

Measham Parish Council Data Protection Policy

Measham Parish Council recognises its responsibility to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. The act regulates the use of personal data. This does not have to be sensitive data; it can be as little as a name and address.

The Data Protection Act

The Data Protection Act 1998 sets out high standards for the handling of personal information and protecting individuals' rights for privacy. It also regulates how personal information can be collected, handled and used. The Data Protection Act applies to anyone holding personal information about people, electronically or on paper.

As a local authority, Measham Parish Council has a number of procedures in place to ensure that it complies with The Data Protection Act 1998 when holding personal information. The Parish Council has also notified the Information Commissioner that it holds personal data about individuals which is reviewed and renewed annually.

When dealing with personal data, Measham Parish Council staff and Councillors must ensure that:

- **Data is processed fairly and lawfully**
 - This means that personal information should only be collected from individuals if staff and Councillors have been open and honest about why they want the personal information.
- **Data is processed for specified purposes only**
- **Data is relevant to what it is needed for**
 - Data will be monitored so that too much or too little is not kept; only data that is needed should be held.
- **Data is accurate and kept up to date**
 - Personal data should be accurate, if it is not it should be corrected.
- **Data is not kept longer than it is needed**
 - Data no longer needed will be shredded or securely disposed of.
- **Data is processed in accordance with the rights of individuals**
 - Individuals must be informed, upon request, of all the personal information held about them.
- **Data is kept securely**
 - Only staff and Councillors can access the data. It cannot be accessed by members of the public.

Storing and accessing data

Measham Parish Council recognises its responsibility to be open with people when taking personal details from them. This means that Councillors and staff must be honest about why they want a particular piece of personal information. If, for example, a member of the public gives their phone number to staff or a member of Measham Parish Council, this will only be used for the purpose it has been given and will not be disclosed to anyone else without the person's permission.

Measham Parish Council may hold personal information about individuals such as their addresses and telephone numbers. These will be securely kept at the Parish Office and are not available for public access. All data stored on the Parish Office computers are password protected. Once data is not needed any more, is out of date or has served its use and falls outside the minimum retention time of Council's document retention policy, it will be shredded or securely deleted from the computer.

The Parish Council is aware that people have the right to access any personal information that is held about them. If a person requests to see any data that is being held about them

- They must be sent all of the personal information that is being held about them
- There must be an explanation for why it has been stored
- There must be a list of who has seen it
- It must be sent within 40 days

A fee to cover photocopying and postage charges will be charged to the person requesting the personal information. This fee will be agreed by the Parish Council and amended in line with inflation from time to time.

Disclosure of personal information

If a Councillor, needs to access information to help carry out their duties, this is acceptable. They are only able to access as much information as necessary and it should only be used for that specific purpose. Data should never be used for political reasons unless the data subjects have consented.

Confidentiality

Measham Parish Council Councillors and staff must be aware that when complaints or queries are made, they must remain confidential unless the subject gives permission otherwise. When handling personal data, this must also remain confidential.

CCTV

The Data Protection controls are covered under the CCTV Code of Practice, adopted 12/09/13.

Key Definitions

Personal data means data about a living individual who can be identified from those data (or from those and other information either in our possession, or likely to come into our possession). This can include not only personal details, details of family and social circumstances, education, employment, business and financial details, but also goods or services received, expressions of opinion or intentions, and images such as those recorded on CCTV.

Data controller means the organisation that determines how data is processed. Measham Parish Council is the data controller for personal data that it processes. We are legally required to comply with the Data Protection Principles.

Processing of personal data is defined very widely in the Data Protection Act. It covers all actions and processes involved in obtaining, recording, holding, carrying out any set of operations on, storing or destroying personal data.

Data subject is any living individual who is the subject of personal data.

Parish Council

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