



Background

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 allows anyone attending a council meeting to report, record, film or photograph council meetings open to the public. Such recordings, however taken, can then be published to make them available to those who have not attended.

The public and press still have no rights of access or rights to record/report any confidential sessions.

Proposal

Whilst recording or reporting of meetings is permitted the council is still at liberty to set up guidelines. These could be as follows:

- those persons wishing to report/record should give prior notice to the clerk
- any reporting/recording should only be made from one fixed position in the designated public seating area
- any reporting/recording should not be disruptive or distracting to the good conduct of the meeting
- no flash or additional lighting is permitted
- attendees should be advised of any additional recording at the start of the meeting
- a person undertaking recording/reporting shall respect any request from members of the public if they do not wish to be filmed/recorded
- no oral commentary permitted
- the public accepts filming/recording will be suspended if there is any disturbance or suspension of proceedings
- any published report/recording should be accompanied by a statement of when/where the recording was made, the context, discussion taking place and identify the main speakers primarily by role or title.



Wiltshire Council also stipulates the following:

Any person or organisation choosing to film, record or broadcast any meetings of the council, or committees is responsible for any claims or other liabilities resulting from them so doing and by choosing to film record or broadcast proceedings they accept that they are required to indemnify the Council, its members and officers in relation to any such claims or liabilities.

Recommendation

Adopt all these proposals and publish guidelines to the website.

Sarah Howe

Committee Clerk