

Londesborough with Easthorpe Parish Council
Financial Standing Orders

General

- These financial regulations shall govern the conduct of the financial transactions of the Council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the Council
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) under the direction of the Council shall be responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs
- The RFO shall be responsible for the production of financial management information

Annual Estimates

- Detailed estimates of income and expenditure shall be prepared each year by the RFO
- The Council shall use the estimates as guidance to recommending the precept to be levied for the ensuing financial year. The RFO shall supply each member with a copy of the approved estimates

Budgetary Control

- The RFO shall periodically provide the Council with a statement of income and expenditure to date under each heading of the approved annual revenue and capital budgets
- The Finance Committee, made up of the three cheque signatories, may incur expenditure on behalf of the Council which is of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of £50.00. The Clerk shall report the action to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter
- No expenditure shall be incurred in relation to any capital project and no contract entered into or tender accepted involving expenditure on capital accounts unless the Council are satisfied that it is contained in the capital programme and that the necessary capital funds are available or borrowing approval can be obtained
- All works shall be administered at the direction of the Council and financial regulation relating to contracts

Accounting and Audit

- All accounting procedures and financial records of the Council shall be determined by the RFO as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996 as amended by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003
- The RFO shall be responsible for completing the annual accounts of the Council as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year and shall submit them and report thereon to the Council

- The RFO shall be responsible for maintaining an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the Councils accounting, financial and other operations in accordance with regulation 5 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996 (as amended)

Banking arrangements and cheques

- The Council's banking arrangements shall be made by the RFO and approved by the Council
- All invoices for payment shall be agenda's and approved for payment by a majority of the members present and voting at a meeting
- Cheques drawn on the bank account shall be signed by two Councillors and counter signed by the RFO if wished

Payment of Accounts

- The council will make safe and efficient arrangements for the making of its payments and all payments shall be effected by cheque or other instruction to the Council's bankers.
- If a payment is necessary to be made to avoid a charge of interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, or required under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the RFO may take all necessary steps to settle such invoices.
- If thought appropriate by the Council, payment for utility supplies (energy, telephone and water) and any National Non-Domestic Rates may be made by variable direct debit provided that the instructions are signed by two members and any payments are reported to Council as made.
- If thought appropriate by the Council, payment for certain items may be made by BACS or internet banking transfer provided that the instructions for each payment are signed, or otherwise evidenced, by two authorised bank signatories, are retained and any payments are reported to Council as made.
- No employee or councillor shall disclose any PIN or password, relevant to the working of the council or its bank accounts, to any person not authorised in writing by the Council.
- The Council, and any members using computers for the council's financial business, shall ensure that anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software with automatic updates, together with a high level of security, is used.
- Access to any internet banking accounts will be directly to the access page (which may be saved under "favourites"), and not through a search engine or e-mail link. Remembered or saved passwords facilities must not be used on any computer used for council banking work. Breach of this Regulation will be treated as a very serious matter under these regulations

- Prior to approval of invoices for payment, the RFO shall satisfy himself that the work, goods or services to which the invoice relates has been received, carried out, examined and approved
- Invoices approved for payment shall be settled within 30 days of receipt wherever practicable
- The RFO shall maintain a petty cash float to the value of £20. Receipts for petty cash payments shall be kept
- Cash income received shall be paid into the bank, not petty cash float
- Petty cash shall be recorded separately in the cash book

Payment of Salaries

- The payment of salaries shall be made by the RFO following approval of payment by the Council
- Timesheets must be submitted by the Parish handyman

Loans and Investments

- All loans and investments shall be negotiated by the RFO upon instructions from the Council
- All investments of money under the control of the Council shall be in the name of the Council
- All borrowings shall be effected in the name of the Council
- All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO

Income

- The collection of all sums due to the council shall be the responsibility of the RFO
- All fees or rents charged will be reviewed annually, following a report of the clerk
- Bad debts shall be reported to the council
- The RFO shall bank all sums received on behalf of the council
- Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the Council

Orders for Work, Goods and Services

- An official order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods and services unless a formal contract is to be prepared. Copies of orders shall be retained
- The Clerk or RFO shall endeavour to obtain value for money at all times

Contracts

- Procedures as to contracts are laid down in the councils standing order

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Payments under contracts for Building or other Construction works

- Payments on account of the contract sum shall be made within the time specified in the contract by the RFO upon authorised certificates of the architect or other consultants engaged to supervise the contract

Properties and Estates

- The Clerk shall make appropriate arrangements for the custody of all title deeds of properties owned by the council and a record of ownership, location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which shall be kept
- No property shall be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the council

Insurance

- The RFO shall effect all insurances and negotiate all claims on the councils insurers in consultation with the Council
- The RFO shall keep a record of all insurance effected by the Council and the property and risks covered thereby and annually review it
- All appropriate employees of the Council shall be included in a suitable fidelity guarantee insurance

Revision of Financial Regulations

It shall be the duty of the council to review the financial regulations of the council from time to time and to make such amendments as are required

Financial Regulations adopted at a meeting of Londesborough with Easthorpe Parish Council held on ...6..../...July.../2020

Signed

Chairman

RFO

Londesborough with Easthorpe Parish Council