

Stowupland Parish Council
Freedom of information Policy
Adopted 8 October 2015

Stowupland Parish Council has a commitment to openness and transparency and has always been concerned to make relevant information available wherever possible to individuals who may request it, subject to safeguarding the privacy of individuals and to legitimate considerations of national security, law enforcement and commercial interests where relevant.

The Freedom of Information Act, which came into force on 1 January 2005, gives everyone a statutory right of access to information held by bodies such as the Parish Council.

Model publication scheme

From 14th December 2008 the Parish Council adopted the revised model publication scheme issued by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Information about the Parish Council

You can access a significant amount of information about the Parish Council on our website. If you need the information in an alternative format, please contact the clerk to the Parish Council via email or in writing at the address shown below.

Making a request for information

Individuals or organisations may make a written request for other information which they believe the Parish Council holds. To request information under the provisions of the Act, and to help us to help you in identifying the precise information you require please email parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk or write to the Clerk.

Please be sure to include your name and valid postal address, as required under the Act, and a clear description of the information you are seeking. When making a request you can state a preference of how you want the information communicated to you. This could be by providing a hard copy, or an electronic copy of the information, providing you an opportunity to inspect a record containing the information or providing a digest or summary of the information. We will try to meet your preference as far as is reasonably practical, or notify you if we cannot do so.

Responding to your request

We will inform you in writing whether we hold the information you have requested and if so, provide it to you not later than 20 working days after we receive the request.

The Freedom of Information Act does identify a number of categories of information which the Parish Council is not required to disclose under the Act. In this case, we will write to you stating the exemption which provides the basis for refusal within the Act and why it applies to the information you requested. We will communicate this to you within the 20 working day time period.

Charges for providing information under the Freedom of Information Act

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
Class1 - Who we are and what we do (Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts) This will be current information only and may also be found in Telstar which is delivered free to all households in Stowupland.		
Who's who on the Council and its Committees	Website Parish Council Notice Board Hard Copy	Free Free 10p

Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members	Website Hard Copy	Free 10p
Location of main Council office and accessibility details	Website Parish Council Notice Board Hard Copy	Free Free 10p
Staffing structure	Hard Copy	10p
Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it (Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit) Current and previous financial year		
Annual return form and report by auditor	Hard Copy	10p per sheet
Finalised budget	Email Hard Copy	Free 10p per sheet
Precept	Hard Copy	10p per sheet
Borrowing Approval letter	N/A	
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Email Hard Copy	Free 10p per sheet
Grants given and received	Email Hard Copy	Free 10p per sheet
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Hard Copy	10p per sheet
Members' allowances and expenses	Hard Copy	10p per sheet
Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews)		
Annual Report to Parish or Community Meeting (current and previous year)	Hard copy	10p per sheet
Class 4 – How we make decisions (Decision making processes and records of decisions) Current and previous council year		
Timetable of meetings (Council, any committee/sub-committee meetings and annual parish meetings)	Email Hard Copy	Free 10p per sheet
Agendas of parish council meetings	Website Parish Council notice board Email Hard Copy	Free Free Free 10p per sheet
Minutes of parish council meetings – nb this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website Parish Council notice board Email Hard Copy	Free Free Free 10p per sheet
Written reports presented to council meetings - nb this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Hard Copy	10p per sheet
Responses to consultation papers	Hard Copy	10p per sheet

Responses to planning applications	Hard Copy	10p per sheet
Class 5 – Our policies and procedures (Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities) Current information only		
Policies and procedures for the conduct of council business: Procedural standing orders Code of Conduct – (Hard copy only)	Email Hard Copy Hard Copy	Free 10p per sheet 10p per sheet
Policies and procedures for the provision of services and about the employment of staff: Complaints procedures (including those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme)	Email Hard Copy	Free 10p per sheet
Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)	Hard Copy	10p per sheet
Class 6 – Lists and Registers Currently maintained lists and registers only		
Any publicly available register or list	Hard Copy	10p per sheet
Assets Register	Hard Copy	10p per sheet
Register of members' interests	MSDC Website	
Class 7 – The services we offer (Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses) Current information only		
Allotments	Email Hard Copy	Free 10p per sheet
Cemetery	Email Hard Copy	Free 10p per sheet
A summary of services for which the council is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees (e.g. burial fees)	Email Hard Copy	Free 10p per sheet

The Freedom of Information Act does permit the Parish Council to refuse your request if we estimate that it will cost is in excess of the appropriate cost limit (£450) to fulfil your request.

Freedom of information Fees Notice

If you need to pay a fee for disbursements or because the costs exceed the appropriate limit, we will write to you advising you of the fee required within 20 working days of receipt of your request. This is known as a 'Fees Notice'. When you are issued the Fees Notice, the 20 working day limit for responding stops, and then will start again when we receive payment. If we do not receive the fee from you within three months we are not obliged to comply with the request.

Complaints

If you are dissatisfied with the way the Parish Council has responded to a request for information, please write to: Mrs Claire Pizzey, Clerk, 2 Broomspath Road, Stowupland, Suffolk, IP14 4DB.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is responsible for enforcing the operation of the Act, and you may raise issues with this office at any time. More information can be found on the ICO website listed below, or by writing to,

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF