



Media Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council is committed to the provision of accurate information about its governance, decisions and activities. Where this information is not available via the Council's publication scheme, please contact the Clerk or in their absence the deputy clerk.
- 1.2 The Council shall, where possible, co-operate with those whose work involves gathering material for publication in any form including use of the internet.
- 1.3 This policy explains how the Council may work with the media to meet the above objectives in accordance with the legal requirements and restrictions that apply.

2. Legal requirements and restrictions

- 2.1 This policy is subject to the Council's obligations which are set out in:
 - Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960
 - The Local Government Act 1972
 - Freedom of Information Act 2000
 - The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to information) (England) Regulations 2012 (the 2012 Regulations)
 - Government Transparency Code 2014
 - The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014
 - Data Protection Act 2018
 - The Council's Standing Orders
 - The Council's Financial Regulations
- 2.2 The Council cannot disclose confidential information or information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law. The Council cannot disclose information if this is prohibited under the terms of a court order, by legislation, the Council's standing orders, under contract or by common law. Councillors are subject to additional restrictions about the disclosure of confidential information which arise from the code of conduct adopted by the Council, a copy of which is available via the Council's publication scheme.

3 Meetings

- 3.1 Meetings of the Council and its standing committees are open to the public unless the meeting resolves to exclude them because their presence at the meeting is prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business or other special reasons(s) stated in the resolution. In accordance with the Council's standing orders, persons may be required to leave a meeting if their behaviour obstructs the business of the meeting.
- 3.2 Where a meeting includes an opportunity for public participation, the media may speak and ask questions. Public participation is regulated by the Council's standing orders.
- 3.3 The photographing, recording, filming or other reporting of a meeting of the Council and its committees (which included e.g. using a mobile phone or tablet, recording for TV/radio broadcast, providing commentary on blogs, web forums. Or social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube) which enable a person not at the meeting to see, hear or be given commentary about the meeting is permitted unless:
- a) The meeting has resolved to hold all or part of the meeting without the public present; or
 - b) Such activities disrupt the processing ; or
 - c) Paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 below apply.
- 3.4 The photographing, recording, filming or other reporting of a child or vulnerable adult at a Council or committee meeting is not permitted unless an adult responsible for them has given permission.
- 3.5 Oral reporting or commentary at a meeting is not permitted. The Council shall, as far as it is practicable, provide reasonable facilities for anyone taking a report of a meeting and for telephoning their report at their own expense.

4 Other Communications with the media

- 4.1 This policy does not regulate councillors in their private capacity.
- 4.2 The Council's communications with the media seek to represent the corporate position and views of the Council. If the views of councillors are different to the council's corporate position and views, they will make this clear.
- 4.3 The Council's Clerk, or other authorised staff may contact the media if the Council wants to provide information, a statement or other material about the Council.
- 4.4 Subject to the obligation's on councillors not to disclose information referred to in paragraph 2.2 and not to represent the Council's position, councillors are free to communicate their position and views.

5 Requests for information/comment from the media

- 5.1 All requests for comment or information, which is not available via the Council's publication scheme, should be directed to the Clerk, or in their absence the deputy Clerk.

Approved: July 2020

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