



PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Policy on the Reporting of Meetings of the Council

Introduction

As part of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 (SI 2014/2095), an amendment was made to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the right for members of the public to report on meetings of parish and town Councils.

This act gives the right for any member of the public to:

- Film, photograph or make an audio recording of proceedings at a meeting. Intrusive lighting, use of flash photography and asking people to repeat statements for the purpose of the record is not permitted.
- Report or provide commentary on proceedings at a meeting in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or orally outside or after the meeting (this includes Tweeting or blogging). This does not require the relevant local government body to permit oral reporting or oral commentary on a meeting as it takes place if the person reporting or providing the commentary is present at the meeting as this would be disruptive to the good order of the meeting.
- Using any other means to enable persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later.

This policy details the acceptable use for public meetings to be filmed, audio-recorded, photographed and the permitted use of social media.

Procedure

1. Officers, councillors, guests and members of the public may be filmed, audio-recorded or photographed during a meeting which is open to the public.
2. Filming, audio recording or photographing may only take place from the public gallery seating area allocated at each meeting. Flashes must be switched off before the start of the meeting and intrusive lighting is prohibited.
3. The Parish Council will provide 'reasonable facilities' for photographs, filming and audio-recording to enable the public to report on all public meetings. This will include space to view and hear the meeting plus seating.
4. Out of courtesy, any persons wishing to film or audio record a public meeting must advise the Clerk before the meeting commences of their intent to do so, submitting their name and contact details which will be held by the Clerk.

