

Agenda Item 14

Motion - Media / Public Statements Policy

Members and Officer should already be aware that individual members of the parish council cannot make formal statements, presentations or decisions on behalf of the Parish Council. Official Statements made on behalf of the Parish Council are normally made by the Parish Clerk under statutory provisions, delegate powers or with council approval. Whilst it is crucial that the Parish Council keeps local residents informed, it is also in the public interest to ensure that all official public statements made on behalf of the parish council have prior approved before they are made. As all UK councils operate on the principle that **official statements made on behalf of the council require proper authorisation**.

I move the parish council introduces a Media / Public Statement Policy that complies with the following principals:

1. Wherever possible all communications / presentations made on behalf of the parish council should be made through the Parish Clerk.
2. Any member of the parish council making an official public statement or presentation on behalf of the council may only do so once prior council approval has been obtained. For articles expressing a member's personal views, the policy mandates clear identification as a personal opinion, prohibiting the use of the council's logo or official contact details, and requiring that it does not imply endorsement by the council.
3. Any statement / presentation made by any member on behalf of the council must be submitted to the council for final approval before publication, be reviewed by the Parish Clerk to ensure it aligns with official council policy, maintains consistency in messaging, and avoids potential legal liabilities or breaches of confidentiality.