



## Social Media Policy

STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL

This policy sets out the limits of social interaction on Town Council media such as Facebook, Twitter, Website and applies to both staff and councillors. Councillors must also regard themselves as elected representatives when they use social media in a personal capacity:

The over-riding objective of any communication will be to present Stonehouse, its elected representatives and statutory body in a positive way and to avoid bringing the authority into disrepute. Councillors are bound by the Council's Code of Conduct and Data Protection Policy.

You MAY post:

Announcements about forthcoming events

Agendas and Minutes of Council meetings, approved Policy documents

News or information items which have been submitted by other public bodies or voluntary organisations

Promotion of events which have taken place (Photographs may only be published with consent of individuals)

Congratulations to any causes or individuals where there has been a published news story or consent (with links to that news item)

A call for volunteers

Job vacancies

Tender opportunities

You MAY NOT post:

Personal opinions, likes or dislikes, about other social media news items

Comment on any individual or organisation in a negative or derisory way

Respond to other posts which draw you into open conversation or argument

Invite questions

Promote yourself or make political statements

Post photographs of any individuals unless you have consent of all subjects (minors must have parental consent)

Divulge personal details of any individual (except with their consent)

Publish anything which cannot be substantiated as fact

Use offensive or aggressive language or pursue a personal cause

Your views on matters to be discussed at future council meetings. These will be deemed to pre-determine or bias decision making and you will not be allowed to take part in the said meeting.

**MODERATION:**

Any party who publishes libellous statements on Council owned sites will have their content removed.

Unacceptable comment should be brought to the attention of the Town Clerk and those comments may be removed at her direction.