

# Local Councils EXPLAINED (Published 2013)

## Reviews

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*“Local Councils EXPLAINED is an excellent, comprehensive and user-friendly publication for all having any involvement with local councils... The book is structured in two parts. The first is headed: ‘How Local Councils Work’... and gives thorough treatment to key legal and constitutional issues e.g. the role of local councils, local councillors, staff, public accountability, committees and working with others. This part also contains an extremely useful table including ‘most of the statutory powers that local councils can choose to exercise’... The second part ‘Model Standing Orders’ deals with ‘the written rules of a local council... used to confirm a council’s internal organisational, administrative and procurement procedures and procedural matters for meetings’. It also offers an indicative model set of standing orders for use by applicable local councils.*

*It is “a book for all seasons”. For it has depth enough to suit a legal practitioner (having comprehensive and footnoted statutory references, a compendium of legal powers and an index). However, it is at the same time attractive and user-friendly enough to be a valuable practical guide for those (e.g. local council members) who simply need to find their way around local councils and what they do and what will be expected of them. So this book will not only be a wise and knowledgeable friend for parish clerks but it will also be a must have for principal council monitoring officers, particularly those with local councils in their areas as well as for private legal practitioners.”*

[View full New Law Journal article](#)

- **New Law Journal** | 2 October 2013

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*“On my first days in local government I was told I didn't need to learn everything, but I needed to know where to find it. Local Councils EXPLAINED is that source for new Clerks.”*

- **Terry Simpson, Town Clerk, Ringwood Town Council** | 09 December 2013

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*“This book is comprehensive in its details and user-friendly in its layout. It provides a very useful reference for both officers and councillors covering all aspects of council Administration.”*

- **Andrew Bailey, Town Clerk, Great Aycliffe Town Council** | 09 December 2013

*“At last an idiots guide to Local Councils. This is not meant in any way as a disparaging remark, it is praise of the highest level. This is a book accessible by all; for it neatly bridges that gulf between being too legalistic or too simplified. The legal entity under which local councils work is referenced, so making this a first port of call for those who require signposting to original legislation or a more in depth discourse. Nonetheless the information contained is good enough to stand alone without further reference. The updated table of the powers of a parish council are set out clearly and unambiguously. The theme of each chapter is stated at the commencement and then proceeds to deliver. Even more cleverly it has been put together with colour-coded sections. It also possesses two other strengths, of being compact enough to read at any time and to be affordable for even the smallest parish council.”*

**- Councillor Liz Hodges, Chipping Campden Town Council | 14 January 2014**

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*“Local Councils EXPLAINED is easy to follow and is laid out in a logical fashion. It gives a thorough insight into key legal and constitutional issues covering the role of local councils, local councillors, staff, public accountability, working with others, committee structures and meetings and will be a valuable and practical guide for local council members. Chapter 2 provides a very comprehensive overview covering all aspects of the position of a local councillor from a personal perspective. Chapter 4, which is about Accountability to the Public, gives an overview of all known and unknown situations that might arise. Chapter 6 provides a very informative insight into how local Councils, dependent upon size, should run their affairs whilst laying down the minimum criteria that must be adhered to. Chapter 8 gives firm guidance as to how debates should be both initiated and controlled at meetings.”*

**- Councillor Peter Davey, Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council | 8 January 2014**

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