

Recording of Council Meetings

1. Introduction

- i. This policy will cover the recording of Oswestry Town Council Meetings by members of the community as well as the Council itself recording the meeting.
- ii. The term “recording” covers the audio, visual or any kind of electronic recording.
- iii. The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the parish meeting is established under the Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014. This is in addition to the rights of the press and public to attend such meetings.
- iv. The Council is committed to being open and transparent in the way it conducts its decision making.
- v. The Council fully appreciates that any recording of meetings will need to be stored securely and will be covered by Freedom of Information (Fol) and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) legislation.
- vi. All Council meetings will be audio recorded unless there is an agreed motion to prohibit a full meeting or a section of a meeting (both of which the reason should be clearly noted in the minutes).
- vii. The physical minutes of the meeting, which are usually taken by the Clerk and voted by the Full Council at the next Full Council meeting will remain the statutory and legally binding formal record of council decisions.
- viii. In any discrepancy between any recordings and written minutes, the Council are steadfast in using the written minutes as the primary record.

2. Council Obligations and Duties

- i. The Town Council will audio record or broadcast meetings and can retain, use or dispose of such material in accordance with its retention and disposal policies.
- ii. The Council will be bound by this policy.
- iii. The Council will ensure that in all face to face meetings, there are clear signs of the fact that the meeting is being recorded.

- iv. The Chair will propose a motion when recording is not appropriate for either a full meeting or a section of meeting – if agreed this will be clearly noted in the minutes.
- v. If any Council meeting is held digitally, the Chair will ensure that it is clearly expressed by them that the meeting is being recorded
- vi. The Councillors, Clerks and Council officers have given their permission to be recorded as part of their role.
- vii. Any members of the public or press who have attended any meeting (both face to face and digitally) will be notified by the Chair that by remaining at the meeting they have in effect given their expressed permission to be audio recorded. If any members of the public or press who do not want to be filmed should be given to leave the meeting before recording commences. The specific recording of children or young people under the age of 18 who are present cannot take place unless their parents/guardians have given their written consent. This provision also applies to vulnerable adults whereby the consent of a responsible adult is required, i.e. a medical professional, carer or legal guardian.
- viii. The Council will ensure any notifications or signs detailing that recording will be taken place should be as clear and visible as possible.
- ix. For any broadcast meetings, the Chair will express the fact the meeting is being recorded in a clear manner and ask any participants if they have any questions.
- x. The Clerk shall ensure that for any meetings that are recorded, the act of the recording is made clear in the minutes.
- xi. The Clerk shall ensure that any recording is held securely.
- xii. The Council will determine that how long the recordings are kept and it will be detailed in the Retention and Disposal of Documents and Data Policy. The policy will have specific reference to the GDPR and best practice guidance from the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).
- xiii. The Council will not alter, amend or in any way change the format or chronology of the recordings.

3. Rules of Members of the Public Recording Meetings

- i. The Council recognises that the general public have a right to record the meetings – this includes both face to face and digital meetings.
- ii. The Chair will remind all members of the public in attendance of the meeting or a participant in the digital meeting that the act of recording is with permission of the Council.
- iii. In regard to agenda points when the public and press are excluded, no recording by the press or public will be permitted.
- iv. The Chair will remind all members of the public and press that any recording of any meetings (either in full or part) will not be permitted to cause any disruption of any part of the Council meeting.
- v. Any person wishing to record a meeting in any format whatsoever is encouraged to contact the Clerk prior to the start of the meeting. The Clerk's details are set out on website and the agenda of the meeting. Discussing requirements with the clerk beforehand will help to ensure that the council provides reasonable facilities to meet the needs of the person that is recording.
- vi. Any person making the recording may move around, however in doing so they must ensure that there is minimal or no disruption to the proceedings of the meeting. The council requests that all recording is overt (i.e. clearly visible to anyone at the meeting).
- vii. The specific filming of children or young people under the age of 18 who are present cannot take place unless their parents/guardians have given their written consent. This provision also applies to vulnerable adults whereby the consent of a responsible adult is required, i.e. a medical professional, carer or legal guardian.
- viii. The use of digital and social media recording tools, for example Twitter, blogging or audio recording are allowed as long as this type of recording is carried out in a non-disruptive way and only to the extent that it does not interfere with the ability of any person present to follow the debate.

ix. Any person recording has no right to ask councillors, officers or any members of the public who have been given permission to contribute orally to the meeting to repeat a statement for the purposes of the recording.

x. The Chairman of the meeting has absolute discretion to stop or suspend recording if, in their reasonable opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting or if the person recording is in breach of these rules.

xi. Persons who are recording are requested not to leave their equipment unattended where possible, and are responsible for their equipment at all times

xii. The recording and reporting on meetings of the Parish Council, is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those doing the recording and reporting to ensure compliance.

xiii. The council expects that the recording will not be edited in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or infringement of the Council's values or in a way that ridicules or shows a lack of respect for those in the recording.

xiv. The Council will have no liability for material published by any other person.

xv. The Council is not liable for the actions of any person making a recording at a council meeting which identifies a member of the public or for any publication of that recording.