

Laxton & Moorhouse PARISH COUNCIL IT POLICY

Approved 11 November 2025

1. Introduction

Laxton & Moorhouse 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 Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council's IT resources, including computers, networks, software, devices, data, and email accounts.

3. Acceptable use of IT resources and email

Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council's 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.

Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council's Facebook page is managed under the council's Social Media Code of Conduct.

4. Device and software usage

Where possible, authorised devices, software, and applications will be provided by Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council for work-related tasks.

Unauthorised installation of software on authorised devices, including personal software, is strictly prohibited due to security concerns.

5. Data management and security

All sensitive and confidential Laxton & Moorhouse 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

Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council's network and internet connections should be used responsibly and efficiently for official purposes. Downloading and sharing copyrighted material without proper authorisation is prohibited.

7. Email communication

Email accounts provided by Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council 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

Laxton & Moorhouse 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

Mobile devices provided by Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council should be secured with passcodes and/or biometric authentication. When working remotely, users should follow the same security practices as if they were in the office.

10. Email monitoring

Laxton & Moorhouse 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 clerk and chair for investigation and resolution. Report any email-related security incidents or breaches to the clerk and chair immediately. In the event that an incident involves the chair, it should be re[ported to the clerk and vice chair. In the event that it involves the clerk, it should be reported to the chair and vice chair.

13 Training and awareness

Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council will provide regular training and resources to educate users about IT security best practices, privacy concerns, and technology updates. All employees and councillors will receive regular training on email security and best practices.

14. Compliance and consequences

Breach of this policy may result in the suspension of IT privileges and further consequences as deemed appropriate in accordance with the relevant policies and legal requirements.

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 at Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council.

All staff and councillors are responsible for the safety and security of Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council's IT and email systems. By adhering to this policy, Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council aims to create a secure and efficient IT environment that supports its mission and goals.