

NETHER WALLOP PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting update at 05TH May 2020

The requirement to hold an Annual Parish Meeting (sometimes know as a Parish Assembly) is outlined in the Local Government Act 1972, section 9 (1). It must be held every year between 1st March and 1st June.

The legislation recently passed to allow virtual meetings of the Parish Council (a local authority) is: Coronavirus Act 2020, PART 1, Section 78

It should be noted that the Annual Parish Meeting is NOT a meeting of the Parish Council (although the Chairman convenes the meeting) and therefore this meeting is not covered by the above new permission.

The only permissible reasons to leave home during the lockdown period are:

- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible
- one form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household
- any medical need, including to donate blood, avoid or escape risk of injury or harm, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person
- travelling for work purposes, but only where you cannot work from home

None of these reasons justify attending a Public meeting and therefore the Chairman of the Parish Council will not be convening the Annual Parish Meeting until the “Stay at Home” requirements are sufficiently relaxed or cancelled. It is highly likely that this will not be by the deadline of 1st June and therefore the Parish Assembly is cancelled this year.