

CHESTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SCHEME

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Introduction

This model publication scheme has been prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner. It has been adopted without modification by the Parish Council and does not require further approval, being valid until further notice.

The publication scheme commits the Parish Council to make information available to the public as part of its normal business activities. The information covered is included in the classes of information mentioned below, where this information is held by the authority. Additional assistance is provided to the definition of these classes in sector specific guidance manuals issued by the Information Commissioner.

Freedom of Information Act (FOI)

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides public access to information held by public authorities. It does this in two ways:

- Public authorities are obliged to publish certain information about their activities; and
- Members of the public are entitled to request information from public authorities.

The Act covers any recorded information that is held by a public authority in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and by UK-wide public authorities based in Scotland.

Record information includes printed documents, computer files, letters, emails, photographs, and sound or video recordings.

The Act does not give people access to their own personal data as this is covered under Data Protection Act 2018.

The Scheme commits an authority to: -

- Proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
- Specify the information which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
- Proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme.
- Produce and publish the methods by which the specific information is made routinely available so that it can be easily identified and accessed by members of the public.
- Review and update on a regular basis the information the authority makes available under this scheme.
- Produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available.
- Make this publication scheme available to the public.

- Publish any dataset held by the authority that has been requested, and any updated versions it holds, unless the authority is satisfied that it is not appropriate to do so; to publish the dataset, where reasonably practicable, in an electronic form that is capable of re-use; and, if any information in the dataset is a relevant copyright work and the public authority is the only owner, to make the information available for re-use under the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, if they apply, and otherwise under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act section 19. The term 'dataset' is defined in section 11(5) of the Freedom of Information Act. The term 'relevant copyright work' is defined in section 19(8) of that Act

Classes of Information

- **Who we are and what we do** - organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance?
- **What we spend and how we spend it** - financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement, and contracts.
- **What our priorities are and how we are doing** - strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections, and reviews.
- **How we make decisions** - policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.
- **Our policies and procedures** - current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.
- **Lists and Registers** - information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the functions of the authority.
- **The Services we offer** - advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions, and media releases. A description of the services offered.

The Classes of Information will NOT generally include: -

- Information the disclosure of which is prevented by law, or exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, or is otherwise properly considered to be protected from disclosure.
- Information in draft form.
- Information that is no longer readily available as it is contained in files that have been placed in archive storage or is difficult to access for similar reasons.

The Method by which information published under this scheme will be made available

The Parish Council will indicate clearly to the public what information is covered by this scheme and how it can be obtained.

Where it is within the capability of a public authority, information will be provided on the Parish Council's website. Where it is impracticable to make information available on a website or when an individual does not wish to access the information by the website, the Parish Council will indicate how information can be obtained by other means and provide it by those means.

In exceptional circumstances some information may be available only by viewing in person. Where this manner is specified, contact details will be provided. An appointment to view the information will be arranged within a reasonable timescale.

Date agreed at Council Meeting: - 4th March 2025

Information will be provided in the language in which it is held or in such other language that is legally required. Where the Parish Council is legally required to translate any information, it will do so.

Obligations under disability and discrimination legislation and any other legislation to provide information in other forms and formats will be adhered to when providing information in accordance with this scheme.

Charges which may be made for Information published under this scheme.

The purpose of this scheme is to make the maximum amount of information readily available at minimum inconvenience and cost to the public. Charges made by the Parish Council for routinely published material will be justified and transparent and kept to a minimum.

Material which is published and accessed on a website will be provided free of charge.

Charges will be made for information subject to a charging regime specified by Parliament.

Charges will be made for actual disbursements incurred such as: -

- Photocopying
- Postage and Packaging
- The costs directly incurred because of viewing information.

Charges will also be made for information provided under this scheme where they are legally authorised, they are in all the circumstances, including the general principles of the right of access to information held by public authorities, justified and are in accordance with a published schedule or schedules of fees which is readily available to the public.

Charges may also be made for making datasets (or parts of datasets) that are relevant copyright works available for re-use. These charges will be in accordance with the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, where they apply, or with regulations made under section 11B of the Freedom of Information Act, or with other statutory powers of the public authority.

If a charge is to be made, confirmation of the payment due will be given before the information is provided. Payment will be requested prior to provision of the information.

Written Requests

Information held by the Parish Council that is not published under this scheme can be requested in writing, when its provision will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Information available from Chesterton Parish Council under the Model Publication Scheme

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
Class1 - Who we are and what we do. (Organisational information, structures, locations, and contacts) This will be current information only. N.B. Councils should already be publishing as much information as possible about how they can be contacted.	(hard copy and/or website)	
Who is who on the Council and its Committees	Website / hard copy	See end
Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))	Website / hard copy	
Location of main Council office and accessibility details	Website / hard copy / noticeboard	
Staffing structure	Website / hard copy	
Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it. (Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts, and financial audit) Current and previous financial year as a minimum	(hard copy and/or website)	
	Website / hard copy	
Annual return form and report by auditor	Website / hard copy	
Finalised budget	Website / hard copy	
Precept	Website / hard copy	
Borrowing Approval letter	N/A	
Standing Orders and Financial Regulations	Website / hard copy	
Grants given and received	Website / hard copy	
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Website / hard copy	
Members' allowances and expenses (Parish Remuneration)	Website / hard copy	
Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing. (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections, and reviews)	Website / hard copy	
Parish Plan (current and previous year as a minimum)	N/A	
Annual Report to Parish or Community Meeting (current and previous year as a minimum)	Website (as part of the Annual Parish Meeting Minutes)	
Quality status	N/A	

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
Local charters drawn up in accordance with DCLG guidelines	N/A	
Class 4 – How we make decisions. (Decision making processes and records of decisions) Current and previous council year as a minimum	Website / hard copy	
Timetable of meetings (Council, any committee/sub-committee meetings, and parish meetings)	Website / hard copy / noticeboard	
Agendas of meetings (as above)	Parish noticeboard Website / hard copy	
Minutes of meetings (as above) – nb this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website / hard copy	
Reports presented to council meetings - nb this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website / hard copy	
Responses to consultation papers	Website / hard copy	
Responses to planning applications	Website / hard copy	
Byelaws	N/A	
Class 5 – Our policies and procedures (Current written protocols, policies, and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities) Current information only	(Website / hard copy)	
Policies and procedures for the conduct of council business: Procedural standing orders Committee and sub-committee terms of reference Delegated authority in respect of officers Code of Conduct Policy statements	Website / hard copy Website / hard copy N/A Website / hard copy Website / hard copy	
Policies and procedures for the provision of services and about the employment of staff:		

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
Internal policies relating to the delivery of services. Equality and diversity policy Health and safety policy Recruitment policies (including current vacancies) Policies and procedures for handling requests for information Complaint's procedures (including those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme)	Website N/A Draft in progress Website / hard copy Website / hard copy	
Information security policy	Needs to be drafted	
Records management policies (records retention, destruction, and archive)	Website / hard copy	
Data protection policies	Website / hard copy	
Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)	Website / hard copy	
Class 6 – Lists and Registers	(hard copy or website; some information may only be available by inspection)	
Currently maintained lists and registers only		
Any publicly available register or list (if any are held this should be publicised; in most circumstances existing access provisions will suffice)	Hard copy or website; some information may only be available by inspection	
Assets Register	Website / hard copy	
Disclosure log (indicating the information that has been provided in response to requests; recommended as good practice, but may not be held by parish councils)	Website / hard copy	
Register of members' interests	On CDC's Website	
Register of gifts and hospitality	Website / hard copy	
Class 7 – The services we offer. (Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses)	(hard copy or website; some information may only be available by inspection)	
Current information only		
Allotments	Website / hard copy	
Burial grounds and closed churchyards	N/A	
Community centres and village halls	N/A	
Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities		

Date agreed at Council Meeting: - 4th March 2025

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
Seating, litter bins, clocks, memorials, and lighting (details in Asset Register)	Website / hard copy	
Bus shelters (details in Asset Register)	N/A	
Markets	N/A	
Public conveniences	N/A	
Agency agreements	N/A	
A summary of services for which the council is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees (e.g., burial fees)	N/A	
Additional Information This will provide Councils with the opportunity to publish information that is not itemised in the lists above		

All requests for hard copies should be made by e-mail or in writing to the:

Brian Inglis, Parish Clerk
Chesterton Parish Council
Chesterton Community Centre
2 Geminus Road
Chesterton
OX26 1BJ

clerk@chestertonparishcouncil.org.uk

TYPE OF CHARGE	DESCRIPTION	BASIS OF CHARGE
Disbursement cost	Photocopying @ 10p per sheet (black & white)	Actual cost
	Photocopying @ 20p per sheet (colour)	Actual cost
	Postage	Actual cost of Royal Mail standard 2 nd class
Statutory Fees		In accordance with the relevant legislation (quote the actual statute)

Environmental Information Regulations (EIR)

The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 provide public access to environmental information held by public authorities. The Regulations do this in two ways:

- Public authorities must make environmental information available proactively.
- Members of the public are entitled to request environmental information from public authorities.

The Regulations cover any recorded information held by public authorities in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Environmental information held by Scottish public authorities is covered by the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

The Regulations apply only to the Environmental information held by public authorities. The Freedom of Information Act gives people access to most other types of information held by public authorities.

The Regulations and the Freedom of Information act do not give people access to their own personal data (information about themselves), such as their health records or credit reference files. Individuals have right of access to information held about them under the Data Protection Act 2018.