

# Ashby St Mary Parish Council

## Media Policy

### **Purpose**

The aim of this Policy is to set out a Code of Practice to provide guidance to the Clerk and the Council regarding procedures and protocol to follow when dealing with the press and public. This includes use of online communications, collectively referred to as social media and the management of the Council's website, as well as the more traditional ways of communicating.

### **Benefits of a multimedia policy**

There are many benefits to using a variety of ways to communicate with our public. We are committed to traditional ways of communication with newsletters, questionnaires and through our website.

### **Press and Public**

In the interests of openness and transparency, members of the public and press may film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of a meeting of the Council or its committees when they are open to the public. This does not extend to live verbal commentary. It will be encouraged that all filming and photography is conducted from the area designated in the meeting room. No flash photography or additional lighting should be used without prior consent. People under the age of 18 or other members of the public not wishing to be filmed or photographed should notify the Clerk or Chairman and should sit in the area designated for this purpose. The council will do all it can to respect their wishes but it should be noted that there is not a requirement for anyone to notify the council that they are filming. Improper conduct or any disruptive behaviour could result in expulsion from the meeting.

### **Press Releases**

It is the Clerk's role to issue press releases as instructed by the Council. In all cases, where quotations are included from Councillors in the press release, the Clerk will obtain approval from the Councillor. Press Releases will detail the name and contact details of the Clerk. No Press Release should be issued containing the Clerk's or Councillor's personal opinion.

### **The Parish Council's website**

This is managed by a councillor. The Councillor will, in a timely way, upload the information as required by law such as minutes and agendas, financial and governance information.

### **Facebook**

The Parish council at the time of adopting policy do not have a face book page. Councillors are responsible for what they post in connection with the Council. Councillors are strongly advised to have separate council and personal email addresses and adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct and follow the principles of the Data Protection Act, as incorporated into the Council's Data protection Policy.

Policy Adopted July 2023

Reviewed September 2025

Next Review September 2028