

St Teath Parish Council

Public Participation at Meetings

Introduction

The Parish Council believes in open government and involving the general public whenever possible.

To this end the Council has adopted a policy of having periods at both Council and Committee meetings when members of the public can speak.

Obviously in order for this to work effectively it is necessary to have a protocol on how these sessions are to run. This protocol is set down in the Council's "Standing Orders" document section 3 which states the following -

Protocol

A maximum of ten minutes will be allowed for members of the public to address the meeting. The public forum will be subject to the following conditions.

(a) These sessions form part of the Council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted.

(b) Speeches will not last more than 5 minutes.

For information on photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting please see 'Recording and Use of Social Media at Council Meetings'.

General

The Chairman is in overall control of the meeting and he or she will decide who may speak and in which order. When it is your turn to speak the chairman will ask you to identify yourself and to address the meeting.

The Chairman has the right to say that any question or statement is inappropriate and will not be accepted.

Whilst the members of the Council will endeavour to respond to the questions that are raised they may decide not to discuss the issue there and then but to defer discussion to a later date or refer the matter to a committee for consideration.

If you wish to take part in the forum please be aware that you will be speaking in public and that press reporters may be present, therefore you should not say anything you would not wish to be reported.

If a group of you wish to cover the same subject it may be best to nominate one to speak on your behalf. This will avoid duplication and make the best use of the public participation period.

Further Information

If you would like any further information please contact the Clerk to the Council.