

THORPE WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL

Relations with the press / media

The Policy of Thorpe Willoughby Parish Council regarding the Council's interaction with the Press & Media is directed by and supported by the Council's Standing Orders 2019.

Refer to sections 3 & 5 of the Standing Orders 2019:

3. Meetings generally

l Subject to standing order 3(m), a person who attends a meeting is permitted to report on the meeting whilst the meeting is open to the public. To "report" means to film, photograph, make an audio recording of meeting proceedings, use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear the meeting as it takes place or later or to report or provide oral or written commentary about the meeting so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later to persons not present.

m A person present at a meeting may not provide an oral report or oral commentary about a meeting as it takes place without permission.

n The press shall be provided with reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present.

5. Ordinary council meetings

j Following the election of the Chairman of the Council and Vice-Chairman (if there is one) of the Council at the annual meeting, the business shall include:

xv. Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;

If Parish Councillors are approached by the Press or Media for comments on a parish matter, it should be referred to the Clerk who will respond on behalf of the Council following any discussions held at a Council meeting.

If a Councillor does give a statement to the Press or Media, it will be their own personal comment and not that of the Parish Council. A "No Comment" response by Councillors to the Press or Media is advisable if no discussion has taken place at a Parish Council meeting.

Refer to section 22 of the Standing Orders 2019:

22. Relations with the press/media

a Requests from the press or other media for an oral or written comment or statement from the Council, its councillors or staff shall be handled in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media.

This policy was amended and adopted by Thorpe Willoughby Parish Council at its Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13 May 2019; Minute number 19/5.2, and shall be reviewed annually and at the same time as the Standing Orders.

Signed by Chairman:  (Cllr A Mifsud)

Signed by Clerk/RFO:  (Mr S M Peters)