

Croxton Parish Council GDPR Policy

General Data Protection Regulation Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Croxton Parish Council recognises its responsibility to comply with General Data Protection Regulations.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy updates the Parish Council's Data Protection Policy updated on 2nd November 2014 and procedures to include the additional requirements of GDPR which will apply in the UK from 25 May 2018. The Government has confirmed that despite the UK leaving the EU, GDPR will still be a legal requirement. This policy explains the duties and responsibilities of the Council and identifies the means by which the Parish Council will meet its obligations.

IDENTIFYING THE ROLES AND MINIMISING RISK

GDPR requires that everyone within the Parish Council must understand the implications of GDPR and that roles and duties must be assigned. The Parish Council is the Data Controller and the Clerk is the Data Protection Officer (DPO).

Personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently; collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes; be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for processing; be accurate and kept up to date; be kept only for as long as is necessary for processing; and be processed in a manner that ensures its security.

The handling of information is seen as a high/medium risk to the Council (both financially and in terms of its reputation) and one which must be included in the Council's Risk Management Policy. Such risk can be minimised by undertaking an Information Audit; issuing privacy statements; maintaining privacy impact assessments (an audit of potential data protection risks with new projects); minimising who holds data protected information; ensuring the safe disposal of information; and the Parish Council undertaking training in data protection awareness.

GDPR requires continued care by the Clerk and councillors in the sharing of information about individuals, whether as a hard copy or electronically. A breach of the regulations could result in the Parish Council facing a fine from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for the breach itself and also to compensate the individual(s) who could be adversely affected.

INFORMATION AUDIT

The Data Protection Officer must undertake an Information Audit which details the personal data held, where it came from, the purpose for holding that information and with whom the Parish Council will share that information. This will include information held electronically or as a hard copy. Information held could change from year to year with different activities, and so the Information Audit will be reviewed at least annually or when the Parish Council

undertakes a new activity. The Information Audit review should be conducted ahead of the review of this policy and the reviews recorded.

PRIVACY NOTICES

Being transparent and providing accessible information to individuals about how the Parish Council uses personal data is a key element of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The most common way to provide this information is in a privacy notice. This is a notice to inform individuals about what the Council does with their personal information. A privacy notice will contain the name and contact details of the Data Controller and Data Protection Officer; the purpose for which the information is to be used; and the length of time for its use. It should be written clearly and should advise the individual that they can, at any time, withdraw their agreement for the use of this information. Issuing of a privacy notice must be detailed on the Information Audit kept by the Parish Council. The Parish Council will adopt a privacy notice to use, although some changes could be needed depending on the situation, for example where children are involved.

CHILDREN

There is special protection for the personal data of a child. The age when a child can give their own consent is 13. If the Parish Council requires consent from young people under 13, the Council must obtain a parent or guardian's consent in order to process the personal data lawfully. Consent forms for children age 13 plus, must be written in language that they will understand.

INDIVIDUALS RIGHTS

GDPR gives individuals rights with some enhancements to those rights already in place:

- the right to be informed.
- the right of access.
- the right of rectification.
- the right to erasure.
- the right to restrict processing.
- the right to data portability.
- the right to object.
- the right not to be subject to automated decision-making, including profiling.

The two enhancements of GDPR are that individuals now have a right to have their personal data erased (sometime known as the 'right to be forgotten') where their personal data is no longer necessary in relation to the purpose for which it was originally collected and data portability must be done free of charge. Data portability refers to the ability to move, copy or transfer data easily between different computers.

If a request is received to delete information, then the DPO must respond to this request within a month. The DPO has the delegated authority from the Parish Council to delete information.

If a request is considered to be manifestly unfounded then the request can be refused.

Any charges applicable will be detailed in the Council's Freedom of Information Publication Scheme.

DATA BREACHES

One of the duties assigned to the DPO is the investigation of any breaches. Personal data breaches should be reported to the DPO for investigation. The DPO will conduct this with the support of the Council. Investigations must be undertaken within one month of the report of a breach. The ICO will be advised of a breach (within 3 working days) where it is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals – if, for example, it could result in discrimination, damage to reputation, financial loss, loss of confidentiality, or any other significant economic or social disadvantage. Where a breach is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals, the DPO will also have to notify those concerned directly.

It is unacceptable for non-authorised users to access IT using employees' log-in passwords or to use equipment while logged on. It is unacceptable for employees, volunteers and members to use IT in any way that may cause problems for the Parish Council, for example the discussion of internal Council matters on social media sites could result in damage to the Parish Council's reputation and to individuals.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

The main actions arising from this policy are:

- A copy of this policy will be made available on the Parish Council's website.
- Privacy notices must be issued.
- Data Protection will be included in the Parish Council's Risk Management Policy.
- The Clerk's contract and Job Description will be amended to include additional responsibilities relating to Data Protection.
- An Information Audit will be conducted and reviewed at least annually, or when projects and services change.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at least annually or when further advice is issued by the ICO.

All employees, volunteers and councillors are expected to comply with this policy at all times to protect privacy, confidentiality and the interests of the Parish Council.

This policy was approved and adopted by Croxton Parish Council at its meeting held on _____ 2021