



**CHIPPENHAM  
TOWN COUNCIL**  
Improving the quality of town life

Jonathan Owen  
Chief Executive  
National Association of Local Councils  
Via Email

12 March 2021

**Ref: Council meetings after the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

I am writing on behalf of Chippenham Town Council to you as the Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the body that represents Chippenham Town Council and many other town and parish councils.

As you'll be aware, there is mounting confusion about how council meetings will be held after the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. You will be aware Government has temporarily removed the legal requirement for local authorities to hold public meetings in person, allowing councils to hold public meetings virtually by using video or telephone conferencing technology. As of 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021, local authorities have to revert to fully compliant public meetings as set out in the Local Government Act (1972).

I would urge you to raise this with the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government at the earliest possible opportunity and seek clarity from Government with regard to what is allowable under the context of a public meeting as set out in the Local Government Act (1972) after May 6th 2021. In the meantime, I would be grateful if you could please provide advice to me on behalf of NALC.

Yours Sincerely,

**Mark Smith** MBA LLB (Hons) CMgr FCMI FSLCC  
Chief Executive

**Chippenham Town Council**

The Town Hall, High Street  
Chippenham, Wiltshire  
SN15 3ER

01249 446699  
enquiries@chippenham.gov.uk  
chippenham.gov.uk

