

Preston Parish Council
Scheme of Delegation to the Parish Clerk

Introduction

This Scheme of Delegation was approved by Preston Parish Council on 22nd April 2021.

The scheme does not delegate any matter:

- Reserved by law
- Which by law may not be delegated to a Councillor and /or an Officer.

Any subsequent amendments are identified by the date and minute number of the Council resolution in brackets after the amendment.

The powers and duties set out in this scheme are delegated to the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Clerk is also the Council's Responsible Financial Officer and the Proper Officer with responsibility for the management of the organisation.

The scheme will be reviewed on a regular basis as required by the Council and when a new Parish Clerk is appointed.

1.Extent of Delegation

1.1: All delegated functions shall be deemed to be exercised on behalf of and in the name of the Council.

1.2: The Parish Clerk will exercise these powers in accordance with:

- Approved budgets
- The Council's Standing Orders
- The Council's Financial Regulations
- The Council's adopted policies
- All statutory common law and contractual requirements

1.3: The Parish Clerk may do anything pursuant to the delegated power or duty which it would be lawful for the Council to do including anything reasonably implied or incidental to that power or duty.

1.4: In addition the Parish Clerk is authorised to undertake the day to day administration of the Council to include:

- Payment of all invoices, within the agreed budget and subject to authorisation by one bank signatory. Authorisation will be made by email prior to starting the online banking process. If necessary, the RFO may sign a cheque for the required transaction.

- Emergency expenditure up to £500 whether or not there is budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman.
- Taking appropriate action arising from other emergencies, in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Council as appropriate to the circumstances.

2. Urgent Decisions of Council

2.1: Urgent decisions required between scheduled meetings of the council are delegated to the clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Council.

2.2: Decisions made under this delegation will be reported to, and recorded in the minutes of, the next council meeting.

2.3: Under this delegation, where appropriate, the clerk may decide that an extraordinary meeting of the council be called to deal with the urgent matter.

3. Planning Delegation to the Clerk

3.1: The council delegates decisions arising under development control consultations to the clerk in consultation with all Councillors.

3.2: Consultation will be by email. It may also take place at meetings of the council.

3.3: The clerk will arrange for relevant papers to be accessible to the councillors who should return their comments, to the clerk for determination of the council's response within the prescribed consultation period.

3.4: Delegated decisions will be reported to, and recorded in the minutes of, the next council meeting.

3.5: In respect of controversial or major development proposals, the clerk in consultation with the Chairman, may decide that a parish meeting and/or an extraordinary meeting of the council be called to consider the matter.

4. Written Records

4.1: The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 (2014 SI No. 2095), which came into force on 6 August 2014, require a written record to be kept of certain decisions made by an officer of a parish council acting under delegated powers. The Clerk will keep a log of all decisions made under delegated powers and will arrange for these to be made open for public inspection via the Council website.

5. Review

5.1: This scheme of delegation will be reviewed annually by the Clerk and the Chairman, and any amendments will be decided by the Council. Should legislation change or a new Clerk be appointed a review will take place at the earliest opportunity.