

Renewal of insurance premium

All of the documentation mentioned below is available on request from the Clerk

Dear Dr Davis,

Thank you for choosing to arrange your insurance through Came & Company Local Council Insurance brokers last year. The renewal of the policy for Broadmayne Parish Council is currently under long term agreement and the annual renewal premium is due no later than 13th May 2021.

Important Information - Insurance Act

The renewal quotation for Broadmayne Parish Council is based upon the information previously provided to us and held by your insurers and the attached statement of fact, details of which are shown on the attached schedule.

If you wish to proceed with renewing the Council's cover, you must be sure that none of this information has changed (or, if it has, you must tell us about the changes before we arrange cover).

Additionally, under the Insurance Act 2015 you now have a new duty to provide a 'fair presentation' of the risk to insurers, which replaces the previous duty to disclose all material facts. This means that you must now clearly disclose every material circumstance which you, your Councillors or persons responsible for arranging your insurance, know or ought to know following a reasonable search. A material circumstance is one that may influence an insurer's judgement over whether to take the risk and, if so, on what terms. If you are in any doubt as to whether a circumstance is material you are advised to disclose it.

Please note that failure to disclose a material circumstance may entitle the insurer(s) to impose different terms on your cover or reduce the amount of a claim payable. In some cases your cover could be invalidated, which would mean that a claim would not be paid.

To avoid the risk of under-insurance it is vitally important that your sums insured /indemnity limits are maintained at a correct level. I would, therefore, ask you to consider whether the policy coverage and sums insured / indemnity limits are sufficient to ensure that you will be adequately protected in the event of a claim.

Broadmayne Parish Council Renewal Summary under long term agreement until 12th May 2022

We have pleasure in presenting our proposal for your upcoming insurance renewal, in accordance with your requirements. Based on the information we hold when Broadmayne Parish Council entered into their long term agreement, we assessed your demands and needs as those of a Council wishing to insure the risks shown, at the levels of cover set out in the attached schedule of insurance, with a reputable insurer and at a cost effective premium.

We have pleasure in confirming the Council's renewal premium as £356.46, including insurance premium tax (IPT) plus our Administration fee of £50.00, giving a total annual premium of £406.46. This takes into consideration the Council's long-term agreement which expires on 12th May 2022.

In handling this policy we will act solely as your agent, including when assisting you with any claim.

Pen Underwriting Limited is a company within the Gallagher group and acts on behalf of a number of insurers. We always aim to treat you fairly and we manage all potential conflicts in accordance with our Terms of Business.

Renewal Comparison

	Premium
This Year's Annual Premium	£356.46
Last Year's Annual Premium	£346.08

We have included last year's annual premium so that you can see how it has changed. If you have made any changes to the policy in the last 12 months, that altered the premium, this is reflected.

The difference in annual premium will also be as a result of the index linking of any items insured against loss or damage.

Index linking is currently calculated at 3% for both buildings and contents. Please contact the office should you not wish to index link these items.

Renewal Payment Options

Option	Notes
Bank Transfer	If you'd like to pay by bank transfer, please send your payment to : Bank : Lloyds Sort Code : 30-80-12 Account : 19511668 Account Name: Arthur J. Gallagher Please quote reference: 2096181
Cheque	Made payable to Came & Company, quoting 2096181 on the reverse
Direct Debit	Please contact our office should this option be required
Total Annual LTA Premium	£406.46
<i>Premiums are inclusive of Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) charged by HMRC at the applicable rate</i>	

Our Remuneration

We arrange the policy with the insurer on your behalf. You do not pay us a fee for doing this. We receive commission from the insurer which is a percentage of the total annual premium.	
When you take out a policy with us we charge you an administration fee of £50.00. In addition, we receive commission from the insurer which is a percentage of the total annual premium.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Important Documents

We have pleasure in attaching the following documents on behalf of Pen Underwriting Limited;

- Broadmayne Parish Council Schedule of Insurance
- Broadmayne Parish Council Employers' Liability Certificate
- Pen Underwriting Limited Policy Summary
- Pen Underwriting Limited Statement of Fact
- Summary of policy changes

We draw your attention to the attached document 'Pen – Summary Of Policy Changes' which includes all updates to your cover and policy wording. In particular, please note changes to the policy excesses under the endorsement heading of the property damage section and the addition of a Coronavirus Endorsement on the final page, as per the attached Policy Schedule.

Please note that the changes to the policy excesses under the property damage section are not applicable to you as you are currently under a long term agreement until 12th May 2022.

Please also find attached the following documents sent on behalf of Came & Company Local Council Insurance;

- Statement of Demands and Needs
- Pen Underwriting Limited Invoice – please note payment must be made no later than 13th May 2021

We strongly recommend that you familiarise yourself with these documents as they contain important information explaining the terms under which we operate; including how we handle your payment, and how and why we have selected the insurer. A specimen of the full policy wording is available on request.

Next Steps

We are passionate about protecting the work of good people in their communities, and by providing you with our expert advice we are helping to prevent potential issues. We aim to do these things for a premium that offers best value, the cost of which does not come at the expense of our personal service.

This renewal quotation, the attached Renewal Schedule and Statement of Demands & Needs, should clearly describe the insurance requirements of Broadmayne Parish Council and how we plan to meet them. In order **to renew the policy you must;**

1. Check the attached documents and inform us if anything needs changing
2. Check the cover still meets the needs of Broadmayne Parish Council
3. Pay for your policy – on or before 13th May 2021

On receipt of payment, a full policy wording will be issued accordingly.

We look forward to continuing to provide for your insurance needs, but should you need any assistance or wish to review our recommendation in anyway, please do contact Came & Company Local Council Insurance on 01483 462860 or via renewals@cameandcompany.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

The Local Council Insurance Renewal Team

Came & Company Local Council Insurance

Blenheim House, 1-2 Bridge Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RY

Office Tel: 01483 462860

Email: renewals@cameandcompany.co.uk

BROADMAYNE PARISH COUNCIL ASSET REGISTER AT 1 APRIL 2021							
	Description	Location/custodian	Purchase price if known	Approx. cost to replace	Date Acquired	Photo	Serial number or other information
1	Community Assets						(# Clerk holds copies)
	War Memorial	In churchyard	£1.00	*	Early 1920s	Yes	Insured for £2,000
	Playing field and Children's Play Area		£1.00				Deeds with Porter Dodson #
	Allotments - Chalky Road		£1.00				Deeds with Porter Dodson #
	Village Hall Site		£1.00				Deeds with Porter Dodson #
2	Notice boards						
	Timber open access board	Knighton Lane/Watergates Lane	£265.00	£356.00	2001		Townsend Fencing
	Timber open access board	Rectory Road/Chalky Road	£265.00	£356.00	2002		Townsend Fencing
	Oak glass-fronted lockable board	On Main Street, near cross roads	£900.00	£979.00	2001	Yes	Greenbank
	Man-made 'timber' open access board	Old bus shelter - Main Street	£800.00	£1,200.00	2010	No	Greenbarnes
3	Public Seats	Broadmead	£263.88	£400.00	2000	Yes	Neptune
		Chalky Road	£263.88	£400.00	2008	Yes	Neptune
		Woodlands	£263.88	£400.00	1993	Yes	Neptune
		Churchyard	£263.88	£400.00		Yes	Neptune
		Village Hall (car park)	£263.88	£400.00	2005	Yes	Neptune
		Playing field (under trees)	£263.88	£400.00	2000	Yes	Neptune
		Children's Play area	£263.88	£400.00		Yes	Neptune
		Children's Play area	£263.88	£400.00	2002	Yes	Neptune
		Knighton Lane	£398.00	£400.00	2009	Yes	Neptune
		Beside Village Hall	£378.00	£911.60	2019		Green Scheme Solutions Ltd ***
		Knighton Lane near school	£378.00	£911.60	2019		Green Scheme Solutions Ltd ***
		Near D-Day memorial	£378.00	£911.60	2019		Green Scheme Solutions Ltd ***
4	Millennium Column	At Crossroads	£1,592.00	*	2000	Yes	Weymouth College
	Millennium Plinth		£794.00	*	2000	Yes	Weymouth College
5	Bus Shelters	Main Street	£1,000.00	£3,750.00	?	Yes	
		Knighton Lane	£3,552.00	£3,750.00	2008	Yes	Queensbury Shelters
6	Salt/grit bins	x 2 (WG Lane + Broadmead)	£392.92	£400.00	2011		Glasdon Manufacturing
		x 1 (sandbag store) (VH car park)	£50.00	£200.00	2012		
		x 1 (Osmington Drove/High Trees)	£193.43	£200.00	2012		

7	Office equipment						
	Filing Cabinet	Clerk's house	£1.00	£200.00	?		
	Printer	Clerk's house	£59.99	£75.00	November 2013	Yes	Epson XP-412 (Argos)
	Projector	Clerk's house	£279.99	£300.00	November 2017		Optoma DS349 (Long Throw)(Currys)
	Photocopier	Clerk's house	£543.47	£600.00	April 2008		MO379501175 Ricoh MP181LN
	Laminator	Clerk's house	£34.10	£50.00	August 2015		Fellowes Spectra A3
	Laptop	Clerk's house	£389.00	£400.00	March 2016		Lenovo S/N CB 34864862
	External back-up drive	Clerk's house	£65.00	£70.00	March 2016		Toshiba 1TB (USB 3)
9	Parish Map	In hall	£414.00	*	2011		Mounted by Hardy Signs
		Outside school	£214.11	*	2012	Yes	Mounted by Hardy Signs
		Near old bus shelter on Main Street	£214.11	*	2012	Yes	Mounted by Hardy Signs
10	Kissing Gates	1 behind church	£480.00	£500.00	2012	Yes	Centre Wire
		1 on path church to Knighton Lane	£480.00	£500.00	2012	Yes	Centre Wire
11	Fitness Trail						
	Air skier	Playing field	£675.00	**	May 2013	Yes	Hugh Harris (t/a Fresh-air Fitness)
	Double Air Walker	Playing field	£976.00	**	May 2013	Yes	Hugh Harris (t/a Fresh-air Fitness)
	Double Cross Country Skier	Playing field	£1,036.00	**	May 2013	Yes	Hugh Harris (t/a Fresh-air Fitness)
	Combination SCP/PDC	Playing field	£1,768.00	**	May 2013	Yes	Hugh Harris (t/a Fresh-air Fitness)
	Seated Leg Press	Playing field	£858.00	**	May 2013	Yes	Hugh Harris (t/a Fresh-air Fitness)
	Push-up and dip station	Playing field	£644.00	**	May 2013	Yes	Hugh Harris (t/a Fresh-air Fitness)
	Horizontal Ladder	Playing field	£896.00	**	May 2013	Yes	Hugh Harris (t/a Fresh-air Fitness)
	Hip Twister	Playing field	£805.00	**	May 2013	Yes	Hugh Harris (t/a Fresh-air Fitness)
	Triple pull-up	Playing field	£660.00	**	May 2013	Yes	Hugh Harris (t/a Fresh-air Fitness)
	Double Sit-up Boards	Playing field	£683.00	**	May 2013	Yes	Hugh Harris (t/a Fresh-air Fitness)
	Grass 'tiles'	Playing field	£2,320.00	**	May 2013		Victoria Installations (Szymon J Borgiel)
12	Signage						
	Yellow advance warning road closure boards	x 2 kept in Clerk's garage	£82.80	£90.00	October 2014		Purchased from DCC
	Red road closed boards	x 2 kept in Clerk's garage	£67.20	£70.00	October 2014		Purchased from DCC
13	Safety Equipment						
	Community Speedwatch kit	Mr Eaglestone's house	£300.00	£350.00	2012		Purchased from Assn. Dorset Watches
	SID and accessories	On A352	£2,814.00	£3,000.00	February 2020		Purchased from Morelock Signs Ltd.
	Defibrillator	On wall outside shop	£2,160.00	£2,160.00	August 2019		Leased from SWAST, not owned outright.
		Total value of assets for audit	£33,371.16				

	* replacement cost unknown without specialist estimates					
	** not insured for replacement; there is 25 year warranty on structural parts					
	*** the replacement figure includes the cost of carriage, all anchors and fittings plus installation					
14	Items written-off & disposed of (9/04/2018)					
	Projector	£365.00		November 2008	Yes	Sony Model VPL0EX
	Small glass fronted board (from grounds of 1 CTC)	£265.00		?	Yes	
	Small lockable board (was outside village hall)	£265.00		?	Yes	
	Photocopier	£1.00		March 1988		Toshiba BD-3110
	Laptop (from 'Connecting Dorset' package)	£401.85		2008	Yes	Novatech NNB-BX0719
	Laminator	£25.00		August 2009		Fellowes (Broken: disposed of)
	Printer (from 'Connecting Dorset' package)	£52.88		2008		Epson EPS-DX7400
	Miscellaneous IT accessories (remains of "Connecting Dorset" package)	£129.95		2008		External monitor and keyboard

**Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority—Consultation on draft
Community Safety Plan 2021-24**

This consultation paper was on the agenda of the March meeting. The following comments were received:

Cllr Marriott

Having read this plan through and also watched the video I have only a few observations which are all positive.

The plan is concise and easy to follow. It takes a step by step approach and I thought it was very useful to include a glossary at the end for all those abbreviations we are unfamiliar with.

The plan was forward thinking, looking at education as part of prevention and also recognising wider issues such as environmental impact of the fire service.

When reading plans from other organisations, we have often commented about good aspirations but also observed there is little about how the plan will be implemented. Here however, each subject is summarised with an explanation of 'What we are doing' and then 'What we will do'.

It is a concern that deliberate fires and general false alarms are appearing to increase whilst what I would call a normal call out (in other words an accidental domestic fire) is decreasing. This gives the impression that the fire service is doing its job well but perhaps the general public are not. With this in mind, I strongly support the fire service in its endeavor to educate and prevent. Youth engagement with the Prince's Trust sounds very positive.

It appears the fire service is leaving no stone unturned in its attempt to continuously improve whilst the budget remains tight. The key issues appear to be lack of funding and misuse of the service, neither of which can be blamed on the fire authority. I only hope the budget will be increased as I know this is needed to hire enough staff.

I think this plan is a good one and have no further comment.

Cllr Lamb

I have also looked at the plan document and video, forming a similarly positive impression. The plan appears to be structured and presented in an accessible manner. Anecdotally the fire service seem to have performed well since the 2016 merger. The plan is forward looking and considers and adapts to anticipated changes in its operational environment.

The budget challenge of £1.5m may be a concern with increasing emphasis on charitable contributions.

At the risk of pedantry the statistics on pages 5 and 28 don't reconcile fully:

Total fires of 3,251 = deliberate (984) + accidental (2,627) but accidental dwelling (706) and accidental non domestic (352) leaves 1,567 unexplained
Road traffic collisions + Fires + False alarms + Special service incidents = 14,204 not 14,208

Suggested response

As is so often the case with on-line responses to consultation documents, the form requires box-ticking to indicate on a scale of 1 to 5 how useful, clear, etc. you found the video and various aspects of the plan. It is also necessary to provide answers before you can see all the questions. This kind of form is very difficult to use when preparing a corporate response. Fortunately in this instance, they do provide an email address on which to raise specific issues. I therefore recommend that, instead of completing the form, I send a short message to that address as follows:

This is a response to the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority draft Community Safety Plan 2021-24 on behalf of Broadmayne Parish Council. The Parish Council was notified of the consultation by DAPTC.

The form was difficult to complete when preparing a corporate response so it is hoped that the following comments may be of use.

- The Parish Council formed a positive impression of the plan which is concise and easy to follow, with a structured and accessible approach, and a useful glossary at the end for the many abbreviations.*
- It is forward thinking, looking at education as part of prevention, and also recognising wider issues such as the environmental impact of the fire service.*
- When reading plans from other organisations, the Parish Council has often had cause to comment that good aspirations are not set in the context of how they will be implemented. Here however, each subject is summarised with an explanation of 'What we are doing' and then 'What we will do'. The plan is forward looking and considers and adapts to anticipated changes in its operational environment.*
- The fire service's endeavour to educate and prevent is strongly welcomed. Youth engagement through the Prince's Trust sounds very positive.*
- Anecdotally the fire service seems to have performed well since the 2016 merger but the budget challenge of £1.5m, with increasing emphasis on charitable contributions is of concern.*

*Broadmayne Parish Council
April 2021*

Ministry of Housing, Communications and Local Government
Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence

The link to the gov.uk website is [here](#) but I have extracted the main text and questions below.

Purpose of this call for evidence

The government would like to gather evidence about the use of the current arrangements for local authorities to meet remotely or in hybrid format, as set out in the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (and the equivalent regulations for Wales and Northern Ireland) under powers granted by section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.

These regulations came into force on 4 April 2020 and apply to meetings taking place before 7 May 2021. Local authorities in Scotland had express provision to meet remotely prior to the pandemic, and we are also interested to understand their experience of remote meetings since their arrangements came into force.

The powers in section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 were brought in specifically to make express provision for local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to deal with the challenges of holding physical meetings during the coronavirus pandemic. They have helped local authorities to redeploy resources to deal with the pandemic and ensure that essential business continues whilst protecting the health and safety of their members, officers and the public.

We are aware that experience of remote meetings has been varied, and that while the experience of managing and participating in remote meetings has grown considerably during the period since the remote meetings regulations came into force, there have been examples of the difficulties this format has posed for some authorities.

We have received representations from individual local authorities and sector representative organisations making the case for permanent express provision for remote meetings. The government would like to hear from interested parties about the pros and cons of making such arrangements permanent in England and the use of the arrangements to date.

We are particularly interested to receive any quantitative data that can be included to substantiate the responses you make.

Terminology

Throughout this call for evidence the phrases 'remote meetings' and 'remote meetings arrangements' will be used interchangeably to refer to the express provisions for local authorities to meet remotely or in hybrid format, as set out in the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (and the equivalent regulations for Wales and Northern Ireland) under powers granted by section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.

As Scottish authorities had express provision to meet remotely prior to the pandemic, 'remote meetings' and 'remote meetings arrangements' refers to the equivalent Scottish legislation.

The regulations make express provisions for local authorities to hold meetings remotely, for example through typical digital conference software (e.g. Zoom, Skype, Teams) or telephone conference calls. However, they do not require them to be held remotely or even in a single format. This means, for example, that local authorities can hold 'hybrid' meetings (where some members attend virtually and other members attend in person) and they are also still able to hold fully 'in-person' physical meetings.

You can therefore assume that any reference to 'remote meetings' or 'remote meetings arrangements' also refers to hybrid meetings.

The term 'member' will be used to refer to any elected local authority members covered by the regulations above (and the equivalent legislation for Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland). This includes councillors, directly elected mayors, and police and crime commissioners, and any other relevant local authority members as defined by the legislation.

Background

While local authorities in Scotland had express provision to meet remotely prior to the coronavirus pandemic, there was no express provision for remote meetings for local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In 2017, the government consulted on proposals to allow joint committees and combined authorities to hold meetings by video conference, given the long distances that individual councillors often need to travel in order to attend these meetings.

The government concluded that, with appropriate safeguards to maintain town hall transparency, there are clear benefits to giving local authorities operating joint committees and combined authorities the ability to hold formal meetings by video conference.

These safeguards included not extending the provisions to cover other types of councils, and that remote access should only be permissible from sites suitable for holding a meeting with public access (i.e. from a town hall, not from private dwellings), as there was a risk of undermining visible democratic scrutiny and public debate. However, the government also noted views that remote meetings would also benefit other councils, particularly large rural authorities, and committed to further engage with the sector to understand these views.

Since regulations came into force following the introduction of the Coronavirus Act 2020, express provision was made for local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to hold meetings before 7 May 2021 remotely (such as through digital conferencing software or telephone conference) so that they can protect their members and comply with public health guidance.

As local authorities have now had extensive experience of conducting remote meetings over the past year, this call for evidence is an opportunity to understand these experiences and inform a decision about whether to make these arrangements permanent. Any permanent change would require primary legislation, and such passage would depend on agreement of Parliament and the timetabling and pressures of Parliamentary business.

Questions

The government would like to gather evidence about the use of the arrangements that make express provision for local authorities to meet remotely or in hybrid format during the coronavirus pandemic, including the arrangements that existed for Scottish Authorities prior to the pandemic.

Q1. Generally speaking, how well do you feel the current remote meetings arrangements work?

Very Well / Well / Neither well nor poorly / Poorly / Very Poorly / Unsure

While the powers in section 78 of the Coronavirus Act were brought in specifically to help local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland deal with the challenges of holding meetings during the coronavirus pandemic, the government would also like to hear from interested parties about the pros and cons of making permanent express provision, in whole or in part, for local authorities in England.

Q2. Generally speaking, do you think local authorities in England should have the express ability to hold at least some meetings remotely on a permanent basis?

Yes / No / Unsure

Beyond having express provision to avoid face-to-face meetings during the coronavirus pandemic, we are aware of feedback from local authorities about additional benefits of being able to hold remote meetings including, but not limited to, the environmental and cost benefits of reduced travel, increased participation from local residents, and the potential to attract more diverse local authority members. We are keen to obtain representative views on the benefits of remote meetings and would particularly welcome any quantitative evidence to support these views.

Q3. What do you think are some of the benefits of the remote meetings arrangements? Please select all that apply.

More accessible for local authority members

Reduction in travel time for councillors

Meetings more easily accessed by local residents

Greater transparency for local authority meetings

Documents (e.g. minutes, agendas, supporting papers) are more accessible to local residents and others online

Easier to chair meetings in an orderly fashion

A virtual format promotes greater equality in speaking time during meetings

I do not think there are any benefits to remote meetings

Other (please specify)

In their representations to us, many local authorities have referenced the cost savings they have achieved through implementing remote meetings, particularly regarding a reduction in travel expenses and accommodation costs.

For example, one upper tier authority has reported that running meetings remotely has enabled them to save in the order of £6,000 per month through reduced travel expenses. We would be interested to receive more quantitative data about the cost savings that have been achieved, including any estimates of the comparative cost of running a remote meeting versus a face-to-face meeting.

Q4. (For local authorities only) Have you seen a reduction in costs since implementing remote meetings in your authority?

Yes / No / Unsure

Some local authorities have also made reference to the difficulty that some members have had with the remote meeting format, particularly in relation to the difficulties in managing misconduct, the challenges of working with unfamiliar software, and technological issues caused by a poor internet connection. We are keen to obtain representative views on the disadvantages of remote meetings and would particularly welcome any quantitative evidence to support these views.

Q5. What do you think are some of the disadvantages of the remote meetings arrangements, and do you have any suggestions for how they could be mitigated/overcome? Please select all that apply.

It is harder for members to talk to one another informally

Meetings are less accessible for local authority members or local residents who have a poor-quality internet connection

Meetings are less accessible for local authority members or local residents who are unfamiliar with video conferencing/technology

There is less opportunity for local residents to speak or ask questions

Some find it more difficult to read documents online than in a physical format

Debate is restricted by the remote format

It is more difficult to provide effective opposition or scrutiny in a remote format

It is more difficult to chair meetings in an orderly fashion

Virtual meetings can be more easily dominated by individual speakers

It might enable democratically elected members to live and perform their duties outside their local area on a permanent basis, therefore detaching them from the communities they serve

It may create too substantial a division between the way national democracy (e.g. in the House of Commons) and local democracy is conducted

I do not think there are any disadvantages to remote meetings

Other (please specify)

The government considers that there are also many advantages of holding meetings face-to-face. For example, physical meetings provide numerous opportunities for local authority members to

Speak with one another informally and build alliances, as well as to encounter local residents in the flesh and listen to their concerns in person.

Additionally, some members have referenced the vast improvement in the quality of debate when there is a lively atmosphere and they are able to make full use of their oratory skills to persuade and influence others. Some may consider remote meetings stifling and that physical meetings are essential to effective democracy and scrutiny.

Q6. What do you think are some of the main advantages of holding face-to-face meetings, as opposed to remote meetings?

If express provision for remote meetings were made permanent, it might be preferable for the government to constrain the meetings or circumstances in which remote meetings can be held to ensure that effective democracy and scrutiny can still take place.

There are some occasions, for example, where a remote meeting format may be seen as more appropriate, such as for smaller sub-committees, meetings convened at short notice, or for meetings where attendees are drawn from a large geographical area i.e. for some joint committees, combined authorities and large rural authorities. On the other hand, there are occasions where a remote meeting format may be viewed as less appropriate, for example larger meetings involving Full Council or an authority's Annual Meeting.

Q7. If permanent arrangements were to be made for local authorities in England, for which meetings do you think they should have the option to hold remote meetings?

For all meetings

For most meetings with a few exceptions (please specify)

Only for some meetings (please specify)

I think local should be able to decide for themselves which meetings they should have the option to meet remotely

I do not think local authorities should have the option to hold remote meetings for any meetings

Unsure

Q8. If permanent arrangements were to be made for local authorities in England, in which circumstances do you think local authorities should have the option to hold remote meetings?

In any circumstances

Only in extenuating circumstances where a meeting cannot be held face-to-face or some members would be unable to attend (e.g. severe weather events, coronavirus restrictions)

I think local authorities should be able to decide for themselves which circumstances they should have the option to meet remotely

I do not think local authorities should have the option to hold remote meetings under any circumstances

Other (please specify)

Unsure

While local authorities have risen magnificently to the challenge of ensuring vital council business continues by conducting meetings remotely during these unprecedented times, there may be concerns that, if the arrangements were to be made permanent, a situation could arise where remote meetings arrangements were used by a ruling party to avoid effective scrutiny or abuse the power in some other way.

Q9. Would you have any concerns if local authorities in England were given the power to decide for themselves which meetings, and in what circumstances, they have the option to hold remote meetings?

Yes /No / Unsure

Q10. If yes, do you have any suggestions for how your concerns could be mitigated/overcome?

In deciding whether and how remote meetings arrangements may be made permanent for local authorities in England, the government needs to ensure that it has due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty. In particular, the government would need to avoid unlawfully discriminating (either directly or indirectly) against individuals with a protected characteristic, and also consider whether the arrangements advance equality of opportunity or help to foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Many local authorities have spoken of the potential benefits that remote meetings could have for members or potential members with disabilities or young families. However, there are also those for whom remote meetings could pose additional difficulties, for example those with hearing or visual impairments or those more likely to struggle with the technology.

We are keen to consider views on these aspects of remote meetings and would particularly welcome any quantitative evidence to support views provided.

Q11. In your view, would making express provision for English local authorities to meet remotely particularly benefit or disadvantage any individuals with protected characteristics e.g. those with disabilities or caring responsibilities?

Yes / No / Unsure

Possible National Park in Dorset: email from Chris Loder MP

Dear Dr Davis

Dorset National Park

Over the coming months the Government will make a decision on the designation of further National Parks across the England.

You may be aware that there is a proposal for a Dorset National Park, which will be one of the possible designations considered. I have significant reservations about such a proposal, but I would appreciate the view of Broadmayne Parish Council as to whether or not you support the Dorset National Park proposal and your reasons for doing so. I would very much appreciate it if the Council might be able to respond to me by the end of April.

Best wishes

Chris

Chris Loder MP

Member of Parliament for West Dorset



To help in your consideration of this matter this is a link to the website for the campaign for a national park in Dorset:

[A National Park for Dorset in the 21st Century \(dorsetnationalpark.com\)](http://dorsetnationalpark.com)

And here is the link to Chris Loder's website where he explains why he doesn't support the idea:

[My campaign against a National Park for Dorset | Chris Loder MP](#)

If you search on-line for the subject you can find lots more about it.