

## Communication & Management Communication N4

\*see terms and conditions

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## **Meeting procedure**

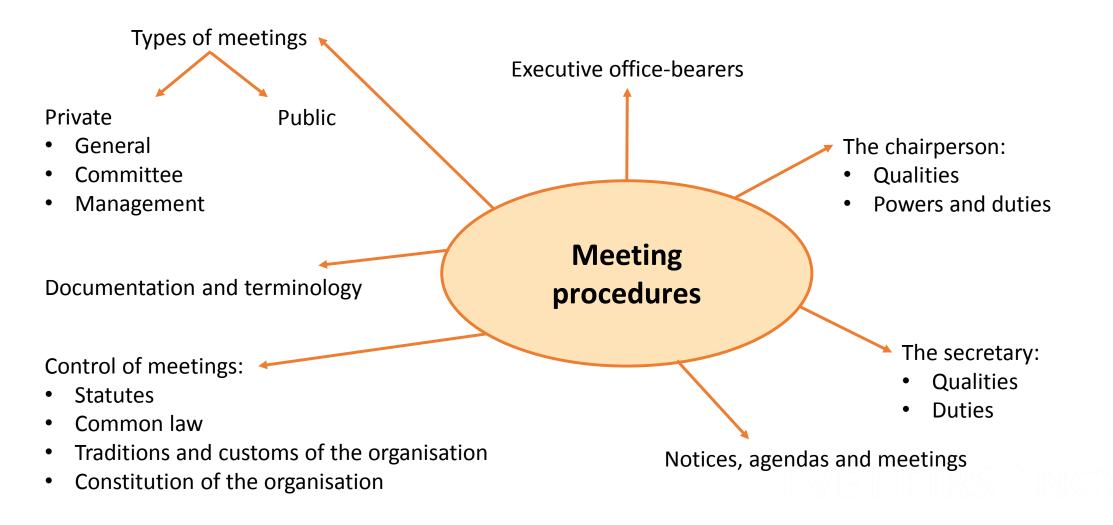
Module 6





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## **Overview**



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# Attending and conducting meetings

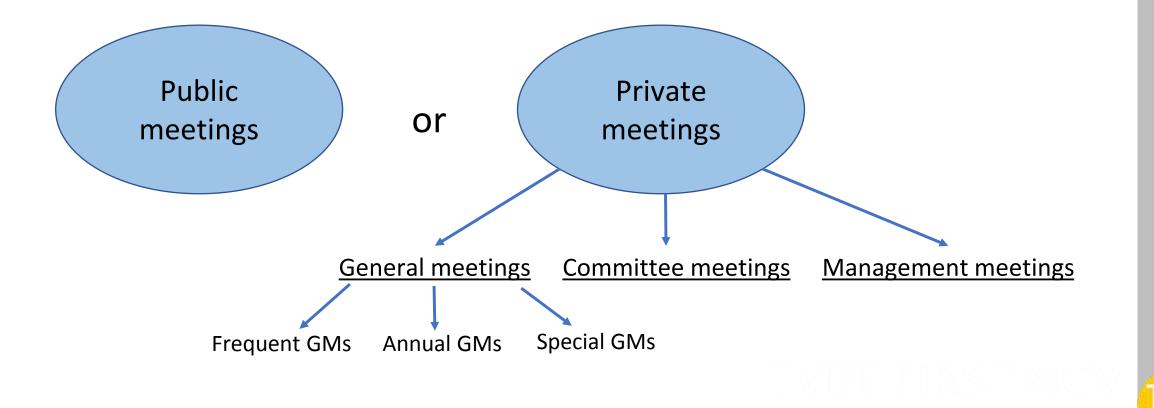
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**Diagram illustrating different types of meetings** 



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**General meetings** 

- General meetings are attended by all employees and are held:
  - Often
  - Specially
  - Every year



General meetings are attended by all employees of a business, etc.





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#### **Committee meetings**

- An *ad hoc* committee meeting is formed to deal with a specific task.
- A *standing* continues to do its work year after year.
- An *advisory* committee is established by the president to give support.
- A *steering* committee gives high-level expert advice.
- An *executive* committee is a group of directors or managers.



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Management meetings (command meetings)

- These meetings are held by top management such as:
  - Directors
  - Managers
  - Heads of department





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## **Required documentation for a meeting**

- At *informal meetings,* documents such as a timetable or training manual will sometimes be distributed.
- At *formal meetings,* documents such as agendas and financial statements might be required during, before and after the meeting.



An executive committee meeting to discuss the decision made at a recent meeting



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## **Basic meeting terminology**

Formal meetings use certain terminology. Some examples include:

- Additional members
- Adjourn
- Consensus
- Honorarium
- Quorum, etc.





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## Activity 6.1

Refer to page 108 of your Student's Book to complete Activity 6.1.

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# The control and executive of meetings

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#### It is important to note that a meeting is legitimate only if:

- Members have been notified in advance
- The rules in the organisation's constitution have not been broken
- A quorum is present
- The meeting is chaired by an authority figure

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#### **Statutes**

- An organisation's statutes are regulations.
- A country also has statutes, legislation and Acts.





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#### **Common law**

- Common law develops gradually over many years.
- Common laws are unofficial and unpublished.



The outcomes of previous court cases have a large influence on current practices



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#### Traditions and customs of the organisation

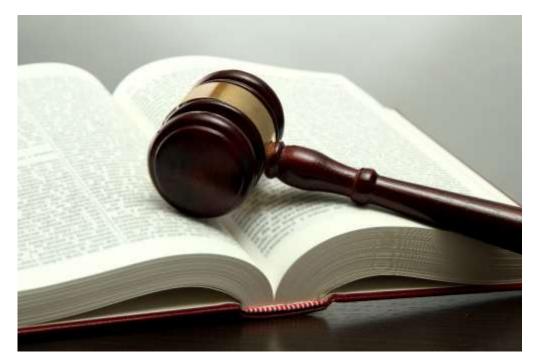
- These are practices that aren't prescribed in a statute or constitution, but are entrenched in the company's culture.
- For example, a monthly staff meeting might always end with a discussion of creative ideas.



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The organisation's constitution

- Typical contents of an organisation's constitution include:
  - Background
  - Membership
  - Leadership/executive
  - Meetings
  - Finances
  - Amendments and dissolution



Companies are required by law to draw up a constitution



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## **Executive office-bearers**

## Qualities of a chairperson and vice-chairperson:

- Good communication skills
- Good leadership
- Good judgement
- Good knowledge
- Good work ethics



A good chairperson must have insight and make fair decisions



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## **Executive office-bearers**

#### The treasurer:

- Oversees financial matters such as:
  - The committee or meeting's transactions
  - Financial controls
  - Financial records and reporting
  - Control of assets and stock, etc.



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## **Executive office-bearers**

#### **Qualities of a secretary:**

- Organised, efficient and trustworthy
- Conscious of details
- Punctual, disciplined and calm
- Good at writing and speaking clearly



For long meetings it is easier for the secretary to take rough notes on a computer



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## Activity 6.2

Refer to page 115 of your Student's Book to complete Activity 6.2.

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## Meeting documentation

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### Notices

#### A notice is sent as an invitation to a meeting and can be formal or informal:

- A *circular* is formal and is distributed among a larger group.
- A *memo* is more informal and is sent to fewer recipients.



A notice indicates the date, time and venue



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## Agenda

#### An agenda is a numbered list of items for discussion. A typical structure of an agenda includes:

- The attendance register
- Apologies
- Opening and welcome
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Matters arising
- New business
- General (or "Other business")
- Date of the next meeting
- Closure





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### Minutes

Minutes are the formal record of the proceedings of a meeting and usually follow a particular style:

- They are structured according to the items on the agenda.
- Good language is used, giving essential information.
- The third person and past tense are used.
- Often indirect speech is used.
- The tone is neutral and formal.



## Notices, agendas and minutes of various meetings

Meetings may be held weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly, bi-annually or annually. Various meetings include:

- Regular (frequent) meetings
- Annual general meetings
- Special general meetings
- Committee meetings
- Management meetings





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## Activity 6.3

Refer to page 129 of your Student's Book to complete Activity 6.3.

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## **Summative assessment**

Test your knowledge of this module by completing the summative assessment on page 130 of your textbook.

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