



Wimblington & Stonea
Parish Council

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Policy Document: CCTV Policy

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Any queries or requests for amendments should be addressed to:

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Introduction

The Purpose of this document is to define and describe the CCTV Policy that has been adopted by Wimblington & Stonea Parish Council.

This policy document will be reviewed by members of Wimblington & Stonea Parish Council and updated or amended where necessary.

Overview

This Policy is to control the management, operation, use and confidentiality of the CCTV system located in Wimblington Village Hall and War Memorial playing field both owned by Wimblington Parish Council.

It was prepared after taking due account of the Code of Practice published by the Data Protection Commissioner (July 2000). This policy will be subject to periodic review by the Parish Council to ensure that it continues to reflect the public interest and that it, and the system meets all legislative requirements.

The Parish Council accepts the principles of the 1998 Act based on the Data Protection Principles as follows:

- data must be fairly and lawfully processed;
- processed for limited purposes and not in any manner incompatible with those purposes;
- adequate, relevant and not excessive;
- accurate;
- not kept for longer than is necessary;
- processed in accordance with individuals' rights;
- secure;

Statement of Purpose

To provide a safe and secure environment for the benefit of those who might visit, work or live in the area. The system will not be used to invade the privacy of any individual, except when carried out in accordance with the law.

The scheme will be used for the following purposes:

- to reduce the fear of crime by persons using Council & Village Hall facilities so they can enter and leave the buildings and facilities without fear of intimidation by individuals or groups;
- to deter potential dog fouling around the Village Hall and the car park and War Memorial playing field.
- to reduce the vandalism of property and to prevent, deter and detect crime and disorder;
- to assist the Parish Council, Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies with identification, detection, apprehension and prosecution of offenders by examining and using retrievable evidence relating to crime, public order or contravention of bye-laws;
- to deter potential offenders by publicly displaying the existence of CCTV, having cameras clearly visible when sited and signs on display outside Wimblington Village Hall and at the War Memorial playing field.
- to assist all “emergency services” to carry out their lawful duties.

Changes To The Purpose Or Policy

A major change that would have a significant impact on either the purpose or this policy of operation of the CCTV scheme will take place only after discussion at Council Committee meeting(s) and resolution at full Council meeting.

All agendas are posted on the Parish Council notice board at least 3 clear days excluding weekends before Council meetings.

Responsibilities Of The Owners Of The Scheme

The Wimblington Parish Council retains overall responsibility for the scheme.

CCTV Code Of Practice

Management Of The System

Day-to-day operational responsibility rests with the Clerk to the Council and one/two nominated Councillors who can be consulted out of hours, if and when necessary.

Generis Security will carry out the annual maintenance check and access the system to carry out maintenance and essential repairs with the permission of the Clerk or nominated Councillor.

The CCTV system is located in a locked cupboard in the Meeting Room in the Village Hall and a locked cupboard within the pavilion at the War Memorial playing field.

There are 3 keys to the cupboards, one is held by the Nominated Councillor, the other by the Parish Clerk, the third by a second Nominated Councillor.

No one person should access to view any recordings without either a request from the Police, or agreement from the Chairman.

Breaches of this policy will be investigated by the Clerk to the Council and reported to the Parish Council.

A CCTV system prevents crime largely by increasing the risk of detection and prosecution of an offender.

Any relevant tape or digital evidence must be in an acceptable format for use at Court hearings.

This policy must be read and understood by all persons involved in this scheme and individual copies of this policy will therefore be issued for retention.

A copy will also be available for reference in the secure recording area(s).

Control And Operation Of The Cameras, Monitors And Systems

The following points must be understood and strictly observed by operators:

1. Trained operators must act with due probity and not abuse the equipment or change the pre-set criteria to compromise the privacy of an individual.
2. The position of cameras and monitors have been agreed following consultation with the Parish Council.
3. No public access will be allowed to the monitor except for lawful, proper and with sufficient reason, except with approval of the Clerk of the Council or the Chairman of the Parish Council. The Police are permitted access to recording media if they have reason to believe that such access is necessary to investigate, detect or prevent crime. The Police are able to visit the Parish Hall and War Memorial pavilion to review and confirm the Parish Council's operation of CCTV arrangements. Any visit by the Police to view images will be logged by the operator.
4. Operators should regularly check the accuracy of the date/time displayed.
5. Digital records should be securely stored to comply with data protection and should only be handled by the essentially minimum number of persons. Digital images will be erased after a period of 14 days.
6. Images will not be supplied to the media, except on the advice of the police if it is deemed to be in the public interest. The Clerk of the Council would inform the Chairman of the Council of any such emergency.
7. As records may be required as evidence at Court, each person handling a digital record may be required to make a statement to a police officer and sign an exhibit label. Any extracted data that is handed to a police officer should be signed for by the police officer and information logged to identify the recording, and showing the officer's name and police station. The log should also show when such information is returned to the Parish Council by the police and/or the outcome of its use.
8. Any event that requires checking of recorded data should be clearly detailed in the log book of incidents or Parish Council meeting minutes, including Crime Nos. if appropriate, and the Parish Council notified at the next available opportunity.
9. Any damage to equipment or malfunction discovered by the Clerk or Nominated Councillor should be reported immediately to the person responsible for maintenance, and the call logged showing the outcome. When a repair has been made this should also be logged showing the date and time of completion.
10. Any request by an individual member of the public for access to their own recorded image must be made on an 'Access Request Form' and is subject to a standard fee. Forms are available from the Parish Clerk and will be submitted to Parish Council for consideration and reply, normally within 10 days.

Accountability

Copies of the CCTV Policy are available in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, as will any reports that are submitted to the Parish Council providing it does not breach security needs.

Any written concerns or complaints regarding the use of the system will be considered by the Parish Council, in line with the existing complaints policy.

THIS POLICY MUST BE COMPLIED WITH AT ALL TIMES.

I have read the above policy and agree to abide by these instructions. I will discuss any concerns with the Parish Clerk at any time.

Signed

Print Name

Date/...../.....

(Operators are issued with their own copy of this policy and shall sign to confirm receipt and compliance.)

