**Peakirk Parish Council**

**Policy in relation to Filming and Use of Social Media in Parish Council Meetings**

Background: The Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 reaffirm the right of the press and public to attend and record the meetings of statutory bodies such as parish councils. The regulations allow the recording, broadcasting and use of social media to comment on council, committee and sub committee meetings if conducted in a non-disruptive manner during the course of a meeting.

Such rights as accorded in the legislation do not extend to recorded material being used:

\* out of sequence

\* in a way that it misinterprets the proceedings

\* in a manner that misinterprets the views of those speaking at the meeting

To ensure filming focuses on the work of the council Peakirk Parish Council has adopted the same protocol for citizen “journalists” as it does for the press.

When in attendance at Council meetings “journalists” are allocated an area in the room that permits those recording to have a clear view of the council and those speaking in a debate.

To facilitate the regulations the council allows a short time prior to and after the close of the meeting to allow any recoding equipment to be set up or removed.

The use of social media by those in attendance including councillors is permitted providing their use is not disruptive to the meeting or a debate.

The Chairman has the right to ask any person to leave a meeting or suspend a meeting if the actions of those in attendance, including councillors, are deemed to be sufficiently disruptive to impede the business of the meeting.

A note confirming the right and detailing the requirements for filming, recording and broadcasting council meetings will be included on council agendas displayed on the notice-board and on the council’s website.

The regulations do not apply to council meetings where the press and public are excluded and where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted at the meeting.

The regulations do not apply to working group or informal task group meetings.