Batheaston Parish Council – Review and Approval of Council Policies

Annual Parish Council Meeting - Background Briefing

The following core policies are presented for approval:

1. Standing Orders, which uses the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Model.
    a. The policy is based on the update of the model, April 2022, and since with new finance thresholds (set down by Government and EU legislation).

    b. There also changes to the text to be gender-neutral, and some improvements of presentation.

2. Financial Regulations, which also uses the NALC Model, which has not been updated by NALC.
    a. I have updated finance thresholds, changes to gender-neutral, and some improvements of presentation.

    b. I have also changed the statement regarding reserves to "to cover at least 6 months' operational costs", where it was previously "to hold in reserves £25,000".

    c. Note that we do not yet have a Council's Investment and Financial Management Strategy (if applicable).

3. Code of Conduct, based on the NALC Model, dated May 2018, which has not changed since last year.
    a. Note however that Council might wish to consider adopting the Local Government Association's model, with appropriate adaptation to the Parish Council context: see https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/local-government-association-model-councillor-code-conduct-2020.

4. Complaint Policy – unchanged since last year.

5. Co-option Form and Policy – unchanged since last year.

Note also that:

6. There are a number of policies that fall within the purview of the Human Resources Committee: Annual Leave; Data Protection; Disciplinary; and Grievance. These will be reviewed by the Committee at its first meeting this year.

7. The Grant Application Policy and Form is not a core policy and is not presented for re-approval. It does require a thorough review to bring it up to date, and make it easier and more accessible for applicants. It will be presented at a meeting in due course.

8. Other policies need to be drafted and approved.

Richard Maccabee, Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
11th May 2023