

The Annual Council Meeting

Paragraph 7 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a PC to hold an annual meeting. This is held in May or in a year of elections, on or within 14 days after the councillors elected take office.

Regulation 6 (c) of the Remote Meetings Regulations (I'll use this shorthand and "the 2020 Regulations" from now on) disapplies paragraph 7 of Schedule 12 meaning there is no requirement for a PC to hold an annual meeting while the 2020 Regulations are in force. A PC can hold a remote meeting if it chooses to do so.

The Annual Parish Meeting

Paragraph 14 (1) of Schedule 12 to the LGA 1972 requires the parish meeting to assemble annually between 1 March and 1 June inclusive.

Where there is a PC, the meeting shall be held on such day and time as the PC may fix (14 (2)). This does not mean that the PC has discretion as to whether to fix a day and time for the PM.

Regulation 6 (c) of the 2020 Regulations disapplies paragraph 14 meaning there is no requirement to hold an annual PM during the period of the 2020 Regulations. As with the annual council meeting, they could be held remotely if they choose to.

The 2020 Regulations apply to local authorities, which is defined to include PMs constituted under s.13 of the LGA 1972 (Regulation 3 of the 2020 Regulations).

The default paragraph 14 position applies after the 2020 Regulations expire.