



MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

Open Media Policy

- 1) The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of Local Councils, committees and sub committees was established following the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The “Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014” became active legislation in August 2014. This is in addition to the rights of the press and public to attend such meetings.
- 2) This document sets out the protocol for the filming, photographing, recording or otherwise reporting on the meetings of Melksham Without Parish Council.
- 3) The right of the Parish Council to exclude the press and public from parts of Council meetings for contractual, legal and staff confidentiality reasons remains unaffected.
- 4) Members of the public are permitted to film or record Parish Council meetings, to which they are permitted access, in a non-disruptive manner. The Chairman of the meeting has the authority to stop a meeting and take appropriate action if any person contravenes these principles or is deemed to be recording in a disruptive manner.
- 5) Any person present at a meeting does not have the right to give an oral report or commentary which could be disruptive to the meeting. Oral commentary or reporting of a meeting can however be provided after the meeting
- 6) The use of digital and social media recording tools, for example Twitter, blogging or audio recording is allowed as long as it is carried out in a non-disruptive way and only to the extent that it does not interfere with any person’s ability, including where he or she has a disability, to follow the debate.

- 7) While those attending meetings are deemed to have consented to the filming, recording or broadcasting of meetings, those exercising the rights to film, record and broadcast must respect the rights of other people attending under the Data Protection Act 1998. This will include the particular rights of any children or vulnerable adults attending the meeting.
- 8) In the case of children or the vulnerable, the filming, recording, photographing or other reporting will only be allowed with the consent of a responsible adult which, in the case of a vulnerable adult is a medical professional, or his/her carer or legal guardian and, in the case of a child, his/her parent, legal guardian or teacher.
- 9) Where members of the public who are not participating in the meeting do not wish to be filmed, recorded, photographed or reported about and where the consent of a responsible adult has not been provided for a vulnerable adult or a child, those persons should sit in a designated area at the very rear of the public gallery within the Council Chamber. The Chairman of the meeting will remind those who wish to film, record, photograph or otherwise report on proceedings that they should refrain from filming, recording or photographing persons in those areas.
- 10) Any person or organisation choosing to film, record or broadcast a meeting of the Parish Council or a committee is responsible for any claims or other liability from them so doing.
- 11) The Parish Council asks those recording proceedings not to edit the film or recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings or infringe the core values of the Parish Council. This includes refraining from editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule or show lack of respect towards those being filmed or recorded.
- 12) The Parish Council will display requirements as to filming, recording and broadcasting in the Council Chamber and those undertaking these activities will be deemed to have accepted them whether they have read them or not.