

Municipal Corporations Act 1882.

CHAPTER 50

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT 1882.

PART I

PRELIMINARY.

- 1 Short title.
- 2 Division of Act into Parts.
- 3 Extent.
- 4 Commencement.
- 5 Repeal.
- 6 Application.
- 7 Interpretation and construction.

PART II

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT OF BOROUGH.

Corporate Name.

8 Name of municipal corporation.

Burgesses.

9 Qualification of burgess.

Council; Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors.

- 10 Constitution of council.
- 11 Qualification of councillor.
- 12 Disqualifications for being councillor.
- 13. Term of office and rotation of councillors.
- 14 Number, term of office, and rotation of aldermen.

- 15 Qualification, term of office, salary, precedence, and powers of mayor.
- 16 Power of mayor to appoint deputy.

Officers of Council.

- 17 The town clerk and deputy.
- 18 The treasurer.
- 19 Other borough officers.
- 20 Security by and remuneration of officers.
- 21 Accountability of officers.

Meetings and Proceedings of Council; Committees.

22 Quarterly and other meetings of council; appointment of committees, minutes, &c.

Byelaws.

- 23 Power of council to make byelaws.
- 24 Evidence of byelaws.

Accounts and Audit.

- 25 The borough auditors.
- 26 Half-yearly accounts of treasurer.
- 27 Audit and publication of treasurer's accounts.
- 28 Returns to Local Government Board.

Revising Assessors.

29 Revising assessors in non-parliamentary boroughs.

Division of Borough into Wards, or alteration of Wards.

30 Proceedings for division of borough into wards or alteration of wards.

Supplemental and Exceptional Provisions.

- 31 Occupation of part of house.
- 32 Claim by occupier to be rated.
- Rules as to qualification of burgess on succession, &c.
- 34 Obligation to accept office or pay fine.
- 35 Declaration on acceptance of office.
- 36 Fine on resignation, &c.
- 37 Re-eligibility of office holders.
- 38 Mayor and aldermen to continue members of council.
- 39 Avoidance of office by bankruptcy or absence.
- 40 Filling of casual vacancies.
- 41 Penalty on unqualified person acting in office.
- 42 Validity of acts done notwithstanding disqualification, &c.
- 43 Duties of town clerk, deputy, and treasurer during vacancy or incapacity.

PART III

PREPARATIONS FOR AND PROCEDURE AT ELECTIONS.

Parish Burgess Lists; Burgess Rolls; Ward Rolls.

- 44 Preparation and revision of parish burgess lists.
- 45 The burgess roll and ward rolls.
- 46 Arrangement of lists and rolls.
- 47 Correction of burgess roll.
- 48 Printing and sale of burgess roll and other documents.
- 49 Separate list of persons qualified to be councillors but not to be burgesses.

Election of Councillors.

- 50 Borough and ward elections.
- 51 Title to vote.
- 52 Day of election.
- 53 Returning officer at election.
- 54 Notice of election.
- 55 Nomination of candidates.
- 56 Relation of nomination to election.
- 57 Publication of uncontested election.
- 58 Mode of conducting poll at contested election.
- 59 Questions which may be put to voters.

Election of Aldermen.

60 Time and mode of election of aldermen.

Election of Mayor.

61 Time and mode of election of mayor.

Election of Auditors and Assessors.

62 Time and mode of election of auditors and assessors.

Supplemental and Exceptional Provisions.

- 63 Right of women to vote.
- 64 Polling districts.
- Notices as to elections.
- 66 Time for filling casual vacancies.
- 67 Illness, &c. of mayor or returning officer.
- 68 Election of councillor in more than one ward.
- 69 Elections not in churches.
- 70 Omission to hold election, or election void.
- 71 Burgess roll to be in operation until revision of new burgess roll.
- 72 Non-compliance with rules.
- 73 Election valid unless questioned within twelve months.
- 74 Offences in relation to nomination papers.
- 75 Offences in relation to lists and elections.
- 76 Revival of former law on expiration of Ballot Act.

PART IV

CORRUPT PRACTICES AND ELECTION PETITIONS.

Corrupt Practices.

- 77 Definitions.
- 78 General penalties for corrupt practices.
- 79 Disqualifications and avoidance of election for corrupt practices by candidates.
- 80 Disqualifications and avoidance of election for corrupt practices by agents, and for offences against this Part.
- 81 Avoidance of election for general corruption.
- 82 Paid agents and canvassers.
- 83 Payment for conveyance of voters.
- 84 Prosecutions for corrupt practices.
- 85 Striking off votes.
- 86 Personation.

Election Petitions.

- 87 Power to question municipal election by petition.
- 88 Presentation of petition.
- 89 Security for costs.
- 90 Petition at issue.
- 91 Municipal election list.
- 92 Constitution of election court.
- 93 Trial of election petition.
- 94 Witnesses.
- 95 Withdrawal of petition.
- 96 Abatement of petition.
- 97 Withdrawal and substitution of respondents.
- 98 Costs on election petitions.
- 99 Reception of and attendance on the election court.
- 100 Rules of procedure and jurisdiction.
- 101 Expenses of election court.
- 102 Acts done pending a petition not invalidated.
- Provisions as to elections in the room of persons unseated on petition.
- 104 Prohibition of disclosure of vote.

PART V

CORPORATE PROPERTY AND LIABILITIES.

Corporate Land.

- 105 Power to purchase land for town hall, &c.
- 106 Power to borrow with approval of Treasury.
- 107 Power to acquire land with the approval of the Treasury.
- 108 Restrictions on alienation of corporate land without approval of Treasury.
- 109 Power to dispose of land with approval of Treasury.
- 110 Council may renew leases, &c.

Working Men's Dwellings.

111 Sites for working men's dwellings.

Repayment of Loans.

- Power for Treasury to impose conditions as to repayment of money borrowed.
- 113 Provisions as to sinking fund.

Purchase or Compensation Money.

- Provision for replacing purchase or compensation money paid to treasurer.
- 115 Investment of proceeds of sale, or exchange authorised by Treasury.
- Power for Treasury to authorise application of certain investments for benefit of borough.

Misappropriation.

117 Penalty for misappropriation of moneys.

Corporate Stock.

118 Transfer of and other dealings with corporate stock.

Borough Bridges.

119 Maintenance of borough bridges.

Loans for Municipal Buildings.

120 Power to borrow for buildings.

Advowsons and similar Bights.

- Obligations and powers in respect of advowsons, &c.
- Regulations as to sale of ecclesiastical patronage belonging to municipal corporation.

Special Rates.

123 Power to continue rates for special purposes.

Misapplication of Corporate Property.

124 Prohibition of expenditure of corporate funds on parliamentary elections.

Transitory Provisions.

- 125 Transfer of investments made before 1860 in names of trustees.
- 126 Scheme respecting mortgage debts incurred before 1860.
- 127 Consolidation of debts incurred before 1860.
- 128 Saving for sales, &c. in pursuance of past contracts and resolutions.
- 129 Saving for rates in respect of past debts.
- 130 Saying for rights of creditors in respect of tolls or dues.
- 131 Saving for lawful debts contracted before 5 & 6 Will.4 c.76.
- Saving against new liability to debts contracted before 5 & 6 Will.4 c.76.

PART VI

CHARITABLE AND OTHER TRUSTS AND POWERS.

Charitable Trusts.

133 Administration of charitable trusts and vesting of legal estate.

Special Trusts and Powers.

- 134 Corporation to be trustee where corporators trustees.
- Appointment of members of council to be trustees in cases of joint trusts and other cases.

Local Acts.

- 136 Transfer of powers of local authorities to municipal corporations.
- 137 Power for council to extend local lighting Act.
- 138 Exercise of powers under local Acts.

PART VII

BOROUGH FUND: BOROUGH RATE: COUNTY RATE.

Borough Fund.

- 139 Payments to borough fund.
- 140 Application of borough fund.
- 141 Orders for payment of money.
- 142 Payments to and by treasurer.
- 143 Application of surplus of borough fund.

Borough Rate.

- 144 Power for council to make borough rate and assess contribution thereto.
- 145 Collection of borough rate in undivided parish.
- 146 Collection of borough rate in divided parish.
- 147 Rating of owners instead of occupiers for borough rate in certain cases.
- Warrants for levy of borough rate.
- Borough rate to go to borough fund; and its application.

County Rate.

- 150 General exemption of quarter sessions boroughs from county rate.
- 151 Liability of quarter sessions borough for prosecution expenses of county.
- 152 Liability of certain quarter sessions boroughs to other county expenses.
- 153 Mode of accounting by borough to county.

PART VIII

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

County Justices.

154 Jurisdiction of county justices in borough.

Borough Justices.

- 155 Mayor and last mayor to be borough justices.
- 156 Separate commission of peace.
- 157 Qualification of borough justice.
- 158 Jurisdiction of borough justices.
- 159 Clerk to borough justices.
- 160 Justices room.

Stipendiary Magistrate.

161 Appointment of stipendiary magistrate.

Borough Quarter Sessions: Recorder: Clerk of the Peace.

- 162 Grant of separate court of quarter sessions.
- 163 The recorder.
- 164 The clerk of the peace.
- 165 Recorder to hold court of quarter sessions.
- 166 Power to appoint deputy recorder.
- Powers of mayor in absence of recorder and deputy recorder.
- 168 Power for recorder to form a second court.
- 169 Liability of borough having quarter sessions for prosecutors expenses.

Sheriff.

170 Appointment of sheriff in counties of cities and counties of towns.

Coroner.

- 171 Appointment, fees, &c. of borough coroner in boroughs having separate quarter sessions.
- 172 Power of borough coroner to appoint a deputy.
- 173 Returns by borough coroners.
- 174 Acting of county coroner in borough.

Borough Civil Court.

- 175 Judge of borough civil court where there is a recorder.
- 176 Judge of borough civil court where there is no recorder.
- 177 Tenure of judge.
- 178 Registrar and other officers and fees.
- 179 Solicitors.
- 180 Time of holding court.
- 181 Procedure.
- 182 Power for judge to make rules of procedure.
- 183 Jurisdiction of Court.
- 184 Saving for borough civil courts and for 35 & 36 Vict. c.86.
- 185 Power to extend jurisdiction of borough civil court.

Borough Juries.

186 Provisions as to juries in boroughs.

Exceptional Provisions.

187 Grants to boroughs not affected by subsequent grants to counties.

- 188 Trial of offences committed in counties of cities and counties of towns.
- 189 Jurisdiction in places separated from borough.

PART IX

POLICE

Watch Committee; Constables.

- 190 Council to appoint watch committee.
- 191 Appointment, duties, and powers of borough constables.
- 192 Quarterly returns as to borough constables.
- 193 Power of constables to apprehend disorderly persons, &c.
- 194 Penalties on constables for neglect of duty.
- 195 Penalty for assaults on constables.

Special Constables.

196 Appointment of special constables.

Watch Rate.

- 197 Levy of watch rate.
- 198 Watch rate in divided parish.
- 199 Warrant for levy of watch rate.
- 200 Watch rate to go to borough fund.

PART X

FREEMEN.

- 201 Definition of freeman.
- 202 Freedom not by gift or purchase.
- 203 The freemen's roll.
- 204 Admission to freedom.
- 205 Reservation of rights of property to freemen and others.
- 206 Limit of value and saving as to conditions precedent.
- 207 Saving for power to question right.
- 208 Reservation of beneficial exemptions to freemen and others.
- 209 Reservation of parliamentary franchise, &c.

PART XI

GRANT OF CHARTERS.

- Power to Crown in granting charter to borough to extend to it the provisions of the Municipal corporations Acts.
- 211 Reference to Committee of Council, and notice of petition for charter.
- Power by charter to settle wards, and by fixing dates and otherwise to adapt the Municipal Corporations Acts to first constitution of new borough.
- 213 Scheme for continuance or abolition of and adjustment of rights of existing local authority and officers.
- 214 Supplemental provisions as to scheme and charter.
- 215 Provision as to police force in new borough.
- 216 Validity of charters.
- 217 Power to settle scheme in case of recent charters.

218 Power to amend scheme.

PART XII

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

- 219 Prosecution of offences and recovery of fines.220 Exclusion of certiorari.
- 221 Application of penalties in quarter sessions boroughs.
- Duties of clerk of peace as to fines and forfeitures.
- 223 Service of summons or warrant.
- 224 Procedure in penal actions against corporate officers.
- 225 Quo warranto and mandamus.
- 226 Provisions for protection of persons acting under Act.
- 227 Power for borough constables to take bail.

PART XIII

GENERAL.

Boundaries.

- 228 Boundaries of boroughs and transfer of parts to counties.
- Adjustment between boroughs and counties on change of boundaries.

Time.

230 Computation of time.

Distance

231 Measurement of distances.

Notices

Notices on town hall.

Inspection and Copies.

233 Inspection of documents.

Fees.

Tables of fees to be posted.

Seals and Signatures.

235 Forgery.

Applications to Treasury.

Notice of application to and correspondence with Treasury.

Deputy.

237 Acts of deputy not to be invalidated by defect in appointment.

Overseers.

238 Notices to and acting of overseers.

Declarations and Oaths.

239 Power to administer oaths, &c.

Forms.

240 Forms in schedule.

Misnomer or Inaccurate Description.

241 Misnomer or inaccurate description not to hinder.

Substitution informer Acts.

- 242 Provision for references in unrepealed enactments to 5 & 6 Will.4 c.76, &c.
- 243 Short titles of Acts partly repealed.

Returning Officers at Parliamentary Elections.

244 Mayor of certain boroughs to be returning officer in parliamentary elections.

Disfranchised Parliamentary Boroughs.

245 Electors in disfranchised boroughs.

Licensing.

246 Explanation of terms " town corporate " &c. in Licensing Act.

Freedom of Trading.

247 Right of free trading in boroughs.

Cinque Forts.

248 Special provisions as to certain of the Cinque Ports.

Cambridge.

249 Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge.

Savings.

- 250 Saving for existing corporations.
- 251 Saving for local Acts.
- 252 Saving for Prison Acts.
- 253 Saving for military and naval officers, &c.
- 254 Saving for dockyards, barracks, &c.
- 255 Saving as to Admiralty.
- 256 Saving for Lord Warden.
- 257 Saving for universities.
- 258 Saving for jurisdiction over cathedral precincts.
- 259 Saving for royal prerogative.
- 260 Saving as to repealed enactments.

SCHEDULES.

FIRST SCHEDULE — Enactments repealed.

PART I — ENACTMENTS REPEALED GENERALLY.

PART II — ENACTMENTS REPEALED ONLY AS TO BOROUGHS WITHIN THIS ACT.

SECOND — Meetings and Proceedings of Council. SCHEDULE

- The council shall hold four quarterly meetings in every year...
- The quarterly meetings shall be held at noon on each...
- The mayor may at any time call a meeting of...
- If the mayor refuses to call a meeting after a...
- Three clear days at least before any meeting of the...
- 6 Three clear days at least before any meeting of the...
- Want of service of the summons on any member of... 8
- No business shall be transacted at a meeting other than...
- At every meeting of the council, the mayor, if present,...
- 10 All acts of the council, and all questions coming or...
- 11 In case of equality of votes, the chairman of the...
- 12 Minutes of the proceedings of every meeting shall be drawn...
- 13 Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Schedule, the council...

THIRD SCHEDULE — Elections.

PART I — Preparation and Revision of Parish Burgess Lists in BOROUGHS NOT PARLIAMENTARY.

- 1 On or before each first of September, the overseers of...
- 2 The overseers shall keep a printed copy of the parish...
- The town clerk shall cause a printed copy of all...
- Every person whose name is not in a parish burgess...
- 5 Every person whose name is in a parish burgess list...
- Every person so objecting (in this Act referred to as...
- The town clerk shall make two separate lists of the...
- 8 He shall also keep a printed copy of each of...
- 9 The mayor and the two revising assessors shall in each...
- 10 They shall for this purpose hold an open court in...
- 11 They shall give three clear days notice of the holding...
- 12 The town clerk shall at the opening of the court...
- 13 The court shall insert in the parish burgess lists the...
- 14 The court shall expunge from the parish burgess lists the...
- 15 Subject as aforesaid, the court shall retain in the parish...
- 16 The court shall also retain therein the name of every...
- 17 Where the objector so appears, the court shall require proof...
- 18 If the name of any person is entered in respect...
- 19 The court shall correct any mistake and supply any omission...
- 20 The overseers, vestry clerks, and collectors of poor rates of...
- 21 The court may require any overseer or person having the...
- 22 The court may examine on oath the town clerk, overseers,...
- 23 The court shall, on the hearing in open court, determine...
- 24 The mayor shall, in open court, write his initials against...
- 25 The mayor may adjourn the court from time to time,...
 - PART II RULES AS TO NOMINATION IN ELECTIONS OF COUNCILLORS.

- 1 Every candidate for the office of councillor must be nominated...
- 2 The writing must be subscribed by two burgesses of the...
- 3 Each candidate must be nominated by a separate nomination paper,...
- 4 Each person nominated must be enrolled in the burgess roll...
- 5 The nomination paper must state the surname and other names...
- 6 The town clerk shall provide nomination papers, and shall supply...
- 7 Every nomination paper subscribed as aforesaid must be delivered by...
- 8 The town clerk shall forthwith send notice of every such...
- 9 The mayor shall attend at the town hall on the...
- Where a person subscribes more nomination papers than one, his...
- 11 Each candidate may, by writing signed by him, or, if...
- 12 Each candidate and his representative, but no other person, except...
- 13 Each candidate and his representative may, during the time appointed...
- 14 The decision of the mayor shall be given in writing,...
- 15 The town clerk shall at least four days before the...
- 16 The nomination of a person absent from the United Kingdom...
- 17 Where the number of valid nominations exceeds that of the...
- 18 In and for the purposes of the provisions of this...

PART III — MODIFICATIONS OF THE BALLOT ACT IN ITS APPLICATION TO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

- 1 The provisions of the Ballot Act, 1872, with respect to...
- 2 The mayor shall at least four days before the day...
- 3 The mayor shall provide everything which in the case of...
- 4 The mayor shall furnish every polling station with such number...
- 5 All expenses of the election shall be defrayed in manner...
- 6 No return shall be made to the clerk of the...

PART IV — ENACTMENTS WHICH ARE TO REVIVE ON THE EXPIRATION OF THE BALLOT ACT.

FOURTH SCHEDULE — Fees and Remuneration.

FIFTH SCHEDULE — Payments out of the Borough Fund.

PART I — PAYMENTS WHICH MAY BE MADE WITHOUT ORDER.

- 1 The remuneration (if any) of the mayor, of the recorder...
- 2 The remuneration and allowances certified by the Treasury to be...
- 3 The remuneration certified by the recorder to be due to...

PART II — PAYMENTS WHICH MAY NOT BE MADE WITHOUT ORDER.

- 1 The expenses incurred by overseers, and by the town clerk...
- 2 The expenses incurred by the town clerk, in providing accommodation...
- 3 The expenses of providing, furnishing, maintaining, or improving the corporate...
- 4 The fees payable to the clerk of the peace if...
- 5 The payments to be made under this Act to or...
- 6 The costs and expenses payable by the corporation in respect...
- 7 All sums payable under this Act by the corporation of...
- 8 The expenses of and incidental to the division of a...
- 9 Such remuneration to the clerk to any commissioners for taxes...
- 10 The expenses of and relating to a charter of incorporation...
- 11 All expenses charged on the borough fund by any Act...
- 12 All other expenses, not by this Act otherwise provided for,...

SIXTH SCHEDULE — Counties to which certain Boroughs are to be considered adjoining for purposes of criminal trials.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

SEVENTH — Procedure for Scheme on Grant of New Charter. SCHEDULE

- 1 The Committee of Council may, if they think fit, require...
- 2 The draft of a proposed scheme shall be published by...
- Before settling the scheme the Committee of Council shall consider...
- 4 The scheme, when settled, shall, besides being published in the...
- 5 Where a scheme is submitted to Parliament for confirmation, the...
- 6 Before such Bill is introduced into Parliament the Committee of...
- 7 If while the Bill confirming a scheme is pending in...
- 8 A scheme shall come into operation at the date of...
- 9 The confirmation of a scheme shall be conclusive evidence that...

EIGHTH SCHEDULE — FORMS.

PART I — DECLARATIONS ON ACCEPTING OFFICE.

PART II — FORMS RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

PART III — FORMS RELATING TO WORKING MEN'S DWELLINGS.

PART IV — FORMS RELATING TO BOROUGH BRIDGES.

NINTH SCHEDULE — Enactments in which a Reference to this Act is to be substituted.

PART I — GENERAL REFERENCES.

PART II — PARTICULAR REFERENCES.