

Dersingham Parish Council – Policy for use of Social Media

The aim of this policy is to set out a code of practice to provide guidance for staff and all parish councillors in the use of social media (Facebook and Twitter).

Nominated members of staff /councillors will be responsible for posting and monitoring content of the councils Facebook page. They will have the authority to remove any posts made by third parties which are deemed to be defamatory, libellous, racist, sexist, obscene, threatening language or derogatory. Such posts must be reported to Facebook and the Clerk.

The Parish Council Facebook will be used to:

1. Distribute agendas, post minutes and dates of meetings,
2. Advertise events and activities
3. Publish news stories
4. Advertise vacancies
5. Share information e.g. Police, Library, Health, schools, clubs etc.
6. Announce new information
7. Carry out surveys
8. Upload images

When using social media parish councillors, volunteers and council staff must be mindful of the information they post in both a personal and council capacity and keep the tone of any comments respectful and informative. Content should be accurate, objective, balanced and informative and should avoid guesswork, exaggeration and offensive and obscene language.

Parish councillors, volunteers and council staff must not hide their identity using false names or pseudonyms, present personal opinions as those of the council or in a way that might cause embarrassment to the council, post content that is contrary to the democratic decisions of the council, post controversial or potentially inflammatory remarks, engage in personal attacks, online fights and hostile communications, use an individual's name unless given written permission to do so, publish photographs or videos of minors without parental permission, post any information that infringes the copyright of others, post any comments that are defamatory, libellous, racist, sexist, obscene, threatening language or derogatory, post online activity that constitutes bullying or harassment.

Councillors' views posted in any capacity in advance of matters to be debated by the council at a council or committee meeting may constitute Pre-disposition, Pre- determination or Bias and may require the individual to declare an interest at council meetings.

Anyone with concerns regarding content placed on social media sites that denigrate parish councillors, volunteers, council staff or residents should report them to the Clerk of the Council.

Adopted by Dersingham Parish Council 30/9/19