



## **Rushmere St. Andrew Parish Council**

[www.rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net](http://www.rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net)

*"Seek The Common Good"*



### **PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

This protocol applies to:

#### **1. Participation in the public forum**

This council meeting is not a public meeting, it is a meeting conducted in public, and there is no requirement in law to provide a public forum. As the council meets and makes its decisions in public and is committed to community engagement, the Parish Council warmly invites members of the public to attend our meetings and contribute within the public forum or at defined points in the meeting. Please respect the fact that this is a meeting to conduct council business.

- Public participation will be for a period of 30 minutes (reference Standing Order 3f)
- The agenda will indicate when the public participation will take place
- Questions and comments should address the business on the agenda
- Otherwise, in most cases, the matter will be carried forward, without discussion, to the next meeting
- Verbal questions / comments must be addressed to the Chair and must not exceed 3 minutes in length, or longer at the Chair's discretion
- Only one question on a topic to be received from each person but supplementary questions will be at the Chair's discretion
- Questions asked by a member of the public during a public participation session at a meeting will not require a response or debate
- The Chair may direct that a response to a question posed by a member of the public be referred to a Councillor for an oral response or to an employee for a written or oral response
- Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wishes to speak the chair shall direct the order of speaking.

#### **2. Reports in the public forum**

This council will also provide an opportunity for the County and District Councillors to provide reports to the meeting and an opportunity to pose questions to them will be given, at the Chair's discretion.

The overall time limit allowed for such reports will be a maximum of 15 minutes including questions.