Bournheath Parish Council
Recording of Meetings Policy

Bournheath Parish Council is committed to being open and transparent in the way that it conducts its decision making.

The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of Bournheath Parish Council was established under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. This is in addition to the rights of the Press and public to attend such meetings.

Recording, including filming, audio recording, taking photographs, blogging, tweeting and using other social media is permitted at any Parish Council meeting which is open to the public provided that the Chairman of the meeting does not consider that there is disruption to the proceedings of the meeting and subject to the following procedure.

Procedure

Anyone wishing to record a meeting is requested to let the Chairman of the meeting know prior to, or at the start of, the meeting. The recording should be overt (i.e. clearly visible to anyone at the meeting) and must take place from a fixed position in the meeting room approved by the Chairman to reduce disruption to the proceedings.

At the beginning of each meeting, the Chairman will make an announcement that the meeting may be filmed or recorded and the Council will ensure that signage at Council meetings makes it clear that recording can take place. If anyone speaking at the meeting does not wish to be recorded they should let the Chairman of the meeting know.

Anyone visually recording a meeting is requested to only focus on recording Councillors, officers and the public who are directly involved in the conduct of the meeting. People seated in the public area should not be photographed, filmed or recorded without the consent of the individuals concerned. Any children present at the meeting should not to be filmed unless they and their parents/guardians have given their consent. Any request made by the Chairman regarding respecting the public's right to privacy must be complied with.

Any person wishing to record Council meetings will be responsible for ensuring that any cabling, or electrical equipment they use has been properly tested and installed and adheres to health and safety requirements. The Council will not be held liable for any injuries to the individual or members of the public caused by the recording of its meetings.

The Chairman of the meeting has absolute discretion to request that a person stop or suspend recording if, in the Chairman's opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting because:

• recording is disrupting the proceedings of the meeting;
• there is public disturbance or a suspension of the meeting;
• the meeting has resolved to exclude the public for reasons of confidential business.

For these purposes recording equipment must not be left unattended at meetings.

The Council cannot accept liability for any equipment that is lost, stolen or damaged at its public meetings.

The recording should not be edited in any 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.

If the Council resolves to discuss confidential information, and the public are excluded from the meeting, all recording equipment must be removed immediately from the room.

The use of flash photography or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed with the Clerk in advance of the meeting and agreement reached on how it can be done without disrupting proceedings.

Guidance Notes

The Parish Clerk should be contacted prior to the meeting if the recording involves large equipment or special requirements.

Recording and reporting the Council's meetings is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those who undertake the recording and reporting to ensure compliance. This will include the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Act, the Public Order Act Part III (1986 as amended), the Equality Act 2010, the laws of libel and defamation and any subsequent legislation or regulations.

The Council may itself photograph, film, record or broadcast its meetings and may retain, use or dispose of such material in accordance with its retention and disposal policies.

Parish Clerk email address: clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk

This policy was adopted at the Council meeting on 14th May 2025 to be reviewed in two years or sooner if legislation dictates.