

# STENSON FIELDS PARISH COUNCIL

## DELEGATED POWERS POLICY

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### **Introduction**

This document sets out the way this Parish Council has delegated powers and responsibilities. This document is one of the 3 major ways in which the Council regulates its affairs, the other 2 being its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

The power to delegate functions is set out in the Local Government Act 1972 s101. The intention of the delegation scheme is to allow the Council to act with all reasonable speed. Decisions should be taken at the most suitable level. Therefore, the Clerk is given powers over the day-to-day administration of the Council and any Working Groups, to make recommendations within their Terms of Reference and report to full Council. Matters of major policy should be recommended to the Full Council. If circumstances prevent this, decisions will be made between the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk. Whilst delegation is necessary it is the Council's policy that members and the press and public should always have the fullest information available to them. Therefore, the Clerk reports all major decisions taken under delegated powers at the next available Council meeting.

### **Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer.**

The Clerk shall be:

- the Proper Officer and carry out the functions as provided by the Local Government Act 1972.
- the Responsible Financial Officer in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations in force at any given time.

### **Delegated Powers and Responsibilities**

In addition to the responsibilities set out in the Clerk's job description the Clerk has the delegated authority to undertake the following matters on behalf of the Council:

- Day to day administration of services, together with routine inspections and control.
- Authorisation to call any extra meetings of the Council or any Working Group as necessary, having consulted with the Chairman of the Council and/or the Leader of the appropriate Working Group.
- Authorisation to respond immediately to any correspondence, requiring or requesting information or relating to previous decisions of the Council but not correspondence requiring an opinion to be taken by the Council or its Working Groups.
- Authorisation of routine expenditure in accordance with Financial Regulations (Budgetary Control and Authority to Spend).
- Preparation and submission of comments to Planning Applications where the Council's agreed stance is known.

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- Handling requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1988 or General Data Protection Regulation (whichever is in force at the time of request)
- Issuing press releases and statements to the press on the Council's known policies, following consultation with Chairman/Vice Chairman of the Council.
- Updating and managing the content of the Council's website.
- Co-ordination of the Council's newsletter articles.
- Disposal of Council records according to legal restrictions and the Council's Record Management Policy.
- Take appropriate actions arising from emergencies in consultation with Chairman/Vice Chairman of the Council - as appropriate to the circumstances.

This Scheme has been drafted from the NALC Model Scheme of Delegation and was confirmed by the Parish Council on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

This scheme will be reviewed and amended as required, due to changes in legislation or on the employment of a new Clerk.

Adopted under minute reference

1545/21 (f).