



BRANTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Groups
and Representatives**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES

All committees, sub-committees, working groups and representatives work for and on behalf of the Council. They can be appointed long term or short term and can include non-councillors, giving a wider perspective on matters. They report to the full council at its monthly meetings and can make recommendations. Working groups are set up for a short-term purpose. They report to the full council at its monthly meetings and can make recommendations.

The Chair and members of standing committees, sub committees, working groups and other representatives will be appointed by the Parish Council at its Annual Meeting. The term of office will generally be one year. The Council may review its committee structure and membership at any other time when necessary in the interests of effectiveness and efficiency of the Council.

By virtue of office, the Chair of the Parish Council will be an 'ex-officio' members of each committee. The Chair of the Parish Council will receive the agenda and background papers for every meeting but will not have any voting rights unless already a member of that committee.

Councillors who are not members are entitled to attend meetings of a committee (or sub-committee), but only in the same capacity as a member of the public. They will only be allowed to speak during a public participation session (or when invited to speak by the Chair) and will not be permitted to remain if the public are excluded due to the confidential nature of the business, or other special reason.

Members of a committee or sub-committee have the right to inspect documents or obtain information relating to the business of that committee or sub-committee. A non-member would have to demonstrate why sight of the document or receipt of the information is necessary for them to perform their duties as a councillor.

Non-councillors with appropriate skills, knowledge or background may be members of a committee (other than the Finance Committee) or a sub-committee.

Members of committees or sub-committees will be expected to attend meetings. Individual members will be responsible for identifying a suitable replacement councillor to attend a meeting which they cannot themselves attend.

Meetings of Committees will be open to the press and public unless the Committee resolves to exclude them because their presence would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business being transacted, or other special reason.

A quorum for a committee (or a sub-committee) is one half of its members plus 1.

Voting will be by show of hands. The Chair of the Committee or a sub-committee may exercise a casting vote in the event of a tie.

Minutes will be recorded of each meeting of a Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and guidance issued by the National Association of Local Councils.



Committees may create sub-committees where appropriate. The Committee will appoint the Chair and members of a sub-committee and set its terms of reference. Where relevant, a councillor who is not a member of the Committee may be appointed as a member of a sub-committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to secure the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs under all relevant legislation/guidance and to secure best value for the residents of Brantham.

The Committee will meet on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month, commencing at 7.45pm. It will consist of four members.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Committee will consist of no fewer than four Parish Councillors and will elect a Chairman to preside over each and future meetings. Any member of the Committee can preside by agreement in the Chairman's absence. A quorum will be a minimum of three members elected to the Committee. The Committee may nominate Councillors to act as substitutes to ensure that all meetings are quorate.

All other members of the Parish Council have the right to attend the meeting and make representations on the matters being discussed when invited to do so by the Chair of the meeting.

RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS:

Written minutes will be taken to record the Committee's decisions and will be formally signed at the next relevant Finance Committee Meeting. The Parish Clerk will be responsible for arranging the recording and distribution of the minutes.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The committee has delegated authority from the Council to fulfil the following responsibilities:-

1. Annual estimates of expenditure and income and control & monitoring of the Council's approved budget throughout the year.
2. Recommendation of precept to full Council.
3. Management and maintenance of the Council's properties and their lease or hire.
4. Insurance of all the Council's property and liabilities.
5. Tendering and purchasing arrangements.
6. Approval of payments on the Council's behalf either made already or in advance of payment.
7. Appointment of an independent Internal Auditor.
8. Maintenance of adequate systems of internal control and internal audit.
9. Approval of annual financial reports, ensure evidence of adequate systems of internal control and audit throughout the year and presentation for external audit.
10. Develop and monitor the Council's Risk Management Strategy.
11. Develop the Council's strategic objectives and monitor the Council's performance against these.
12. Develop the Council's Financial Plan.
13. Award of grants to local organisations.
14. Approval of changes to any employee's pay, emoluments, or terms and conditions of employment



Decisions regarding the setting of precept and borrowing must be made by full council.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The Planning Committee is appointed by, and solely responsible to Brantham Parish Council. The Committee's duties are defined and agreed by Full Council, which may vote, at any time, to modify the Committee's powers. The Committee will meet on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month if there are planning matters to review, commencing at 7.30pm.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Committee will consist of no fewer than four Parish Councillors and will elect a Chairman to preside over each and future meetings. Any member of the Committee can preside by agreement in the Chairman's absence. A quorum will be a minimum of three members elected to the Committee. The Committee may nominate Councillors to act as substitutes to ensure that all meetings are quorate.

All other members of the Parish Council have the right to attend the meeting and make representations on the matters being discussed when invited to do so by the Chair of the meeting.

RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS:

The committee will meet when required to prepare responses to all routine planning matters. Written minutes will be taken to record the Committee's decisions and will be formally signed at the next relevant Planning Committee Meeting. The Parish Clerk will be responsible for arranging the recording and distribution of the minutes. All decisions will be relayed to the relevant planning authority by the Clerk.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The committee will be granted full delegated powers to make a Council Decision regarding responses to the appropriate authorities. It will therefore have the delegated authority to act as per the items below:

1. To consider and provide a response, to the relevant Planning Authority, to all planning applications when notified under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 20, Schedule 16 or not, regardless of their size, controversial nature or effect on the parish. In considering matters before it, the committee will have mind to:
 - material considerations which includes referring to particular policies that Babergh District Council have adopted within their Local Plan
 - National Planning Policy Framework:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
2. To comment on licences when requested so to do.
3. To comment on street naming where requested.

FOOTPATHS, SERVICES AND RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The sub-committee is established to consider all aspects of Rights of Way, provision of services and maintenance of assets in Brantham. The Sub-Committee is also responsible for maintaining and improving the sports and recreational facilities on behalf of the Parish Council.

The sub-committee is to comprise a minimum of four members of the Parish Council with a Chairman who will be elected annually at the Statutory Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Three members of the Committee will constitute a quorum.



Meetings to occur subject to any matters that may require attention or discussion.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. To advise and make recommendations to full Council over matters relating to the establishment, re-establishment, protection, maintenance, closure, diversion or modification of Parish footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic and roads used as public paths.
2. Where appropriate, to liaise with and support the work of those with statutory responsibilities for maintaining the Rights of Way network.
3. To consider and undertake projects which will be of benefit to the parish and increase the use of Parish footpaths.
4. To monitor the state of village assets such as litter bins, fencing and bus shelters
5. To provide recommendations to the Parish Council on the repair or replacement of village assets as necessary
6. To coordinate tenders for work to repair or maintain village assets as necessary and present tenders to full Council as appropriate.
7. To keep under review the provision of the sports and recreational facilities for the residents of Brantham at the following locations:
 - Lower Playing Field
 - Gravel Pit Lane Play area
 - Merriam Close Play area
8. To ensure that annual safety inspections are carried out to meet legal requirements for the above spaces.
9. To arrange tenders for all aspects of maintenance and ground works for these areas in accordance with the Parish Council's financial regulations.
10. To propose expenditure necessary for maintenance of recreational grounds to Full Council as necessary
11. To advise the Parish Council of the impact of proposals by owners or occupiers of land that may affect its recreational and sports facilities.
12. To review and recommend byelaws for the Parish Council's recreational and sports facilities.
13. To work in partnership with the Safer Neighbourhood Team to alleviate anti-social behaviour and vandalism in/on the Parish Council's sports and recreational facilities.
14. To work in partnership with appropriate funding bodies to improve the Parish Council's recreational and sports facilities.
15. To put forward to the Parish Council proposals for any improvements, developments or any capital expenditure when requesting funding for the following year.
16. To prepare an annual report to summarise the work undertaken in the exercising of its delegated powers for consideration by the Parish Council.

This sub-committee has no delegated powers.

LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The Legal Sub-Committee is established to oversee and manage the legal arrangements on behalf of the Parish Council.



The sub-committee is to comprise a minimum of four members of the Parish Council with a Chairman who will be elected annually at the Statutory Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Three members of the Committee will constitute a quorum.

Meetings to occur subject to any matters that may require attention or discussion.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. To keep under review the lease arrangements in place between the Parish Council and other bodies
2. To undertake review of lease arrangements as and when necessary
3. To liaise with the Parish Council solicitors on matters related to legal arrangements of the Parish Council
4. To make proposals to Full Parish Council on an legal matters as necessary
5. To undertake rent reviews with appropriate bodies as and when necessary
6. To make proposals to full Parish Council on rent matters as necessary

This sub-committee has no delegated powers.

EMERGENCY PLANNING REPRESENTATIVE

INTRODUCTION

The Representative is responsible for producing a directory to assist in the parish in case of an emergency. Summarized versions along with relevant website links will be added to the Parish website.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Emergency Planning representative will:

1. Identify temporary accommodation together with equipment and personnel within the parish that may be available during an emergency and work in partnership with District and County Council Emergency Planning teams to ensure this information is available to all;
2. Liaise with other village groups as appropriate with regard to dealing with emergencies;
3. Undertake a review of the effectiveness of the directory – as appropriate – following any emergency situation
4. Map out those areas that have become prone to flooding over the course of the previous year;
5. Carry out an annual review of the status of the grit bins within the village
6. Review the documentation for inclusion on the parish website/Village Information Booklet
7. Any other issues as requested by the full Council

This representative has no delegated powers.

BRANTHAM LEISURE CENTRE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

The Brantham Leisure Centre representative is a member of the Parish Council. They liaise with Brantham Leisure Centre management team on issues related to the Leisure Centre

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Quarterly review with BLC on issues regarding the Leisure Centre
2. To review issues regarding the Leisure Centre
3. Attendance at Brantham Leisure Centre meetings as necessary
4. To provide written reports when necessary to full Council



This representative has no delegated powers.

SALC REPRESENTATIVE

The SALC representative is a member of the Parish Council. They liaise with SALC on issues related to Parish Council matters as appropriate.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Attendance at SALC area forum meetings
2. Highlighting areas of concern of the Parish Council on Parish Council matters to SALC
3. Requesting advice and guidance from SALC as appropriate
4. Monitoring information received from SALC and making Parish Council aware of items of interest

This representative has no delegated powers.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

The Safer Neighbourhood Team representative is a member of the Parish Council. They liaise with the SNT team on crime and anti-social behaviour issues within Brantham

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Attendance at SNT meetings
2. Highlighting concerns related to crime and anti-social behaviour matters to the SNT
3. Updating the Council on issues raised at SNT meetings
4. Receiving and highlighting concerns received from local residents to SNT staff

This representative has no delegated powers.