



Abbots Ann Parish Council

Data Protection Policy

1. Introduction

Abbots Ann Parish Council holds and processes information about employees, councillors, residents and other data subjects for administrative and commercial purposes.

When handling such information Abbots Ann Parish Council, and all staff or others who process or use the information, must comply with the Data Protection principles as set out in the Data Protection Act 1998 (the Act).

2. Data Protection Principles

There are eight principles set out in the Act, which in summary state that data shall:

- i. be processed fairly and lawfully;
- ii. be obtained for a specified and lawful purpose and shall not be processed in any manner incompatible with the purpose;
- iii. be adequate, relevant and not excessive for the purpose;
- iv. be accurate and up-to-date;
- v. not be kept for longer than necessary for the purpose;
- vi. be processed in accordance with the Data Subject's rights;
- vii. be kept safe from unauthorised processing, and accidental loss, damage or destruction;
- viii. not be transferred to a country outside the European Economic Area, unless that country has the equivalent levels of protection for personal data, except in specified circumstances.

3. Definitions

"*Employees, councillors, residents and other data subjects*" may include past, present and potential members of those groups.

"*Other data subjects*" and "*third parties*" may include contractors, suppliers, contacts, referees, friends or family members.

"*Processing*" refers to any action involving personal information, including obtaining, viewing, copying, amending, adding, deleting, extracting, storing, disclosing or destroying information.

"*Personal data*" is information about an identifiable, living individual.

"*Sensitive personal data*" is personal data consisting of information relating to racial or ethnic origin, political opinion, religious or other beliefs, trade union membership, physical or mental health or condition, sexual orientation or criminal proceedings or convictions.

"*Data Controller*" is a 'person' who determines the purposes for which and the manner in which any personal data are, or are to be, processed. A 'person' as recognised in law may be an individual, organisation or body of persons.

"*Data Protection Officer*" is an individual working on behalf of the Data Controller with responsibility for the data protection within that organisation.



Abbots Ann Parish Council

4. Responsibilities

Abbots Ann Parish Council is the Data Controller and must ensure that any processing of personal data for which they are responsible complies with the Act.

The Data Protection Officer is the Proper Officer who acts on behalf of the Council.

5. Storage and Retention

Personal data is kept in paper-based systems and on a password-protected computer system.

6. Access to Information

Any employees, councillors and other data subjects have a right to:

- i. ask what personal information the Council holds;
- ii. ask what this information is used for;
- iii. be provided with a copy of the information;
- iv. be given details of the purposes for which the Council uses the information.
- v. ask that any incorrect data held is corrected.

If it is felt by the data subject that any personal information held is incorrect the individual may request that it be amended. The Council must advise the individual within 21 days whether or not the amendment has been made.

7. Breach of Policy

Compliance with the Act is the responsibility of all councillors, residents and members of staff. Any deliberate or reckless breach of the policy may lead to disciplinary action and where appropriate, legal proceedings.

Any individual who believes that the Council has breached any of the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 should raise the matter with the Data Controller initially either with councillors or the Proper Officer. Alternatively, a complaint can be made to the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 5AF.



Abbots Ann Parish Council

Appendix A – Guidelines for Staff Members, Volunteers and Councillors

Sharing members’/clients’ personal information

“Personal information” includes details such as addresses/phone numbers and health details supplied by members of the public.

Such information may be shared between staff and Councillors at Abbots Ann Parish Council for work reasons, but should not be given to anyone outside the Council without explicit consent from the member/client.

Unlawful disclosure of personal information

Under the Data Protection Act you are committing a criminal offence if you disclose personal information ‘knowingly or recklessly’ to anyone you are not supposed to, so please be careful.

Give consideration to any conversations you are having containing personal or sensitive information that could possibly be overheard by people who should not have access to such information.

Use of files, books and other paper records

In order to prevent unauthorised access and accidental loss or damage to personal information held on paper, please take good care of the files, books and other paper records you use, and ensure that they are stored safely.

Use of email

Be sure before sending emails that it contains no personal or sensitive information that the recipients should not have access to. This is a particular risk when forwarding emails or adding in new recipients to an email chain.

Disposal of scrap paper

Be aware that names/addresses/phone numbers and other information written on scrap paper are also considered to be confidential. Such notes must be shredded or disposed of confidentially.



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Record of Adoption/Review:

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