

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

RULES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings of the Parish Council are **NOT** public meetings. However, members of the public have a statutory right to attend meetings of the Council as observers.

Members of the public have no legal right to speak unless the Parish Council Chairman authorises them to do so. However, as part of its community engagement, Oxspring Parish Council has set out a time for public participation, when members of the public are invited to speak.

Members of the public should **NOT** be involved in the decision-making of the Council, and the Council should not make any instant decisions at the behest of members of the public on items that are not included on the agenda.

Members of the public are welcome to stay for the Council meeting after the public session as observers, but will not be able to join in the discussion for the rest of the meeting.

Members of the public may be excluded by a resolution of the meeting for specific items which need to be discussed in confidence, (e.g. staffing matters, tenders for contracts, some legal issues).

- Public participation shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the Chair of the meeting
- If more than one member of the public wishes to speak on the same topic, they should nominate one person to speak on their behalf. This will avoid duplication and make the best use of the time set aside for public participation.

PLEASE NOTE: Offensive and/or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated. If a member of the public disrupts the proceedings of any meeting, the Council reserves the right to curtail their contribution.