



STANDING ORDERS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HONG KONG

*Made by the Legislative Council of Hong Kong on The Ninth Day of
October 1968 in pursuance of the provisions of Clause XXIII
of the Hong Kong Royal Instructions 1917 to 1967*

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HONG KONG

**STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF HONG KONG.**

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STANDING ORDERS
of the
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG.

MADE BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG ON THE NINTH (G.N. 2049/68.)
DAY OF OCTOBER 1968 IN PURSUANCE OF THE PROVISIONS OF
CLAUSE XXIII OF THE HONG KONG ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS
1917 TO 1967.

PART A.

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

1. (1) Except for the purpose of enabling this order to be complied with, no Member of the Council shall sit or vote therein until he has made or subscribed before the Council the oath or affirmation of Allegiance in the form prescribed by law. Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance. (Cap. 90.)

(2) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 6 (Proceedings at First Sitting of Session), the Clerk shall whenever necessary administer the oath or affirmation before the transaction of any other business.

2. (1) The proceedings and debates of the Council shall be in the English language. Language.

(2) Every petition shall be in the English language or the Chinese language.

(3) A petition in the Chinese language shall be accompanied by an English translation certified to be correct by the Member presenting the petition.

3. (1) The Governor shall be the President of the Council.

(2) Save as otherwise provided in this order, the President shall preside at sittings of the Council and shall act as Chairman of committees of the whole Council; in the absence of the President the Member appointed by the Governor shall so preside. In default of such appointment or in the absence of such Member, the senior *ex officio* Member or Official Member present shall preside. Presiding in Council and in Committee of the whole Council.

(3) A Member, other than the President, when presiding in the Council or acting as Chairman of a committee of the whole Council shall, while so presiding or acting, enjoy all powers conferred by these Standing Orders on the President or Chairman as the case may be.

4. (1) The Clerk shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of the proceedings of the Council and of committees of the whole Council. The minutes of proceedings shall record the Members attending, all decisions taken, and details of every division held. Duties of the Clerk.

(2) The Clerk shall submit the minutes of proceedings of each sitting to the President for his signature and shall then distribute copies to Members before the commencement of the next sitting.

(3) The Clerk shall be responsible for preparing from day to day an Order Book showing all future business of which notice has been given. The Order Book shall be open to the inspection of Members at all reasonable hours.

(4) The Clerk shall be responsible for preparing for each sitting an Order Paper showing the business for that sitting.

(5) The Clerk shall be responsible for the custody of the votes, records, bills and other documents laid before the Council, which shall be open to inspection by Members of the Council at all reasonable hours, and by other persons under arrangements approved by the President.

(6) The Clerk, acting under the directions of the President, shall be responsible for the production of an official report of all speeches made in the Council and in the committee of the whole Council.

(7) The Clerk shall be responsible for providing the Finance Committee and every select committee of the Council with a clerk.

(8) The Clerk shall perform the further duties laid upon him in these Standing Orders, and all other duties in the service of the Council ordered by the Council or directed by the President.

PART B.

SESSIONS, SITTINGS AND ADJOURNMENTS OF THE COUNCIL.

5. (1) There shall be a session of the Council once in every year. Sessions.

(2) On the thirtieth day of September in every year the session of the Council then in being shall end and the first sitting of the next session shall be held within the succeeding period of six weeks.

(3) The sessions of the Council shall be held at such place and shall begin at such time as the Governor may from time to time appoint by proclamation published in the *Gazette*.

6. (1) At the first sitting of a session the Clerk shall first read the proclamation appointing the time for the opening of the session and the place where it is to be held. Proceedings at First Sitting of Session.

(2) Members who have not yet taken or subscribed the oath or affirmation of Allegiance shall then do so.

(3) The Governor, if he so wishes, shall then deliver a speech to the Council.

(4) Immediately after the Governor has delivered such a speech, the sitting may be suspended for such period, or the Council may be adjourned until such day, as the President may determine.

(5) At the resumption of the sitting, or on the day to which the Council is adjourned under paragraph (4) of this order, a motion may be moved without notice for an address of thanks to the Governor for his speech.

(6) A motion under paragraph (5) of this order shall be moved in the following form:

That an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor as follows:—

“We, The Hong Kong Legislative Council here assembled, beg leave to offer thanks for the speech which has been addressed by you to the Council.”

(7) Amendments may be moved to the motion described in paragraph (6) of this order only by way of adding words at the end of the motion.

7. (1) Sittings of the Council during each session shall be held on such days and shall begin at such hour as the Governor shall determine but a period of six weeks shall not elapse between the date of one sitting and the date appointed for the next sitting.

Commencement
of Sittings.

(2) Written notice of every sitting of the Council other than the first sitting of a new session shall be given by the Clerk to Members at least five clear days before the day of the sitting but in cases of emergency the Governor may dispense with such notice and in that event the longest possible notice shall be given.

(3) The Governor may, at any time after he has determined the day and hour upon which a sitting is to begin, change the day or hour so determined to a later day or hour, or in cases of emergency to an earlier day or hour.

8. (1) Unless otherwise determined under Standing Order No. 7 (Commencement of Sittings), every sitting other than the first sitting of a session shall begin at 2.30 p.m.

Hours of
Sitting.

(2) At 6 p.m. the proceedings on any business under consideration shall be interrupted, any motion which has been moved in pursuance of Standing Order No. 30 (Adjournment of Debate or of Proceedings of a Committee) shall lapse, and if the Council is in committee the Council shall resume:

Provided that, if the President is of opinion that the proceedings on which the Council is engaged could be concluded by a short deferment of the moment of interruption, he may in his discretion defer interrupting the business.

(3) If a division is in progress at 6 p.m., the business shall not be interrupted until after the declaration of the result of the division.

(4) Save as provided in paragraph (4) of Standing Order No. 9 (Motions for the Adjournment of the Council), no further business shall be entered upon after the interruption of business under paragraph (2) of this order.

(5) The President may at any time suspend a sitting or adjourn the Council.

9. (1) When for any sufficient reason it is not desired to formulate a motion in express terms for the purpose of debating a matter or matters, a motion that the Council do now adjourn may be moved for the purpose of such a debate.

Motions for the Adjournment of the Council.

(2) Such a motion shall not require notice but shall not be moved except between two items of business and then only by an *ex officio* Member.

(3) If such a motion shall be agreed to, the Council shall stand adjourned.

(4) After the interruption of business under paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 8 (Hours of Sitting) or at the conclusion of all the business on the Order Paper, whichever is the earlier, an *ex officio* Member may move that this Council do now adjourn.

(5) On a motion moved under paragraph (4) of this order an Unofficial Member, who has obtained the right to do so, may raise any public matter for which the Government is responsible, with a view to eliciting a reply from an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member.

(6) A Member who wishes to raise a matter under the provisions of paragraph (5) of this Order shall give notice of the matter in writing to the President not less than three clear days before the sitting at which he wishes to do so:

Provided that the President may in his discretion dispense with such notice.

(7) If at the expiration of twenty minutes from the moving of a motion under paragraph (4) of this order an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member has not yet been called upon to reply, the President shall direct the Member then speaking to resume his seat and shall call upon an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member to reply.

(8) If at the expiration of thirty minutes from the moving of the motion under paragraph (4) of this order such motion has not been agreed to, the President shall adjourn the Council without putting any question.

10. (1) The quorum of the Council and of a committee of the whole Council shall consist of ten Members excluding the President or Chairman.

Quorum.

(2) If the attention of the President is drawn to the fact that a quorum is not present, he shall direct the Members to be summoned. If after fifteen minutes have expired he is satisfied that a quorum is not present, he shall adjourn the Council without question put.

(3) If the attention of the Chairman in committee of the whole Council is drawn to the fact that a quorum is not present, he shall act as provided in paragraph (2) of this order, save that if he is satisfied that a quorum is not then present the Council shall be resumed and the President shall count the Council. If a quorum is then present the Council shall again resolve itself into committee but if a quorum is not present the President shall adjourn the Council without question put.

(4) If from the number of Members taking part in a division, including those who abstained from voting, it appears that a quorum is not present, the division shall be invalid, the question on which it was held shall stand over until the next sitting, and the procedure prescribed in paragraph (2) or paragraph (3) of this order shall be followed.

PART C.

ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS.

11. (1) The business of each sitting other than the first sitting of a session shall be transacted in the following order:

Order of
Business at a
Sitting.

- (a) Administration of oath or affirmation of Allegiance.
- (b) Reading by the President of messages and announcements by the President.
- (c) Presentation of petitions.
- (d) Presentation of papers and of reports of select committees by laying them on the Table.
- (e) Asking and answering of questions put to the Government.
- (f) Statements by *ex officio* Members and Official Members.
- (g) Personal explanations.
- (h) Obituary and other ceremonial speeches.
- (i) Proceedings on motions and bills.

(2) The items of business mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (g) and (h) of paragraph (1) of this order shall not require notice; but with the exception of items (a) and (b) they shall not be entered upon save with the previous leave of the President.

12. (1) All items of business for a sitting of which notice has been given shall be placed on the Order Paper for that sitting in the order required by Standing Order No. 11 (Order of Business at a Sitting).

The Order
Paper.

(2) Oral questions to the Government shall be placed on the Order Paper in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of Standing Order No. 19 (Asking and Answering of Questions).

(3) Motions proposed to be made by and bills in the charge of *ex officio* Members or Official Members shall be placed on the Order Paper before motions proposed to be made by and bills in the charge of Unofficial Members.

PART D.

PETITIONS AND PAPERS.

13. (1) A petition may be presented to the Council only by a Member.

Presentation of
Petitions.

(2) A Member who wishes to present a petition to the Council shall inform the President not later than the day before the sitting at which he wishes to present it. When so informing the President he shall certify in writing to the President that the petition is respectful and, in his opinion, deserving of presentation.

(3) Except on the recommendation of the Governor, the President shall not permit a petition to be received if, in his opinion, the petition requests that provision should be made for imposing or increasing a tax, for imposing or increasing a charge on the revenue or other funds of the Colony of Hong Kong or for altering such a charge otherwise than by reducing it, or for compounding or remitting a debt due to the Colony of Hong Kong.

(4) The signification of the Governor's recommendation shall be recorded in the minutes of proceedings.

(5) No speech shall be made by a Member presenting a petition beyond a summary statement of the number and description of the petitioners and the substance of the petition.

(6) If, immediately after a petition has been presented, a Member rises in his place and requests that the petition be referred to a select committee, the President shall call upon those Members who support the request to rise in their places. If not less than ten Members then rise the petition shall stand referred to a select committee.

14. (1) A paper may be presented to the Council only by an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member.

Presentation of
Papers.

(2) Whenever an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member wishes to present a paper he shall send a copy of it to the Clerk, who shall lay it on the Table of the Council at the opening of the next sitting and shall record its presentation in the minutes of proceedings of that sitting.

PART E.

QUESTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

15. Any Unofficial Member may address a question to the Government relating to a public matter for which the Government is responsible, and either seeking information on such matter or asking for official action with regard to it. Nature of Questions.
16. (1) Questions may be asked at any sitting except the first sitting of a session. Question Time.
- (2) Not more than fifteen questions of which notice has been given may be asked at any one sitting.
17. (1) A question shall not be asked without notice except as provided in paragraph (4) of this order. Notice of Questions.
- (2) A Member shall give notice of a question by delivering to the office of the Clerk, not later than five clear days before the sitting at which an answer is required, a copy thereof signed by the Member.
- (3) A Member may not ask more than three questions of which notice has been given at any one sitting.
- (4) If a Member asks the permission of the President to ask a question without notice on the ground that it is of an urgent character and relates to a matter of public importance, the President may permit the question to be asked without notice, if he is satisfied that it is of that nature and that sufficient private notice of the question has been or is to be given by the Member concerned to the Government to enable the question to be answered.
18. (1) A question shall conform to the following rules: Contents of Questions.
- (a) A question shall not include the names of persons, or statements which are not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible.
- (b) A question shall not contain a statement which the Member who asks the question is not prepared to substantiate.
- (c) A question shall not contain arguments, inferences, opinions, imputations or epithets, or tendentious, ironical or offensive expressions.
- (d) A question shall not refer to debates or answers to questions in the current session.
- (e) A question shall not refer to proceedings in a committee before that committee has made its report to the Council.
- (f) A question shall not seek information about a matter which is of its nature secret.

- (g) A question shall not reflect on the decision of a court of law or be so drafted as to be likely to prejudice a case pending in a court of law.
- (h) A question shall not be asked for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion, the solution of an abstract legal question, or the answer to a hypothetical proposition.
- (i) A question shall not be asked whether statements in the press or of private individuals or private concerns are accurate.
- (j) A question shall not be asked about the character or conduct of any person mentioned in paragraphs (7) and (8) of Standing Order No. 31 (Contents of Speeches) and a question shall not be asked about the character or conduct of any other person except in his official or public capacity.
- (k) A question shall not be asked seeking information which can be found in accessible documents or ordinary works of reference.
- (l) A question which has been fully answered shall not be asked again during the same session.

(2) If the President is of the opinion that a question of which a Member has given notice to the Clerk or which a Member has sought to ask without notice infringes any of the provisions of Standing Order No. 15 (Nature of Questions) or of this order, he may direct—

- (a) that it be placed on the Order Paper with such alterations as he may direct; or
- (b) in the case of a question which a Member has sought to ask without notice, that it may be so asked with such alterations as he may direct; or
- (c) that the Member concerned be informed that the question is out of order.

19. (1) Every question in respect of which a Member has given due notice under the provisions of Standing Order No. 17 (Notice of Questions) and which complies with the provisions of Standing Order No. 18 (Contents of Questions) shall be put on the Order Paper for the sitting at which the Member has stated that he wishes to ask it.

Asking and
Answering of
Questions.

(2) The questions to be asked at each sitting shall, subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 16 (Question Time), be placed on the Order Paper by the Clerk in the order in which notice of them was received by him, and when a Member has given notice of several questions at the same time in the order indicated by the Member.

(3) When each question is reached on the Order Paper the President shall call on the Member in whose name the question

stands. The Member called shall then rise in his place and ask the question by reference to its number on the Order Paper and the *ex officio* Member or Official Member who is to answer it shall give his reply.

(4) After an answer has been given to a question supplementary questions may be put by any Member for the purpose of elucidating that answer, but the President shall refuse to allow a supplementary question to be answered, if in his opinion it introduces matter which is not related to the original question or answer or which infringes any of the provisions of Standing Order No. 15 (Nature of Questions) or Standing Order No. 18 (Contents of Questions).

(5) A Member shall not address Council on a question and a question shall not be made a pretext for a debate.

(6) If a Member is not present to ask his question when his name is called, the question may with his consent be asked by another Member and otherwise shall be postponed until the next sitting.

PART F.

STATEMENTS.

20. (1) An *ex officio* Member or an Official Member who wishes to make a statement on some public matter for which the Government is responsible shall inform the President of his wish before the beginning of the sitting at which he wishes to make the statement.

Statements by
ex officio
Members and
Official
Members.

(2) No debate may arise on such a statement but the President may in his discretion allow short questions to be put to the Member making the statement for the purpose of elucidating it.

PART G.

MOTIONS.

21. (1) Except as otherwise provided in these Standing Orders, no motion shall be moved in the Council unless notice of it has been given not less than three clear days before the day on which the motion is to be considered by the Council or a committee thereof:

Notice of
Motions and
Amendments.

Provided that the President or Chairman, as the case may be, may in his discretion dispense with such notice.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in these Standing Orders, no amendment shall be moved to a motion unless—

- (a) notice of the amendment has been given not later than the day before that on which the motion concerned is to be considered by the Council or a committee thereof; or
- (b) the President or Chairman, as the case may be, gives leave to dispense with notice of the amendment.

22. (1) Notice of a motion or an amendment shall be given by delivering a copy of the motion or amendment in writing to the office of the Clerk. The notice shall be signed by the Member wishing to move the motion or amendment.

Manner of Giving Notice of Motions and Amendments.

(2) A notice of a motion or an amendment shall be submitted to the President, who shall direct—

- (a) that it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in; or
- (b) that it be printed with such alterations as he may direct; or
- (c) that it be returned to the Member who signed it, as being in his opinion out of order.

23. (1) Except on the recommendation of the Governor, the President or Chairman shall not permit a motion or an amendment to be moved, if in his opinion the effect of the motion or amendment is that provision should be made for imposing or increasing a tax, for imposing or increasing a charge on the revenue or other funds of the Colony of Hong Kong or for altering such a charge otherwise than by reducing it, or for compounding or remitting a debt due to the Colony of Hong Kong.

Motions and Amendments requiring Recommendation.

(2) The signification of the Governor's recommendation shall be recorded in the minutes of proceedings.

24. (1) A Member called upon by the President or Chairman to move a motion shall rise in his place and after making such remarks as he may wish to make shall move the motion, stating its terms.

Manner of Debating Motions.

(2) When a motion has been moved, the President or Chairman shall propose the question thereon to the Council or the committee in the same terms as the motion; debate may then take place on that question.

(3) Amendments of which notice has been given or dispensed with in accordance with sub-paragraphs (2)(a) or (2)(b) of Standing Order No. 21 (Notice of Motions and Amendments) may be moved to a motion at any time after the question has been proposed on the motion by the President or Chairman and after all the amendments have been disposed of the President or Chairman shall again propose the question on the motion, or shall propose the question on the motion as amended, as the case may require, and a further debate may take place.

(4) When no more Members wish to speak the President or Chairman shall put the question on the motion or on the motion as amended to the Council or to the committee for its decision.

25. (1) A Member called upon by the President or Chairman to move an amendment to a motion shall rise in his place and after making such remarks as he may wish to make shall move the amendment, stating its terms.

Manner of Debating Amendments to Motions.

(2) An amendment to a motion shall take one of the following forms—

- (a) To leave out one or more words of the motion.
- (b) To insert or add one or more words in the motion or at the end of the motion.
- (c) To leave out one or more words of the motion and to insert or add one or more words instead.

(3) When an amendment has been moved the President or Chairman shall thereupon propose the question on the amendment to the Council or committee; and a debate may then take place on that question.

- (4) (a) On an amendment to leave out any of the words of a motion, the question to be proposed shall be that the words proposed to be left out, be left out.
- (b) On an amendment to insert words in or add words at the end of a motion, the question to be proposed shall be that these words be there inserted (or added).
- (c) On an amendment to leave out words and insert or add other words instead, a question shall first be proposed that the words proposed to be left out, be left out. If that question is agreed to, a second question shall then be proposed that those words be there inserted (or added).
- (d) When two or more amendments are proposed to be moved to the same motion the President or Chairman shall call on the movers in the order in which their amendments relate to the text of the motion, or in cases of doubt in the order decided by the President or Chairman.
- (e) Once the President or Chairman has proposed a question to leave out certain words of motion, no amendment to leave out part only of the words concerned may be proposed, unless the earlier amendment is first withdrawn.

26. (1) A motion or an amendment may be withdrawn at the request of the mover by leave of the Council or committee before the question is fully put thereon, if there is no dissenting voice. A motion or amendment which has been so withdrawn may be proposed again if, in the case of a motion, the notice required by these Standing Orders is given.

Withdrawal of Motions and Amendments.

(2) A notice of a motion or an amendment may be withdrawn at any time before it is moved, if the Member in whose name the motion or amendment stands gives instructions to that effect to the Clerk.

PART H.

RULES OF DEBATE.

27. (1) A Member shall speak standing and shall address his observations to the President or Chairman.

Time and Manner of Speaking.

(2) When the President or Chairman rises, during proceedings in Council or in committee of the whole Council, every Member shall be seated.

(3) If two or more Members rise at the same time to speak, the President or Chairman shall select one Member and call on him to speak.

(4) When a Member has finished speaking he shall resume his seat and any other Members wishing to speak shall rise.

28. (1) Save with the leave of the President, a Member may not speak more than once on a question, except—

- (a) in committee; or
- (b) in explanation as provided in paragraph (2) of this order; or
- (c) in the case of the mover of a motion, in reply as provided in paragraph (3) of this order.

Occasions when a Member may speak more than once.

(2) A Member who has spoken on a question may again be heard, if the President so permits, to explain some part of his speech which has been misunderstood, but when speaking he shall not introduce new matter.

(3) In the Council the mover of a motion may reply after all other Members present have had an opportunity of speaking and before the question is put; but the mover of an amendment shall not have the right of reply.

(4) A Member who has spoken on a question may speak again on an amendment proposed to that question, and on a motion that the debate now be adjourned moved during the debate on that question.

(5) No Member may speak on a question after it has been fully put to the Council or a committee for decision by the President or Chairman.

29. A Member shall not interrupt another Member, except—

- (a) by rising to a point of order, when the Member speaking shall resume his seat and the Member interrupting shall direct attention to the point which he wishes to bring to notice and submit it to the President or Chairman for decision; or
- (b) to elucidate some matter raised by that Member in the course of his speech, if the Member speaking is willing to give way and resume his seat and the Member wishing to interrupt is called by the President or Chairman.

Interruptions.

30. (1) A Member who has risen to speak on a question proposed by the President in the Council may move without notice that the debate be now adjourned. Thereupon the President shall propose the question on that motion.

Adjournment of Debate or of Proceedings of a Committee.

(2) When a motion that the debate be now adjourned has been agreed to, the debate on the question then before the Council shall stand adjourned and the Council shall proceed to the next item of business.

(3) When a motion that the debate be now adjourned has been negatived, the debate on the question then before the Council shall be continued and no further motion that the debate be now adjourned shall be moved during that debate except by an *ex officio* Member.

(4) When the Council is in committee a Member may move without notice that further proceedings of the committee be now adjourned. Thereupon the Chairman shall propose the question on that motion. If the motion is agreed to, the Council shall resume; but if the motion is negatived, the committee shall continue its proceedings.

(5) It shall not be in order to move an amendment to a motion under the provisions of this order.

31. (1) A Member shall restrict his observations to the subject under discussion and shall not introduce matter irrelevant to that subject.

Contents of
Speeches.

(2) Reference shall not be made to a case pending in a court of law in such a way as, in the opinion of the President or Chairman, might prejudice that case.

(3) It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider a specific question on which the Council has taken a decision during the current session, except on a substantive motion to rescind that decision made with the permission of the President.

(4) It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the Council.

(5) A Member shall not impute improper motives to another Member.

(6) The name of Her Majesty or of the Governor shall not be used to influence the Council.

(7) The conduct of Her Majesty and Members of the Royal Family shall not be called in question.

(8) The conduct of the Governor, Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and Judges or other persons performing judicial functions shall not be raised.

32. During a sitting—

- (a) all Members shall enter or leave the Council with decorum;
- (b) no Member shall cross the floor of the Council unnecessarily;

Behaviour of
Members not
Speaking.

- (c) Members shall not read newspapers, books, letters or other documents, except such matter therein as may be directly connected with the business of the Council; and
- (d) while a Member is speaking all other Members shall be silent and shall not make unseemly interruptions.

PART I.

RULES OF ORDER.

33. The President in Council or the Chairman in committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the Council and committee respectively. His decision on a point of order shall be final.

Decision of
Chair Final.

34. (1) The President or the Chairman, after having called the attention of the Council or the committee to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition of his own or other Members' arguments in the debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech.

Order in Council
and Committee.

(2) The President or Chairman shall order a Member whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the Council for the remainder of that sitting; and the Clerk shall act on orders received by him from the Chair to ensure compliance with this order.

PART J.

VOTING.

35. (1) All questions put to the Council shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the Members present and voting.

Decision of
Questions.

(2) The Governor or other Member presiding shall, if the votes be equally divided, have a casting vote in addition to his original vote.

36. (1) When the President or Chairman puts a question to the Council or to the committee for its decision he shall first call upon those Members who are in favour of the question to say "Aye" and then upon those who are against the motion to say "No".

Collection of
Voices.

(2) As soon as the President or Chairman has collected the voices of the Ayes and of the Noes, the question being then fully put no other Member may speak to it.

(3) The President or Chairman may, according to his judgment of the number of voices on either side, then state that he thinks the Ayes have it or that he thinks the Noes have it, as the case may be; and if no Member challenges his statement as provided in the next succeeding paragraph he shall declare the question to have been so decided.

(4) If a Member challenges the statement of the President or Chairman that he thinks the Ayes or the Noes have it by claiming a division, then the President or Chairman shall order the Council or the committee, as the case may be, to proceed to a division; and the division shall be held forthwith in the manner prescribed in Standing Order No. 37 (Divisions).

(5) Notwithstanding paragraph (4) of this order the President or Chairman may, if in his opinion the division is unnecessarily claimed, take the vote of the Council or the committee, as the case may be, by calling upon the Members who support or who challenge his decision successively to rise in their places; and he shall thereupon, as he sees fit, either declare the determination of the Council or the committee or order a division.

37. (1) When a division has been ordered, the votes shall be taken by the Clerk, who shall ask each Member separately how he wishes to vote. A Member shall, upon his name being called, give his vote saying "Aye" or "No" or by expressly stating that he abstains from voting. Divisions.

(2) As soon as the Clerk has taken the votes, the President or Chairman shall state the number voting for the Ayes and for the Noes respectively and shall then declare the result of the division.

(3) If a Member states that he voted in error or that his vote has been counted wrongly, he may claim to have his vote altered, if his statement is made before the President or Chairman has declared the result of the division.

PART K.

PROCEDURE ON BILLS.

38. (1) A bill for presentation to the Council shall conform with the requirements laid down in this order. Form of Bills.

(2) The bill shall be given a short title corresponding with the title by which it is to be cited if it becomes law.

(3) The bill shall be given a long title setting out the purposes of the bill in general terms.

(4) The clauses of the bill shall be preceded by the enacting formula prescribed by law.

(5) The bill shall be divided into clauses numbered consecutively and having a descriptive note in the margin of each clause.

(6) An explanatory memorandum stating the contents and objects of the bill in non-technical language shall be attached to the bill.

(7) In the case of a bill involving the expenditure of public money, the explanatory memorandum shall set out briefly the financial effect of the bill and contain estimates, where possible, of the amount of money involved.

(8) In the case of a bill, not being a Government measure, intended to affect or benefit some particular person, association or corporate body, there shall be included in the bill a clause saving the rights of Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors, all bodies politic and corporate, and all others except such as are mentioned in the bill, and those claiming by, from and under them.

39. (1) A Member may at any time give notice of his intention to present a bill; such notice shall be sent to the office of the Clerk and shall be accompanied by a copy of the bill and memorandum required by Standing Order No. 38 (Form of Bills).

Notice of
Presentation of
Bills.

(2) In the case of a bill having any effect such as is described in paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 23 (Motions and Amendments requiring Recommendation), the notice shall be accompanied by a certificate signed by the Colonial Secretary, stating that the Governor's recommendation will be signified to the bill on second reading.

(3) In the case of a bill presented by an Unofficial Member having any effect such as is described in paragraph (8) of Standing Order No. 38 (Form of Bills), the notice shall be accompanied by a certificate signed by the Member, stating that the bill has been published in two successive publications of the *Gazette* and that notice of the bill has been given by two advertisements in each of two daily newspapers published in the Colony, one of which shall be a Chinese language newspaper.

(4) A Member presenting a bill shall be known throughout the subsequent proceedings on the bill as the Member in charge of the bill.

40. As soon as may be after receipt of a bill for presentation to the Council the Clerk shall cause the text of the bill and the explanatory memorandum required by Standing Order No. 38 (Form of Bills) to be published in the *Gazette*; and copies of the text of the bill and memorandum as so published shall be sent to every Member. The bill shall then be deemed to have been presented to the Council.

Presentation and
Publication of
Bills.

41. (1) The short title of every bill presented in accordance with Standing Order No. 40 (Presentation and Publication of Bills) shall be placed on the Order Paper for first reading at the next sitting after it shall have been published.

First Reading of
Bills.

(2) No debate shall be allowed upon the first reading of a bill; and the bill shall be deemed to have been read the first time upon the Clerk reading the short title.

(3) When a bill has been read the first time, the Council shall be deemed to have ordered the bill to be set down for second reading, and the order of the Council shall be so recorded in the minutes of proceedings; and notice of motion for second reading shall not be required to be given by the Member in charge of the bill.

42. (1) In the case of a bill having any effect such as is described in paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 23 (Motions and Amendments requiring Recommendation), the President shall call for the signification of the recommendation of the Governor by an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member before the Council enters upon consideration of the second reading of the bill and the motion that the bill be now read the second time shall not be moved unless such recommendation has been signified accordingly.

Second Reading.

(2) The signification of the Governor's recommendation shall be recorded in the minutes of proceedings.

(3) The Council shall proceed to the second reading of a bill on a motion that the bill be now read the second time; and on this motion a debate may arise covering the general merits and principles of the bill.

(4) No amendment may be proposed to the question that the bill be now read the second time.

(5) When a motion for the second reading of a bill has been negatived no further proceedings shall be taken on that bill.

43. (1) When a motion for the second reading of a bill has been agreed to, the bill shall stand committed to a committee of the whole Council, unless—

Committal of Bills.

(a) the Council, on a motion which may be moved without notice by any Member immediately after the bill has been read the second time, commit the bill to a select committee; or

(b) the President is of the opinion that the bill would specially benefit or otherwise specially affect some particular person or association or corporate body, in which case he may direct that the bill be committed to a select committee.

(2) Notice of proceedings upon a bill in committee of the whole Council shall not be required to be given by the Member in charge of the bill.

(3) Proceedings upon a bill in select committee shall be begun upon a day appointed in accordance with paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 62 (Procedure of Select Committees).

44. (1) Any committee to which a bill is committed shall not discuss the principles of the bill but only its details.

Functions of Committees on Bills.

(2) Any such committee shall have power to make such amendments therein as they shall think fit, provided that the amendments, including new clauses and new schedules, are relevant to the subject matter of the bill.

45. (1) The provisions of this order shall apply to amendments proposed to be moved to bills in committee of the whole Council, in a select committee, and on recommittal.

Amendments to Bills.

(2) Notice of amendments proposed to be moved to a bill shall be given not less than three clear days before the day on which the bill is to be considered in committee; and except with the leave of the Chairman no amendment of which notice has not been so given may be moved to a bill.

(3) The provisions of Standing Order No. 22 (Manner of Giving Notice of Motions and Amendments) shall apply to notice of amendments to bills with the substitution of the word "Chairman" for "President" in paragraph (2) of that order.

(4) The following provisions shall apply to amendments relating to bills:

- (a) An amendment must be relevant to the subject matter of the bill and to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates.
- (b) An amendment must not be inconsistent with any clause already agreed to or with any previous decision of the committee upon the bill.
- (c) An amendment must not be such as to make the clause which it proposes to amend unintelligible or ungrammatical.
- (d) An amendment which is in the opinion of the Chairman frivolous or meaningless may not be moved.

(5) If an amendment refers to, or is not intelligible without a subsequent amendment or schedule, notice of the subsequent amendment or schedule must be given before the first amendment is moved so as to make the series of amendments intelligible as a whole.

(6) Except upon the recommendation of the Governor to be signified by an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member and recorded in the minutes of proceedings, the committee shall not proceed upon any amendment which in the opinion of the Chairman has an effect such as is described in paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 23 (Motions and Amendments requiring Recommendation).

46. (1) The Chairman in committee of the whole Council shall direct the Clerk to call the number of each clause in succession. If no amendment is proposed thereto, or when all proposed amendments have been disposed of, he shall propose the question "That the clause (or the clause as amended) stand part of the bill" and, when all members who wish to speak thereon have spoken, he shall put that question to the committee for its decision.

Procedure in Committee of the whole Council on a Bill.

(2) In order to save time and repetition of arguments, the Chairman may allow a single discussion to cover a series of interdependent amendments.

(3) The provisions of Standing Order No. 25 (Manner of Debating Amendments to Motions) shall apply to the discussion of amendments to bills, with the substitution of the word "clause" for the word "motion".

(4) A clause may be postponed, unless a decision has already been taken upon an amendment thereto. Postponed clauses shall be considered after the remaining clauses of the bill have been considered and before new clauses are brought up.

(5) Any proposed new clause shall be considered after the clauses of the bill have been disposed of and before consideration of any schedule of the bill:

Provided that a new clause proposed in substitution for a clause which has been disagreed to may be considered immediately after such disagreement.

(6) On the marginal note of any new clause being read by the Clerk the clause shall be deemed to have been read a first time. The question shall then be proposed "That the clause be read a second time"; if this is agreed to, amendments may then be proposed to the new clause. The final question to be proposed shall be "That the clause (or the clause as amended) be added to the bill".

(7) Schedules shall be disposed of in the same way as clauses and any proposed new schedule shall be considered after the schedules of the bill have been disposed of, and shall be treated in the same manner as a new clause.

(8) When every clause and schedule and proposed new clause or schedule has been dealt with, the preamble, if there is one, shall be considered and the question put "That this be the preamble to the bill". No amendment to the preamble shall be considered which is not made necessary by a previous amendment to the bill.

(9) If any amendment to the title of the bill is made necessary by an amendment to the bill, it shall be made at the conclusion of the proceedings detailed above, but no question shall be put that the title (as amended) stand part of the bill; nor shall any question be put upon the enacting formula.

(10) An amendment, proposed new clause or proposed new schedule, upon which a question has been proposed, may be withdrawn at the request of the mover by leave of the committee before the question has been fully put on it, if no Member objects.

(11) When all the proceedings upon the bill have been concluded in committee, the Council shall resume and the Member in charge of the bill shall report the bill to the Council with or without amendment as the case may be.

47. When a bill has been reported from a committee of the whole Council, the Council shall be deemed to have ordered the bill to be set down for third reading and the order of the Council shall be so recorded in the minutes of proceedings; and notice of

Procedure on
Reporting of
Bill from Com-
mittee of the
whole Council.

motion for third reading shall not be required to be given by the Member in charge of the bill.

48. (1) A select committee on a bill shall be subject to all the provisions of Standing Order No. 62 (Procedure of Select Committees) but before reporting the bill to the Council it shall go through the bill in the same manner as a committee of the whole Council as prescribed in Standing Order No. 46 (Procedure in Committee of the whole Council on a Bill).

Procedure in
Select Com-
mittee on a Bill.

(2) When a bill has been amended in a select committee, the whole text of the bill as amended shall, if practicable, be printed as part of the report of the select committee, but if this is not practicable the text of every clause or schedule amended, and of every new clause or new schedule added, shall be so printed.

(3) When all the proceedings upon the bill have been concluded in a select committee and the committee have agreed to their report, the Chairman shall, at the next sitting of the Council, report the bill, with or without amendment as the case may be, to the Council and shall lay a copy of the report of the committee upon the Table.

49. (1) When a bill has been reported from a select committee the Council may consider the bill as reported on a motion that the report of the select committee on the bill be adopted.

Procedure on
Reporting of
Bill from a
Select
Committee.

(2) If that motion is agreed to without amendment, the Council shall be deemed to have ordered the bill to be set down for third reading and the order of the Council shall be so recorded in the minutes of proceedings, and notice of third reading shall not be required to be given by the Member in charge of the bill.

(3) On a motion to adopt the report of a select committee on a bill moved under paragraph (1) of this order, a Member may propose an amendment to add at the end of the motion the words "subject to the recommittal of the bill (either wholly or in respect only of some particular part or parts of the bill or of some proposed new clause or new schedule) to a committee of the whole Council".

(4) If the motion is agreed to as amended in accordance with paragraph (3) of this order, the bill shall stand recommitted as required by the motion, and the Council shall immediately resolve itself into a committee of the whole Council to consider it.

50. (1) When the whole of a bill reported from a select committee has been recommitted the committee shall go through the bill as provided in Standing Order No. 46 (Procedure in Committee of the whole Council on a Bill).

Procedure on
Recommittal of
Bill reported
from Select
Committee.

(2) When a bill has been recommitted in respect only of some specified clause or clauses or schedule or schedules of the bill or some proposed new clause or new schedule, the committee shall consider only the matter so recommitted and shall proceed on every such clause or schedule in the manner provided in Standing

Order No. 46 (Procedure in Committee of the whole Council on a Bill) and may thereafter if necessary consider amendment of the long or short title of the bill:

Provided that if the President considers it necessary or desirable he may require the whole bill to be recommitted as provided in paragraph (1) of this order.

(3) When all proceedings in committee of the whole Council on a recommitted bill have been completed, the Council shall resume and the Member in charge of the bill shall report the bill, as amended (or as not amended) on recommitment, to the Council.

(4) When the bill has been so reported after recommitment, the Council shall forthwith proceed to the third reading of the bill, unless the Member in charge states that he wishes the third reading to be postponed; and in the latter event the provisions of Standing Order No. 47 (Procedure on Reporting of Bill from Committee of the whole Council) shall apply, and no further motion to recommit the bill shall be allowed.

51. (1) The Council shall proceed to the third reading of a bill on a motion that the bill be read the third time and do pass. Debate on that motion shall be confined to the contents of the bill and no amendment may be moved to the motion.

Third Reading.

(2) Amendments for the correction of errors or oversights may, with the President's permission, be made to the bill before the question for the third reading of the bill is put by the President, but no amendments of a material character shall be proposed.

(3) When a motion for the third reading of a bill has been agreed to, the Clerk shall read the short title of the bill and shall write at the end of the bill the words "Passed by the Hong Kong Legislative Council this day" giving the date.

(4) When a motion for the third reading of a bill has been negatived no further proceedings shall be taken on that bill.

52. The Member in charge of a bill may, at the beginning of the proceedings on a bill at a sitting, announce that he withdraws the bill.

Withdrawal of Bills.

53. A copy of every bill passed by the Council, certified as a true copy by the Clerk, shall be submitted by the Clerk to the Governor for his assent.

Presentation of Bill for Assent of Governor.

PART L.

FINANCIAL PROCEDURE.

54. (1) Any bill containing the estimated financial requirements for expenditure on all the services of the Government of Hong Kong for the current or succeeding financial year shall be

Presentation and Second Reading of Appropriation Bill.

known as an Appropriation Bill. Estimates containing the details of the said financial requirements shall be presented at the same time as any such bill.

(2) After the motion for the second reading of the bill has been proposed the debate thereon shall be adjourned and shall be resumed not earlier than the seventh day thereafter. The debate, when resumed, shall be confined to the financial and economic state of the Colony and the general principles of Government policy and administration as indicated by the bill and Estimates.

(3) The Estimates shall upon presentation to the Council stand referred to a committee of the whole Council and the Appropriation Bill upon being read a second time shall stand committed to that committee.

55. (1) On the consideration of the Appropriation Bill in committee of the whole Council the clauses of the bill shall stand postponed until after consideration of the schedule or schedules.

(2) On the consideration of a schedule each head of expenditure shall be considered with the appropriate estimate, and any reference in these Standing Orders to a subhead or an item means a subhead or an item in the Estimates for the head then under discussion.

(3) On the consideration of a schedule, the Chairman shall call the title of each head of expenditure in turn, and shall propose the question "That the sum for head stand part of the schedule" and, unless an amendment is proposed under the provisions of the next succeeding order, a debate may take place on that question. Any such debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is to be provided and shall not deal with the details of any item or subhead but may refer to the details of revenue or funds for which that service is responsible.

(4) When all the heads in a schedule have been disposed of, the Chairman shall put forthwith, without amendment or debate, the question "That the schedule (as amended) stand part of the bill".

(5) When every schedule has been disposed of, the Chairman shall call successively each clause of the bill and shall forthwith propose the question "That the clause stand part of the bill" and, unless a consequential amendment is moved, the question shall be disposed of without amendment or debate.

(6) No amendment may be moved to any clause except an amendment consequential on an alteration in the total sum appropriated by any schedule. Any such consequential amendment shall be moved by an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member only and may be moved without notice, and the question thereon shall be put forthwith without amendment or debate. When the question on the last of any such amendments to a clause has been decided, the Chairman shall forthwith put the question "That the clause as amended stand part of the bill" and that question shall then be decided without amendment or debate.

Procedure in
Committee of
the whole
Council on
Appropriation
Bill.

(7) When the question upon every clause of the bill has been decided, the Council shall resume and the Member in charge of the bill shall report the bill to the Council with or without amendment, as the case may be.

56. (1) Except upon the recommendation of the Governor to be signified by an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member and recorded in the minutes of proceedings, the committee shall not proceed upon any amendment which in the opinion of the Chairman increases the sum allotted to any head of expenditure whether in respect of any item or subhead or of the head itself; every such amendment shall take the form of a motion "That head be increased by \$..... (in respect of subhead item.....)".

Amendments to
Heads of
Estimates in
Committee of
the whole
Council on
Appropriation
Bill.

(2) An amendment to increase a head whether in respect of any item or subhead or of the head itself shall take precedence over an amendment to reduce the head in the same respect, and if it is carried no amendment to reduce the head in that respect shall be called.

(3) An amendment to any head of expenditure to reduce the sum allotted thereto in respect of any item therein may be moved by any Member, and shall take the form of a motion "That head be reduced by \$ in respect of (or by leaving out) subhead item".

(4) An amendment to reduce a head in respect of any subhead or by leaving out a subhead shall only be in order if the subhead is not itemized.

(5) An amendment to reduce a head without reference to a subhead therein shall only be in order if the head is not divided into subheads.

(6) An amendment to leave out a head shall not be in order and shall not be placed on the Order Paper.

(7) In the case of each head, amendments in respect of items or subheads in that head shall be placed on the Order Paper and considered in the order in which the items or subheads to which they refer stand in the head in the Estimates.

(8) When notice has been given of two or more amendments to reduce the same item, subhead, or head, they shall be placed on the Order Paper in the order of the magnitude of the reductions proposed, the amendment proposing the largest reduction being placed first in each case.

(9) Debate on every amendment shall be confined to the item, subhead, or head to which the amendment refers, and after an amendment to an item or subhead has been disposed of no amendment or debate on a previous item or subhead shall be permitted.

(10) When all amendments standing on the Order Paper in respect of any particular head of expenditure have been disposed

of, the Chairman shall again propose the question "That the sum for head stand part of the schedule" or shall propose the amended question "That the (increased) (reduced) sum for head stand part of the schedule", as the case may require. The debate on any such question shall be subject to the same limitations as apply to a debate arising under paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 55 (Procedure in Committee of the whole Council on Appropriation Bill).

57. The motion for third reading of the Appropriation Bill shall be decided without amendment or debate.

Third Reading
of Appropria-
tion Bill.

58. (1) If an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member presents a paper setting out the financial requirements of any proposals,

Supplementary
Estimates and
Excess Finan-
cial Provisions.

- (a) for expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred in the course of the current financial year either in respect of a service or of several services for which no provision has been made in the Estimates for that year or in respect of further financial provision beyond the total sum already sanctioned for a particular head or subhead or for particular heads or subheads; or
- (b) for expenditure incurred in the course of a previous financial year in excess of the total sum sanctioned for a particular head or subhead or for particular heads or subheads by the Estimates or Supplementary Estimates for that year,

then that paper shall be ordered to be printed and shall stand referred to a committee of the whole Council.

(2) At any time after a paper has been so referred to a committee of the whole Council an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member may give notice of a motion "That this Council approves the proposal (or proposals) set out in Paper No."; and such a motion shall be considered in committee of the whole Council.

(3) To the motion described in paragraph (2) of this order amendments may be moved to add words either leaving out or reducing an item or a subhead of any particular proposal or, if there be more than one proposal, leaving out any particular proposal:

Provided that no amendment shall be moved unless notice thereof has been given not less than three clear days before the day on which the motion is to be considered in committee.

(4) When the motion "That this Council approves the proposal (or proposals) set out in Paper No.", or that motion as amended, has been agreed to in committee, the Council shall resume and the Member who moved the motion shall report the motion or the motion as amended to the Council; and the Council shall thereupon be deemed to have agreed to the motion or to the motion as amended, as the case may be.

59. If from time to time, whether in the course of a particular financial year or after its close, a Supplementary Appropriation Bill is presented appropriating only proposals which have been agreed to by the Council under Standing Order No. 58 (Supplementary Estimates and Excess Financial Provisions), then the debate on the second reading thereof shall be strictly confined to the matters for which additional expenditure is required and when the question thereon has been agreed to the bill shall not be committed and the question "That the bill be now read a third time" may be put forthwith and shall be decided without debate.

Supplementary
Appropriation
Bills.

PART M.

COMMITTEES.

60. (1) There shall be a committee of the Council to be called the Finance Committee, the members of which shall be the Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary, one other Official Member, to be nominated by the President, and all the Unofficial Members.

Finance Com-
mittee.

(2) The Colonial Secretary shall be the chairman of the committee and in the absence of the chairman the Financial Secretary shall act as chairman.

(3) The committee shall sit at the times and at the place determined by the chairman. Written notice of every sitting shall be given to the Members at least two clear days before the day of the sitting. The sittings shall be held in private unless the committee otherwise order.

(4) The chairman and six Unofficial Members shall form a quorum. All matters before the committee shall be decided by a majority of the Members voting but no *ex officio* Member or Official Member shall have a vote.

(5) The clerk to the committee appointed under paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 4 (Duties of the Clerk) shall attend the sittings of the committee. He shall keep a record of the proceedings of the committee and shall distribute a copy thereof to each Member before the next sitting.

(6) Every proposal involving expenditure from public funds, of the nature described in paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 58 (Supplementary Estimates and Excess Financial Provisions) shall first be considered by the Finance Committee and thereafter every such proposal which has been approved by the committee shall be submitted to the Council for its consideration and approval in the manner provided in Standing Order No. 58 (Supplementary Estimates and Excess Financial Provisions).

(7) No proposal involving expenditure from public funds which has not been approved by the Finance Committee under paragraph (6) of this order shall be submitted to the Council for

its consideration and approval, except on a substantive motion moved for that purpose by an *ex officio* Member or an Official Member.

(8) The Estimates presented in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 54 (Presentation and Second Reading of Appropriation Bill) may be referred by the President to the Finance Committee for their examination before consideration of the Appropriation Bill in committee of the whole Council. For the purposes of any such examination the Finance Committee may call before them to give evidence the public officer responsible for the service or services provided under any head of the Estimates.

61. (1) The Council may in each session appoint one or more select committees to consider matters or bills which the Council may refer to the committee. Select Committees.

(2) The President shall decide the size of every select committee and shall nominate the chairman and members thereof.

(3) The quorum of a select committee shall be one third of the members excluding the chairman, a fraction of a whole number being disregarded.

(4) A select committee shall, as soon as they have completed consideration of the matter or bill referred to them, report to the Council thereon and the committee shall thereupon be dissolved. If the committee are of the opinion that they will not be able to complete consideration of the matter or bill before the end of the session, they shall so report to the Council.

(5) At the end of the session every select committee of the Council shall be dissolved.

62. (1) The deliberations of a select committee shall be confined to the matter or matters referred to them by the Council, and in the case of a select committee on a bill shall be confined to the bill committed to them and relevant amendments. Procedure of Select Committees.

(2) A select committee shall sit at the times determined by the chairman. The sittings of a select committee shall be held in private unless the committee otherwise order.

(3) If the chairman is unable to be present at a sitting, the committee shall elect another chairman whose tenure of office shall be for the day of his election.

(4) The clerk to the committee appointed under paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 4 (Duties of the Clerk) shall attend meetings of the committee and shall keep the minutes of proceedings of the committee.

(5) Divisions in a select committee shall be taken by the clerk to the committee who shall ask each member of the committee separately how he wishes to vote and record the votes accordingly.

(6) Neither the chairman nor any other member presiding shall vote, unless the votes of the other members are equally divided in which case he shall give a casting vote.

(7) (a) A member of a select committee may bring a report for their consideration. When all the reports have been brought up the chairman shall propose the reports in order until one is accepted as a basis for discussion, beginning with his own report and proceeding with the remainder in the order in which they were brought up. The question to be proposed by the chairman on a report shall be that the chairman's (or Mr.'s) report be read a second time paragraph by paragraph. When this question has been agreed to, it shall not be proposed on further reports but portions thereof may be offered as amendments to the report under consideration if they are relevant to it.

(b) The committee shall then go through the report paragraph by paragraph and the provisions of Standing Order No. 46 (Procedure in Committee of the whole Council on a Bill) shall apply as if the report were a bill and the paragraphs were the clauses of the bill.

(c) When consideration of the report paragraph by paragraph is concluded and when all proposed new paragraphs have been considered the chairman shall put the question that this report be the report of the committee to the Council.

(8) A select committee may make a special report relating to the powers, functions and proceedings of the committee on matters which they think fit to bring to the notice of the Council.

(9) The minutes of proceedings of the committee shall record all proceedings on consideration of a report or bill in the committee and on every amendment proposed to the report or bill, with a note of divisions, if divisions were taken in the committee, showing the names of members voting in the division or declining to vote.

(10) A report or special report, with the minutes of proceedings of a select committee and the minutes of evidence, if evidence was taken, shall be laid on the Table of the Council by the chairman of the committee.

63. The evidence taken before a select committee and documents presented to the committee shall not be published by a member of the committee or by any other person before the committee have presented their report to the Council.

Premature
Publication of
Evidence.

PART N.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

64. No Member shall appear before the Council or a committee thereof as a legal practitioner for or on behalf of a party or in a capacity for which he is to receive a fee or award.

Employment of
Members in
Professional
Capacity.

65. (1) A Member shall not move any motion or amendment relating to a matter in which he has a direct personal pecuniary interest or speak or vote on any such matter, whether in the Council or in any committee, without disclosing the nature of that interest.

Personal
Pecuniary
Interest to be
Disclosed.

(2) A motion to disallow a Member's vote on the ground of non-disclosure of his personal pecuniary interest may be moved without notice by any Member immediately upon the statement of the numbers voting in the division by the President or Chairman, but not otherwise.

(3) The President or Chairman shall have discretion whether or not to propose the question upon such a motion; and in exercising such discretion he shall have regard to the nature of the question upon which the vote was taken and to the consideration whether the interest therein of the Member whose vote is challenged is direct and pecuniary and not an interest in common with the rest of the inhabitants of the Colony and whether his vote was given on a matter of state policy.

(4) If the question for the disallowance of a Member's vote is proposed, the Member concerned may be heard in his place but he shall then withdraw from the Council or committee for the duration of the debate and any vote on the question.

(5) If a motion for the disallowance of a Member's vote is agreed to, the President or Chairman shall direct the Clerk to alter the numbers voting in the original division accordingly.

66. Subject to such rules as may from time to time be made by the President, members of the public and of the press shall be admitted as spectators of sittings of the Council. The Clerk shall ensure that such rules are complied with.

Admission of
Press and
Public.

67. (1) A Member may without notice at any time rise and move that strangers do withdraw, specifying whether the withdrawal is to be for the remainder of that day's sitting or during the consideration of certain business. The President or Chairman shall forthwith propose the question thereon and the Council or committee shall dispose of it before proceeding further with the business which was before it when the motion was moved.

Withdrawal of
Strangers.

(2) The President or Chairman may at any time order strangers to withdraw and the doors of the Council Chamber to be closed.

(3) When an order has been made by the Council or committee, or by the President or Chairman, for the withdrawal of

strangers, members of the public and of the press shall forthwith withdraw from the Council Chamber and the Clerk shall ensure that the order is complied with.

68. A motion which has the object or effect of suspending a standing order shall not be moved except after notice or with the consent of the President.

Suspension of
Standing Orders.

69. In a matter not provided for in these Standing Orders or in any other case of doubt the usage and practice of the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shall be followed as far as applicable to the Council and as far as it is not inconsistent with these Standing Orders or with the practice of the Council, but no restriction which the House of Commons has introduced by standing order shall extend to the Council or its Members until the Council has provided by standing order for a similar restriction.

Procedure in
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70. In these Standing Orders unless the context otherwise requires reference to printing shall include all mechanical, electrical and photographic methods of reproducing words in visible form.

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