictions with the ongoing COVID reality - e.g. continuing to livestream meetings so that the public do not have to attend in person to view proceedings.

Councils can continue to provide hand sanitiser in buildings and for use in council meetings, carry out extra cleaning of premises, avoid printing papers and agendas, ensure rooms are well ventilated (doors and windows open) and seek to maintain social distancing/ one way access where possible

3.0 OPTIONS FOR THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

The Council has three options:

3.1 Stay fully online

This will require the continuation of delegated decision making to the Clerk but enables both Council and Committee meetings to be held online.

3.2 Return to face to face meetings

In the initial stage it is recommended the council utilise the Jubilee Pavilion and operate with limited numbers and in as Covid secure manner as possible.

3.3 Committee meetings online, Council meetings Face to Face

This model will end the delegation to the Clerk with all decisions being made by Council that will meet as outline in 3.2. Council meetings to be held monthly in order to facilitate decision making.

APPENDIX

Committee meetings will remain online with recommendations made to Council.

Accompanying this model would be increased communications to encourage the community to attend the online committee meetings which cover a substantial number of things that the community is interested in.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council implements option 3.3 with Council meetings held as Face to Face meetings and Committee meetings held on online

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