



Press and Media Policy

Adopted a Council Committee Meeting 18th April 2023
To be reviewed April 2024

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to guide both Councillors and Officers of the Council in their relations with the Press and Media, in such a way as to ensure the smooth running of the Council. This policy does not seek to be either prescriptive or comprehensive but sets out to provide guidance on how to deal with some of the practical issues that may arise when dealing with the Press and Media.

Above everything else, a Councillor must observe Sandgate Parish Council's Code of Conduct whenever he/she conducts the business of the authority, conducts the business of the office to which he/she has been elected or acts as a representative of the authority.

Parish Clerk and Officers of the Council

The Parish Clerk as the Proper Officer of the Council is authorised to receive all communications from the Press and Media and to issue Press Statements on behalf of the Council. In the absence of the Parish Clerk, media communications will be handled by the Chair.

All communications made by the Parish Clerk will relate to the stated business and day-to-day management of the activities or adopted policy of the Council. The Parish Clerk is not expected or authorised to speculate on matters that have not been considered by the Council.

Where such questions are put to the Parish Clerk the enquirer will be referred to the Chair as considered appropriate. No other officer of the Council, unless authorised by the Parish Clerk, is permitted to speak, or communicate with the Press and Media on any matter affecting the Council or its business.

Members of the Council

A Councillor must not disclose information that is of a confidential nature. This includes any discussion with the press on any matter which has been discussed under confidential items on Council or Committee agendas or at any other private briefing.

A Councillor should always act with integrity when representing or acting on behalf of Sandgate Parish Council