

# Croydon Parish Council

Chairman: Mr K Buchanan

## Clerk to the Council

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## Standards of behaviour for participation in Parish Council meetings

Meetings of the Parish Council are not public meetings but members of the public have a statutory right to attend meetings of the council as observers, unless a resolution is made that a meeting is closed. Members of the public have no legal right to speak unless the Parish Council Chairperson authorises them to do so.

- those wishing to speak should signal their intention to the Chairman and wait to be invited to speak
- when invited to speak by the Chairman, use clear, succinct and non-defamatory language
- the Chairman will manage the meeting to ensure that no one participant dominates, and all voices can be heard
- members of the public must treat all meeting participants with respect, listen attentively to others and not interrupt
- should there be a disagreement, then it should be presented in a way which respectfully challenges ideas and not the person
- members of the public disturbing a Council meeting will be asked by the Chairman to desist in any behaviour considered to be disrupting the meeting
- if the behaviour continues Council can resolve, without discussion, that the person leaves the meeting
- if the person refuses to leave the meeting after there has been a resolution to this effect, and the meeting cannot proceed due to a person's continued disruptive behaviour, the Chair may suspend or ultimately close the meeting.