



RECORDING OF MEETINGS POLICY

JODIE ASTON

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1. Introduction

On 6 August 2014, the 1960 Act was amended by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. The amended 1960 Act now provides that a person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if he is present at the meeting of a parish council or its committees but otherwise may:

- a) film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting;
- b) use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later;
- c) report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting or orally report or comment after the meeting.

2. Limitations

Although there is a statutory right to photograph and record Council meetings the proceedings of that meeting must not be disrupted by the use of media tools and must not inhibit community involvement in the proceedings.

3. Audio and Visual Recording - Your Obligations

Any member of the public, or of the media, wishing to photograph or record a meeting is asked to comply with the following:

- i) any photography or audio / visual recording takes place from a fixed position in the meeting room approved by the Clerk so as to reduce disruption to the proceedings;
- ii) use of flash photography or additional lighting is for a limited period only during the meeting at a point in the proceedings agreed in advance with the Clerk;
- iii) if the Clerk feels that any photography, audio or visual recording is disrupting the meeting in any way, or any pre-meeting agreement has been breached, then the operator of the equipment will stop;
- iv) if, during the meeting, a motion is passed to exclude the press and public, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, then all rights to record the meeting are removed and the operator of the equipment will be required to stop recording and /or photography;
- v) if a meeting is adjourned by the Chairman then the operator of the equipment should stop any recording or photography at the point at which the meeting is adjourned;
- vi) any request made by the Chairman regarding respecting the public's right to privacy is complied with;
- vii) people seated in the public seating area should not be photographed, filmed or recorded without the consent of the individuals concerned. It is for the public to inform the council, or the person recording, if they object;
- viii) use must not be made of an image or recording if consent is refused by a member of the public featured in that recording or image;

ix) photographs, audio, and visual recordings should not be edited in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes refraining from editing the views being recorded in a way that may ridicule or show lack of respect;

x) Notices will be displayed in the room advising the public that meetings can be recorded legally. The Chairman will also make an announcement that the meeting will be photographed and /or recorded or filmed. The Council may, on occasion, audio record meetings for minuting purposes only. The Chairman will make an announcement to this effect if a recording is to be made.

4. Audio and Visual Recording - Your Rights

If, as a member of the public, you do not wish to be photographed, filmed or recorded please inform the Clerk in attendance at the meeting or the Chairman of the meeting when notice is given that a request to photograph / record has been received.

5. Procedure Prior to the Meeting for those Wishing to Record or Photograph a Meeting

It would be appreciated if requests to take photographs or to record meetings open to the public, either by members of the public or by the media, were, wherever possible, made to the Clerk for the meeting concerned before the meeting. Contact details are:

Jodie Aston – parishoffice@hamptonpc.co.uk Tel: 01733 229690

It would be helpful for the request to include the following information:

- i) which meeting the request refers to;
- ii) the name, organisation (if applicable) and contact details of the person making the request;
- iii) what equipment it is intended will be used (to determine what facilities might be required);
- iv) what the photographs, or audio / visual recording will be used for and / or where the information is to be published (this is helpful to be able to inform the public).

Any equipment required for recording purposes should be set up before the meeting starts to avoid disturbance.

6. Social Media

There are no restrictions placed on anyone at the meeting using Twitter, blogs, Facebook or similar “social media” provided that the Chairman does not consider their actions are disrupting the proceedings of the meeting.

If the Chairman feels the use of social media is disrupting the proceedings the Councillor, member of the public or media representative using social media may be required to stop.

If use continues the Chairman will ask the person to leave the meeting. If the person refuses to leave then the Chairman may adjourn the meeting or make other appropriate arrangements for the meeting to continue without disruption.