

Council proposals for Amendments to the Draft Recording of Meeting Policy.

Cllr. S Thomas:

1. I propose that as the current policy is fit for purpose and addresses any concerns that anyone may have regarding openness and transparency, that the existing policy remains in place and the Standing Orders are revised to bring them in line with the policy.

2. I propose to amend the policy to allow any Councillor who so chooses, to record any meeting that they attend. The Clerk's recording will remain the official recording.

Onto my amendments to the draft document supplied today:

1.1 All yellowed text other than "workings" to remain, with the sentence ending "ease of access to recordings of meetings.

1.3 Second sentence to read "The minutes of meetings and the Clerk's official recording are legal records of the meeting.

2.1 Remove red text. [Note to readers: What does anyone have to hide, what are people afraid of? In my view, the current policy has already been breached and this enacted at at least one previous meeting for nefarious purposes. I will happily elaborate.]

2.5 "Manipulated" to remain. [Note to readers: Why on earth should anyone be allowed to manipulate a recording, so on that basis it should be forbidden within the policy.]

3.1 Yellowed text to remain.

3.2 Paragraph 1, Yellowed text to remain. Red text to be removed with the wording, "*The recording(s) requested remain(s) the property of Neyland Town Council and no authority is given to me or any other person to edit, distribute, publish or broadcast any part or whole of any recording(s) provided, and such actions are prohibited. As per Neyland Town Council policy, the recording(s) are provided for access purposes only.*" moved to the end of 3,2 and noted that the text will be added to the email in which the recording is provided.

Paragraph 2, "automatically" to remain, "receipt by the Clerk" to remain, "with the recording being provided by email or other online resource, if technical issues prevent email sending," to be added. Remove the red sentence regarding "vexatious". [Note to readers: That is incredibly subjective, who makes that decision? What are people afraid of?]

3.3 Paragraph 1, Yellowed text to remain, red text to be removed.

Paragraph 2, Yellowed text to be amended to read "The Town Clerk will inform all Councillors by email of all access requests from members of the public, and will note the details of these requests in the Clerk's report during meetings of Full Council."

Paragraph 3, Red text to be removed.

3.4 Paragraph 1, Red text to be removed. Yellowed text to remain. Paragraph 2 to read, "The Town Clerk will inform all Councillors by email of all access requests from external agencies, and will note the details of these requests in the Clerk's report during meetings of Full Council." [Note to readers: Again, what are people afraid of, why would someone not want a recording to go to the Ombudsman, for example?]

4.1 Yellowed text to remain, red text to be removed. [Note to readers: It is too easy to delete a recording accidentally, or for a hard drive to be damaged, etc, so it is common sense to keep a backup. Why would anyone not do so?]

5.1 Red text to be removed. [Please advise what reason there could be to continue recording if a meeting was going into 'part 2'/private session, which by it's very nature is meant to be confidential.]

Cllr. A Phelan:

- 1.3: I would probably reference the legislation (I think it's Local Gov. Act, 1972, Part V, 35 (1 and 2) - I would double check in case I am wrong
- 2.5: I would also remove 'cropped' as edited is fine
- 3.3 (red para): I would double check whether the Council can name the individual in a Council meeting?
- 3.4 (second para): I would also state that the Clerk may withhold the reason or nature of the request as to not prejudice proceedings
- 5.1: I would probably add that if a Confidential Section of a meeting is indeed recorded, then the Clerk reserves the right to 'snip'/edit the Confidential Section out of the recording, if a request has gone in for that particular recording. Does that make sense? (redact)

Cllr. Rothero

To allow anyone who wishes to do so to record the meetings.