

Menheniot Parish Council

Quick briefing | Proposal to extend the Clerk's delegated authority

1.0 Background

During the Covid lockdowns, the parish council agreed to increase the Clerk's delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the council. This was done because the council was unable to meet in real life, and at the time only decisions that had been made in a public meeting¹ were legal. In order to permit legal decision making, councillors agreed to extend the Clerk's responsibilities so that he could make proper decisions *on behalf of the council*.

2.0 Why are you doing this now?

There may be circumstances that arise where the council is unable to meet in a public session, and critical decisions have to be made quickly. Amending your Standing Orders to allow the Clerk to make decisions after consultation with councillors would enable legal decisions to be made.

3.0 What is it you are asking councillors to agree?

This is the proposal you will be asked to support:

Council delegates authority to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chair to take any actions necessary with associated expenditure to protect the interests of the community and ensure council business continuity, informed by consultation with the members of the council. Clerk's authority to authorise expenditure without agreement from councillors agreed with an upper limit increased from £500 to £1000 (amending Section 1.35 of Financial Regulations).

¹ Public meetings are those which are held in a venue to which residents have free access, and where the agenda for the meeting has been published three clear days in advance.