

Guidance notes for the meeting

1. **Inspection of Papers**

Any person wishing to inspect Minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the Agenda should contact Jennie Murphy on Tel: 01823 357628 or Email: jzmurphy@somerset.gov.uk. They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers

2. **Minutes of the Meeting**

Details of the issues discussed and recommendations made at the meeting will be set out in the Minutes, which the Board will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting. In the meantime, information about each meeting can be obtained from Jennie Murphy on Tel: (01823) 3550628 or email jzmurphy@somerset.gov.uk

3. **Public Question Time**

If you wish to speak, please tell Jennie Murphy, the Board's Clerk, by 5pm 3 clear working days before the meeting (Friday 13th March) - (01823) 355628 or email jzmurphy@somerset.gov.uk

At the Chairs invitation you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Board's agenda – providing you have given the required notice. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Board's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been signed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the Agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chair. You may not take direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish.

If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to allow views to be expressed more freely. If an item on the Agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

An issue will not be deferred just because you cannot be present for the meeting. Remember that the amount of time you speak will be restricted, normally to two minutes only.

4. **Exclusion of Press & Public**

If when considering an item on the Agenda, the Board may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act

1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act.

5. **Recording of Meetings**

The Council supports the principles of openness and transparency, it allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public providing it is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings and a designated area will be provided for anyone who wishing to film part or all of the proceedings. No filming or recording will take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the Council's Monitoring Officer (Scott Wooldridge on 01823 355628) so that the Chairman of the meeting can inform those present.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

The Council will be undertaking audio recording of some of its meetings in County Hall as part of its investigation into a business case for the recording and potential webcasting of meetings in the future.

A copy of the Council's Recording of Meetings Protocol should be on display at the meeting for inspection, alternatively contact the Committee Administrator for the meeting in advance.