

## Parish Council Meetings during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on normal Parish Council meeting schedules over the past year. During the 2020/21 Parish Council year we have managed to hold four public meetings – one open air meeting and three meetings in the Village Hall, using the larger Trivetts Hall rather than the normal Broderip Room and following all necessary precautions.

The last meeting before the current national lockdown was in December. Since then, the Parish Council has continued its business using the temporary “special powers” granted by government to enable urgent and routine decisions to be finalised outside of the normal public meetings.

Virtual meeting technologies (e.g. Zoom and telephone conferencing) were briefly considered but not considered desirable nor necessary at this time.

The “special powers” (delegated authority) route is the same as that used by many other Parish councils across the country. We have taken steps to ensure that public communication and transparency is not compromised through their use – by ensuring that decisions are published in a similar format to the usual meeting minutes – and in all the same outlets (noticeboard, website, e-mail subscription and local press). All normal Parish Council communication channels remain open. Decisions taken during this time will also be confirmed at the next public meeting.

We are keen to resume normal meetings as soon as is deemed safely possible. However, at the time of writing, it is still not clear when this might be – but it is looking like May or even June.

We will make sure all are informed when this can happen.

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