

To be moved by Cllr Bond:

Council notes that:

- the NALC model standing orders for town and parish councils, from which VTC's orders are derived, contain no provision enabling a scheduled council meeting to be cancelled;

- some principal councils do have such provisions, based on an interpretation of section 101 of the 1972 local government act (as yet untested in law) that it allows power to cancel a scheduled meeting to be delegated, usually to the lead member and/or lead officer, generally following consultation with other members, in certain limited circumstances - these commonly being no business (no decisions to take, not just a 'light agenda') or an emergency preventing the venue being used to hold the meeting.

Council therefore notes that, currently, no-one within VTC has delegated power to cancel any scheduled meeting, but resolves that having such a provision would be sensible, to avoid situations where meetings are held with no business to transact, and to cater for unforeseen emergency situations.

Council therefore resolves to request its Policy & Resources Committee to bring forward to a meeting of the incoming council a proposed amendment to its Standing Orders, which would enable scheduled meetings of the council or its committees to be cancelled, in the limited circumstances described above, delegated to the decision of both the town clerk and mayor (or committee chair as appropriate), following consultation with the relevant other members.