

STOKE CLIMSLAND PARISH COUNCIL

A STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY:

The Declaration of a National Emergency in response to the Coronavirus (COVID 19) Pandemic means that Stoke Climsland Parish Council will not be holding any public or closed sessions for the foreseeable future.

The vital need for social distancing amongst the healthy and self-isolation for the elderly and vulnerable is paramount and the need to refrain from meeting physically has therefore been confirmed as absolutely essential.

Council business generally, will now need to be conducted online and necessary powers will be delegated as appropriate or permissible.

The current legislation which regulates Parish Council meetings does not allow for remote meeting options. Therefore, in this unprecedented situation, the exact nature of these processes is as yet unclear and will need to be established in the coming days and weeks, in line with the Local Government Act and following any legal advice distributed by CALC and NALC.

All new or improvised procedures and delegated powers will need to be ratified as soon as possible, pending authorisation to legally proceed once alterations to the restrictions currently imposed by existing legislation have been resolved by Act of Parliament.

It should be noted that under 'Force Majeure' the Council and Councillors may need to operate in a way which may not be sanctioned by current legislation but which proves necessary in the interests of public safety.