

POLICY FOR:THE FILMING, RECORDING, PHOTOGRAPHING OR OTHER REPORTING OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 amended s.1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 ("the 1960 Act"). Subject to exceptions listed below or if the meeting has resolved to exclude the public, the 1960 Act permits any person (including the press) who attends a council (or committee) meeting to report on the proceedings of the meeting. The new provisions of the 1960 Act address the existence of different means of reporting which include the use of social media. Reporting is defined in s.1(9) of the 1960 Act to include:

- Filming, photographing or making an audio recording of proceedings at a meeting (e.g. using a mobile phone, tablet such as an iPad, filming for a TV broadcast, recording for a radio broadcast);
- Using any other means for enabling people not present at a meeting to see or hear proceedings as they take place or later (e.g. live streaming);
- Written reporting or commentary on the proceedings during or after a meeting or oral reporting or commentary after the meeting. Examples of written reporting or commentary include blogging, posting comments on Facebook or tweeting.

S.1(4A) of the 1960 Act confirms that a person present at the meeting does not have a right to give an oral report or commentary during a meeting as this could be disruptive to a meeting.

S.1 (9) of the 1960 Act is limited to reporting on the proceedings of a meeting which includes a reference to people who attend the meeting and those who participate in the meeting.

Reporting should focus on the proceedings of a meeting and those who participate in it.

Exceptions:

- **Persons who object to being filmed, recorded, photographed or otherwise reported.** Those persons should declare they object at the commencement of a Parish Council meeting and they will then be offered alternative seating.
- **Children and vulnerable adults.** Those persons should declare their presence at the commencement of a Parish Council meeting and produce the necessary consents as detailed below. Filming, recording, photographing or other reporting of children and the vulnerable will only be allowed with the consent of a responsible adult. In the case of a vulnerable adult that is a medical professional, his carer or legal guardian. In the case of a child that is his parent, legal guardian or teacher.

At every Parish Council Meeting the first item on the agenda will be the following reminders:

- The press and members of the public are requested to declare if they will be filming, recording, photographing or otherwise reporting on the proceedings of the meeting.
- The press and members of the public are reminded that restrictions apply in respect of the above actions concerning vulnerable adults and children.
- A reminder to everyone in attendance and who will be participating in the meeting that subject to the above they may be filmed, recorded, photographed or otherwise reported about.
- Persons who object to being filmed, recorded, photographed or otherwise reported, and children and vulnerable adults now have an opportunity to declare their presence

Adopted on 18th April 2016