BREASTON PARISH COUNCIL

POLICY IN RELATION TO DEALING WITH THE PRESS AND ANY OTHER MEDIA
FEBRUARY 2015

All press reports from Breaston Parish Council will be from the Clerk to the Council, or following guidance from the Clerk, from the Chair to the Parish Council.

Members who are asked for comment by the press should preferably refer the request to the Parish Clerk for comment, or in her absence consult the Chair or vice-Chair of the Parish Council.

If any comments are made on issues concerning the Parish Council by Members it should be clearly reported that it is the Members personal view and that they are not commenting on behalf of the Parish Council.

Recording/Filming of Public Meetings

Any Member of the public/Press may take photographs/Film and audio record the proceedings of all public meetings of the Parish Council . While no prior permission is required to carry out this activity, it is advisable that any person wishing to film, or audio record a public meeting let the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer know so that all necessary arrangements can be made for the public meeting.

There is no legal requirement for Council's to webcast their meetings but where they do it is good practice to notify the public in advance.

Tweeting and Blogging

The new rules allow for reporting of meetings by any form of Social Media. Councillors are able to Tweet/Blog meetings provided it is not disruptive and does not detract from the proper conduct of the meeting.

The Council will provide a space to view and hear the meeting preferably with a table.

Any filming of members of the public, should not include the filming of children, the vulnerable and other members of the public who actively object to being filmed, without undermining the broader transparency of the meeting.

Members of the Press/Public taking part in the filming or audio recording of the meeting must not act in a disruptive manner, which could result in being excluded from the meeting i.e. any action or activity which disrupts the conduct of meetings or impedes other members of the public being able to see, hear or film etc the proceedings.

At any time should the meeting no longer be public the filming/recording can be requested to stop where appropriate.