

SMEETH PARISH COUNCIL
DATA PROTECTION POLICY AND INFORMATION SECURITY POLICY

The Data Protection Policy

Smeeth Parish Council (SPC) recognises its responsibility to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which replaces the Data Protection Act 1998. The Act regulates the use of personal data. This does not have to be sensitive data; it can be as little as a name and address.

The Data Protection Act

The GDPR sets out high standards for the handling of personal information and protecting individuals' rights for privacy. It also regulates how personal information can be collected, handled and used. The GDPR applies to anyone holding personal information about people, electronically or on paper.

SPC has also notified the Information Commissioner that it potentially holds personal data about individuals. When dealing with personal data, SPC staff and any Parish Council members must ensure that:

- Data is processed fairly and lawfully. This means that personal information should only be collected from individuals if staff and Councillors have been open and honest about why they want the personal information.
- Data is processed for specified purposes only.
- Data is relevant to what it is needed for. Data will be monitored so that too much or too little is not kept; only data that is needed should be held.
- Data is accurate and kept up to date. Personal data should be accurate, if it is not it should be corrected.
- Data is not kept longer than it is needed. Data no longer needed will be shredded or securely disposed of.
- Data is processed in accordance with the rights of individuals. Individuals must be informed, upon request, of all the personal information held about them.
- Data is kept securely. Only staff can access the data. It cannot be accessed by members of the public.

Storing and accessing data

SPC recognises its responsibility to be open with people when taking personal details from them. This means that the Parish Council must be honest about why a particular piece of personal information is required. SPC may hold personal information about individuals such as their addresses and telephone numbers. These will be securely kept and are not available for public access. All data stored on the Parish Clerk's is password protected. Once data is not needed any more, is out of date or has served its use and falls outside the minimum retention time of the Parish Council's document retention policy, it will be shredded or securely deleted from the computer, as is applicable. SPC is aware that people have the right to access any personal information that is held about them. If a person requests to see any data that is being held about them:

- They must be sent all of the personal information SPC holds about them
- There must be an explanation of why it has been stored
- There must be a list of who has seen it

- It must be sent within 20 days.

Confidentiality

SPC parish councillors and staff must be aware that when complaints or queries are made, they must remain confidential unless the subject gives permission otherwise. When handling personal data, this must also remain confidential.

Nominated Officer

The Parish Council's Data Processor is Susan Wood (Parish Clerk)

July 2018