

## **COVID REGS**

### ***Advice on the holding of the Annual Parish Meeting 2020***

The Regulations noted above enable local councils (defined as 'local authorities') to hold remote meetings, including by video and telephone conferencing, for a specified period until May next year. However, whilst parish councils in England are included within the definition of "local authority" in the Regulations, Parish Meetings are not included within the definition and, as such, there is nothing permitting them to meet remotely. In the opinion of the National Association of Local Councils, the current Government guidance means that parish meetings should not take place in person, and because a Parish Meeting does not have legislative power to meet remotely, there will be no parish meetings held before 1 June, including the annual parish meeting, unless of course clearance is given before then which is looking highly unlikely.