

Lower Beeding Parish Council

IT AND INTERNET POLICY

Introduction

Lower Beeding Parish Council (LBPC) promotes the use of internet and electronic mail to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council's functions. However, these facilities must be used responsibly and lawfully.

Use of Email

- The use of email to exchange correspondence requires the same professional standards as other forms of communication. You should not send or forward mail which is defamatory or offensive for whatever reason.
- All external emails must include the Council Name, the senders name and contact details.
- If the sender is conducting LBPC business all emails must be copied to the Clerk for legality and conformation to the LBPC Code of Conduct.
- The e-mail that is sent to external addresses should include the standard LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL disclaimer.
- Junk mail is a hazard of internet life and efforts should be made to isolate it at source, if not it should be deleted immediately, and no attachments should be opened. It is important to keep virus protection up to date.
- In order to protect from viruses, email attachments which might contain macros (word processor and spreadsheet files) or applications, should not be opened if they are from a sender whom you do not recognise, simply delete.
- Be aware that agreements made by email have the same status as letters or formal contracts.
- It is recommended that e-mails are retained for no more than twelve months before they are deleted. Those containing important material should be saved to a separate folder.

USB Sticks

Only USBs from known sources can be used on LBPC equipment. The USB data must not be opened via the USB but must be saved to the desktop and then opened. Opening data via the USB bypasses the security checks for viruses. Once the content has been security checked it can be used directly.

Office USBs that have been checked can be used to download information safely.

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Data protection

You must not include in the text of emails to be sent, or in files attached to them, sensitive personal data without appropriate protection in order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations.

Email to multiple addresses outside of LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL should be sent as blind copy, (bcc).

Internet

Do not download any material that you suspect may contain a virus.

Do not use material from the Internet without checking whether it is restricted by copyright or licensing laws.

No member of staff should access offensive material using LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL facilities.

Website

The website is updated by the Clerk who will monitor the up-loads content prior to it being put onto the website.

General

Computer games or personal software must not be loaded onto LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL equipment.

Each user is responsible for ensuring that the content of their computer is kept clean and for reporting any faults to the Chairman or Clerk.

All back-ups are stored off site.

Social media

The separate Social Media policy should be read in conjunction with this policy.