

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Information available from Petham Parish Council under the Model Publication Scheme

The Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Freedom of Information Act gives you the right to obtain information held by public authorities unless there are good reasons to keep it confidential. The Information Commissioner's Office The ICO is the UK's independent public body set up to promote access to official information and protect personal information. It has responsibility for ensuring information is disclosed promptly and that exemptions from disclosure are applied lawfully. Some information could be exempt from disclosure.

How do I make a request?

- Make the information as specific as possible. (If your request is too broad the Council may ask you to clarify it. This could mean it takes longer to get the information).
- Provide as full a description as possible of the information you require.
- Be clear about the format you would prefer to receive the information in, for example, by e-mail or as a paper copy.

What happens once my request has been received?

Any request for information should be treated by the Council as a formal request for information and the Council suggests that e-mails or letters are clearly marked as freedom of information requests to avoid any confusion. The Council must respond promptly to requests or, in any event, within 20 working days although the Council has longer to consider whether the disclosure of normally exempt information would be in the public interest. When considering the public interest test, the Council must do so 'within a reasonable time.'

What if the information is refused? Where the Council decides not to disclose the information requested it must give reasons for its decision, it must explain how the exemption or exception applies and it must explain the arguments under the public interest test. The Council must also inform you of your right to complain to the ICO.

How can the ICO help and what is the legal process? You may apply to the ICO for a decision about whether the request has been dealt with according to the Act, for example, you believe there has been excessive delay or if you wish to dispute the application of an exemption or refusals made on public interest grounds.

The ICO may serve a decision notice on the Council either confirming the decision made by the Council or directing it to disclose information within a certain time. Non-compliance with a decision notice may constitute contempt of court. If you or the

Council disagrees with the ICO's decision you have 28 days to appeal to the independent Information Tribunal.

The Information Tribunal may uphold the ICO's decision notice, amend it (for example change the time frame for release of information) or overturn it. Non-compliance with the Information Tribunal's notice may also constitute contempt of court. Additional Information Additional guidance on the Freedom of Information Act is available on the ICO website at www.ico.gov.uk or by telephone to their helpline 0303 123 1113.

Model Publication Scheme Under the Freedom of Information

It is the duty of every public authority to adopt and maintain a publication scheme. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is changing the emphasis in the approval and operation of publication schemes to a generic model which should be adopted and operated by all public authorities. The model commits a public authority to 'produce and publish the method by which the specific information will be available so that it can be easily identified and accessed by members of the public'. This must be adopted in full, unedited, and promoted alongside the guide to information.

Local councils are not required to inform the Information Commissioner's Office that they have adopted the scheme; it will be assumed they have done so unless the ICO hears otherwise. The publication scheme provides a list of all the information the Council will make routinely available, explain how it can be accessed (either via the Parish Council website or hard copy) and whether a charge will be made for it. Classes of Information The information held by Petham Parish Council has been recorded under the following classes of information:

Class 1 Who We Are And What We Do

Class 2 What We Spend And How We Spend It

Class 3 What Our Priorities Are And How We Are Doing

Class 4 How We Make Decisions

Class 5 Our Policies And Procedures

Class 6 Lists And Registers

Class 7 The Services We Offer

Website

A lot of information is routinely available from the Parish Council's website at no charge. The Parish Council's website is found at <https://pethamparishcouncil.org.uk/>

A copy of this publication scheme will also be made available on the Parish Council website.

Charges for Information Published under this Scheme

Information available through this Council's publication scheme should be readily available at minimum cost to the public. In most cases charges will be made on the basis of cost recovery. Charges may be made for actual disbursements (e.g. photocopying and postage) and information that the council is legally authorised to charge for.

- Anyone requesting information will be notified of any charge before the information is provided.
- Payment will be requested before the information is supplied.
- A schedule of charges is appended to this document.

FOI requests and the Publication Scheme

It is important to note that a publication scheme simply sets out the information that is routinely available. Information that is not listed in the guide to information can still be requested and should be made available unless it can be legitimately withheld.

Information Published	How can this be obtained	Cost
Class 1 – Who We Are And What We Do Organisational information, structures, locations, and contacts) Note: This will be current information only		
Who's who on the Council	Who's who on the Council Website	Who's who on the Council Website – e-copy -Free Hard copy – contact Clerk Free 15p per s
Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))	Website Hard copy – contact Clerk	Website Hard copy 15p– contact Clerk
Main Council Offices	Canterbury City Council website	N/A
Staffing structures	N/A	N/A

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) Note: Current and previous financial year as a minimum available		
Annual return form and report by auditor	Website -free Hard copy – contact Clerk	Website - free Hard copy –15p per sheet
Finalised budget Hard copy – contact Clerk 10p per sheet	Hard copy – contact Clerk	Hard copy - 15p per sheet
Precept	Hard copy – contact Clerk	Hard copy - 15p per sheet
Borrowing Approval Letter	N/A	N/A
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Website Hard copy- contact Clerk	Website- free Hard copy - 15p per sheet
Grants Given and Received	Hard copy – contact Clerk	Hard copy –15p per sheet
List of Current Contracts Awarded and	Hard copy – contact	Hard copy –15p per sheet

Value	Clerk	
Members' expenses and allowances	Hard copy – contact Clerk	Hard copy –15p per sheet

Class 3 – What our Priorities Are And How We Are Doing (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections, and reviews)		
Annual Report to Parish or Community Meeting (current and previous year as a minimum)	Within Annual Parish Meeting Minutes	Website- Free Hard copy –15p per sheet

Class 4 – How We Make Decisions (Decision making processes and records of decisions) Current and previous council year as a minimum		
Timetable of Meetings (Committee, Subcommittee, and Parish Meetings)	Website Hard copy – contact Clerk	Website Free Hard copy- 15p per sheet
Agenda of Meetings (as above)	Website Hard copy – contact Clerk	Website Free Hard copy- 15p per sheet
Minutes of Meetings (as above) - this will exclude information that is regarded as private to the meeting.	Website Hard copy – contact Clerk	Website Free Hard copy- 15p per sheet
Reports Provided to Council meetings – this will exclude information that is regarded as private to the meeting.	Website – within Minutes Hard copy – contact Clerk	Website Free Hard copy- 15p per sheet
Results of Consultations	Hard copy- contact Clerk	Website Free Hard copy- 15p per sheet
Responses to planning applications	Website within published meeting Minutes Hard copy – contact Clerk	Website Free Hard copy- 15p per sheet
Byelaws	N/A	Website Free Hard copy- 15p per sheet

Class 5 – Our Policies and Procedures (Current written protocols, policies, and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities)		
Policies and Procedures for the Conduct of Council Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural standing orders • Committee and sub-committee • Delegated authority in respect of officers – currently N/A • Code of Conduct • Policy statements 	Website N/A	Free -
	N/A	-
	Website Website	Free Free
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and procedures for the provision of services and about the employment of staff • Internal policies relating to the delivery of services 	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety policy/risk assessments • Recruitment policies (including current vacancies) – N/A • Policies and procedures for handling requests for information (FOI & SAR) • Complaints procedures (including those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme) 	<p>Hard copy – contact Clerk</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Website</p> <p>Hard copy – contact Clerk</p> <p>Website</p> <p>Hard copy – contact Clerk</p>	<p>Hard copy - 15p per sheet</p> <p>-</p> <p>Free</p> <p>Hard copy - 15p per sheet</p> <p>Free</p> <p>Hard copy – 15p per sheet</p>
Information security policy	N/A	N/A
Records management policies (records retention, destruction, and archive)	Website	Free
	Hard copy – contact Clerk	Hard copy - 15p per sheet
Data Breach Policy/Subject Access Request Policy	Website	Free
	Hard copy – contact Clerk	Hard copy - 15p per sheet
Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)	Website	Free
	Hard copy – contact Clerk	Hard copy - 15p per sheet

Class 6 – Lists And Registers		
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 – contact Clerk	Hard copy – 15 p per sheet
Asset Register	Website	Free
	Hard copy – contact Clerk	Hard copy – 15 p per sheet
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)	Published on Folkestone and Hythe District Council website – linked from SMPC website	Free
Register of members' interests i) available to view from the Monitoring Officer, Canterbury City Council XXXXX	The Monitoring Officer Canterbury City Council Military Road Canterbury CT1 1YW	Free
ii) Current Members declaration of interests' forms		
Register of Gifts and Hospitality	Hard copy- - Contact Clerk	Hard copy – 15 p per sheet

Class 7 – The Services We Offer (Information About The Services We Offer, Including Leaflets, Guidance And Newsletters Produced For The Public And Businesses) Note: Current information only Note:		
Some information listed below may be available by inspection only		
Allotments	N/A	-
Burial Grounds and Closed Churches	N/A	-
Community Centre and Village Hubs	N/A	-
Parks, Playing Fields, Recreation Grounds	Contact Parish Clerk	-

Seating, Litter Bins, Clocks, Memorials, Lighting	Contact Parish Clerk	-
Bus Shelter	Contact Parish Clerk	-
Markets	N/A	-
Public Conveniences	N/A	-
Agency Agreements	Contact Parish Clerk	Contact Parish Clerk
A summary of services for which the Council is entitled to receive a fee, together with those fees	Contact Parish Clerk	Contact Parish Clerk
Additional information		
This will provide opportunity to publish information that is not itemised		

Contact details:

Chris Beatrup, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, Chris Beatrup
 <clerk@pethamparishcouncil.org.uk

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES

This describes how the charges have been arrived at and is published as part of this guide.

Type Of Charge	Description	Basis Of Charge
Disbursement cost	Photocopying @ 15p per sheet (black & white) Actual cost Photocopying @ 15p p	Actual Cost
	Photocopying @ 15p per sheet (colour) Actual cost Photocopying @ 15p p	Actual Cost
Postages		Charge based on Actual Cost of 2 nd Class post at time of posting
Statutory Fee		In accordance with the relevant legislation (quote the actual statute)
Other		

Chairman of Council's Signature:

Ratification date:

Review date:

1ST FEB 2024

1ST FEB 2025