TOCKWITH with WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM POLICY

Members of the Public have a legal right to observe Parish Council meetings only.

As part of the Parish Council community engagement this item presents an opportunity for members of the parish to provide information to the Council relating to items on this agenda and other matters. If matters raised are not on the current agenda the issue raised can be used to form part of the agenda for a future meeting at the discretion of the Council. Written statements from members of the public must be received by the Clerk at least 3 working days prior to the meeting.

The Public Open Forum has been set at a maximum of 15 minutes. The allotted time for each member of the public to speak will not exceed 3 minutes. The Chairman has the right to say that any question or statement is inappropriate and will not be accepted. If more than one member of the public wishes to speak on the same topic, then they should nominate one person to speak on their behalf. This will avoid duplication and make the best use of the public participation period.

Neither Councillors or Clerk are required to answer or respond immediately and any member of the public requiring a written response must leave their contact details with the Clerk.

Members of the public do not have a right to force items onto the council agenda nor to insist on how matters are recorded in the minutes. A question raised by a member of the public during a public speaking session shall not require a response and there shall be no debate or discussion between the Council and the public. Members of the public are welcome to stay for the Council meeting after the public open forum.

The public and the press have a right to record, film or broadcast Parish Council Meetings. It would be helpful if the Clerk could be advised in advance, in order that the Parish Council provide reasonable facilities to meet the needs of the person filming.

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