

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

Members of the public have a legal right to attend monthly Parish Council Meetings as well as any Extraordinary Meetings that may be called, but have no legal right to be allowed to speak. However Farnhill Parish Council as part of its community engagement will allow the residents of Farnhill the opportunity to raise issues and express their views on matters affecting Farnhill and Council business. The Council have therefore allocated a period at the beginning of the meeting for Public Participation.

If anybody wishes to attend the Parish Council meetings, but would have problems getting up the stairs please contact the Clerk beforehand, when we will try to accommodate your needs.

The session will normally be limited to fifteen minutes, but may be extended by resolution if the Chairman thinks it is in the public interest to allow additional time.

Members of the public or press may be excluded for part of the meeting if the Council resolve that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution.

Residents wishing to speak during the session will be asked to identify themselves and state the subject of their questions, but reserve the right to remain anonymous if the issue is confidential. Preference will be given to matters listed on the agenda for the meeting, but other matters may be raised if time permits.

The Parish Council cannot make decisions on any matters which are not specified on the agenda. It is at the Chairman's discretion whether questions raised during the Public Participation session will be answered at the meeting or dealt with afterwards by written response. The proceedings during the session will be documented in the minutes of the meeting.

When the public participation session is over the right for public participation ceases. However if any resident considers that they have something important to contribute to an agenda item which would be in the public's interest, they should raise their hand to address the Chairman who will seek a resolution from the Council to permit the resident to speak.

All persons attending Parish Council meetings should be aware that recent Government Legislation has granted a right to allow sound and film recording at the meetings affecting persons present.