

Wayford Parish Council IT Policy

1. Introduction

Wayford parish council recognises the importance of effective and secure information technology (IT) and email usage in supporting its business, operations, and communications.

This policy outlines the guidelines and responsibilities for the appropriate use of IT resources and email by council members, employees, volunteers, and contractors.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals who use Wayford parish council's IT resources, including computers, networks, software, devices, data, and email accounts.

3. Acceptable use of IT resources and email

Wayford parish council IT resources and email accounts are to be used for official council-related activities and tasks. Limited personal use is permitted, provided it does not interfere with work responsibilities or violate any part of this policy. All users must adhere to ethical standards, respect copyright and intellectual property rights, and avoid accessing inappropriate or offensive content.

4. Device and software usage

At the present time Wayford Parish Council does not provide computer equipment to its Clerk or Councillors. The Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors work from their own homes on their personal equipment.

Wayford Parish Council pays for an email address for the Parish Clerk.

5. Data management and security

All sensitive and confidential Wayford parish council data should be stored and transmitted securely using approved methods. Regular data backups should be performed to prevent data loss, and secure data destruction methods should be used when necessary.

6. Network and internet usage

Wayford parish council does not have its own network and internet connections. All data sharing should be done responsibly and efficiently for official purposes with the Wayford Privacy Statement and GDPR regulations complied with. Downloading and sharing copyrighted material without proper authorisation is prohibited.

7. Email communication

Email accounts provided by Wayford parish council are for official communication only. Emails should be professional and respectful in tone. Confidential or sensitive information must not be sent via email unless it is encrypted.

Be cautious with attachments and links to avoid phishing and malware. Verify the source before opening any attachments or clicking on links.

8. Password and account security

Wayford parish council users are responsible for maintaining the security of their accounts and passwords. Passwords should be strong and not shared with others. Regular password changes are encouraged to enhance security.

9. Mobile devices and remote Work

Wayford parish council does not currently provide mobile devices to the Clerk or Councillors. When working remotely, users should follow the same security practices as if they were working from home.

10. Email monitoring

Wayford parish council reserves the right to monitor email communications to ensure compliance with this policy and relevant laws. Monitoring will be conducted in accordance with the Data Protection Act and GDPR.

11. Retention and archiving

Emails should be retained and archived in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements. Regularly review and delete unnecessary emails to maintain an organised inbox.

12. Reporting security incidents

All suspected security breaches or incidents should be reported immediately to the designated IT point of contact for investigation and resolution, currently the Clerk.

Report any email-related security incidents or breaches to the IT administrator immediately, currently the Clerk.

13 Training and awareness

Wayford parish council will enable its employees and councillors to attend regular training and access resources to educate themselves about IT security best practices, privacy concerns, and technology updates. All employees and councillors will be able to request training on email security and best practices.

14. Compliance and consequences

Breach of this IT and Email Policy may result in the suspension of IT privileges and further consequences as deemed appropriate.

15. Policy review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. Updates may be made to address emerging technology trends and security measures.

16. Contacts

For IT-related enquiries or assistance, users can contact The Clerk.

All staff and councillors are responsible for the safety and security of Wayford parish council's IT and email systems. By adhering to this IT and Email Policy, Wayford parish council aims to create a secure and efficient IT environment that supports its mission and goals.

Date: _____ 11th March 2026 _____

Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BM - Woodward". The "M" and "W" are capitalized and connected by a horizontal line. A small checkmark is present to the right of the signature.

Role: _____ Chair _____

Wayford Parish Clerk and IT administrator: - clerk@wayfordpc.org