

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS FROM FULL COUNCIL OCTOBER 2021

<p>Cllr Barfoot asked if he could hand over his position on the Community Committee to Cllr Thomas.</p>	<p>A councillor wishing to step down from a committee must inform the clerk. The full council will then vote on the replacement member at the next meeting.</p>
<p>Cllr Brailsford asked if councillors could use the town council name on their election nomination forms, rather than independent group names to avoid confusion in the forthcoming elections.</p>	<p>Political references on nomination forms are the responsibility of the individual councillor. More advice can be sought from the Electoral Commission. Home Page Electoral Commission</p>
<p>Cllr Blagrove asked if councillors could consider disbanding their equivalent independent parties and stand as truly independent councillors and work as one corporate body.</p>	<p>Political party membership is the personal choice of the individual councillor.</p>
<p>Cllr Drayson asked if a clear description of what each authority does could be produced, possibly at a shared cost.</p>	<p>This will be added to the Community Committee agenda for consideration</p>
<p>Cllr Thomas asked that personal attacks against councillors on social media platforms should stop.</p>	<p>Councillors have committed to follow the Code of Conduct, this applies to all forms of communication, including online. Councillors must treat all persons fairly and with respect. The Monitoring Officer at Rother District Council has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct and councillors are encouraged to seek advice on any matters relating to behavioural conduct.</p>
<p>Cllr Drayson asked about email etiquette and asked councillors not 'reply to all'.</p>	<p>The Finance and General Purposes Committee shall consider an email policy in its audit review.</p>
<p>Cllr Gibson asked about what the town council can do to protect councillors concerning the murder of MP David Amess.</p>	<p>Town Council organised events are risk-assessed, this risk assessment shall include member safety. Any councillor arranging private meetings should seek guidance from the clerk on risk assessment.</p>
<p>Cllr Thomas asked that councillors be more respectful to each other on social media.</p>	<p>Councillors have committed to follow the Code of Conduct, this applies to all forms of communication, including social media.</p>
<p>Cllr Harding asked what happens with the requests made by members of the public when they address the meeting.</p>	<p>Requests made by members of the public that are not already on an agenda are added to the next relevant committee agenda for discussion</p>