

MUNDESLEY-on-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY

Mundesley-on-Sea Parish Council (MPC) has a commitment to openness and transparency and has always been concerned to make relevant information available wherever possible to individuals who may request it, subject to safeguarding the privacy of individuals and to legitimate considerations of national security, law enforcement and commercial interests where relevant.

1. The Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Freedom of Information Act, which came into force on 1 January 2005, gives everyone a statutory right of access to information held by bodies such as the Parish Council.

2. The Revised Model Publication Scheme

As of the issue date on this policy, MPC adopted the revised model publication scheme issued by the Information Commissioner's Office. You can access a copy of the model scheme at the bottom of this document.

3. Website

A significant amount of information about MPC can be accessed on MPC's website.

4. Requesting Information

Individuals or organisations may make a written request for information which they believe MPC holds. To request information under the provisions of the Act, and to help MPC in identifying the precise information you require please email oreenmundesleypc@gmail.com, or write to the Clerk at Mundesley-on-Sea Parish Council, The Old Fire Station, Back Street, Mundesley, NR11 8JJ.

As required under the Act, the following will need to be included with the request:

- Name of person requesting the information
- Postal address of the person requesting the information
- A clear description of the information being requested.
- A preference of how the information is to be communicated e.g. hard copy, electronic or the opportunity to inspect a record containing the information.

MPC will try to provide the information in the preferred media as far as is reasonably practical, or will notify the person requesting the information if MPC cannot do so.

5. Responding to Requests

MPC will inform the person requesting the information in writing if MPC hold the information requested and if so, will provide the information no later than 20 working days after receipt of the request.

6. Information Exempt from the Act

The Freedom of Information Act does identify a number of categories of information which MPC is not required to disclose under the Act. In this case, MPC will write to the person requesting the information, stating the exemption which provides the basis for refusal within the Act and why it applies to the information requested. MPC will communicate this within 20 working days.

7. Charges

There is no “flat rate” fee to receive information requested under the Freedom of Information Act and in many cases MPC will provide the information free of charge. However, if the information requested is not readily available in the media in which it is requested, MPC may charge a fee based on the costs associated with providing the information e.g. photocopying and postage (known as ‘disbursements’).

8. Refusal of Requests

The Freedom of Information Act does permit MPC to refuse a request if MPC estimate that it will cost MPC in excess of the appropriate cost limit (currently £450) to fulfil the request.

9. Freedom of Information Fees Notice

If a fee is required for disbursements or because the costs exceed the appropriate cost limit, MPC will write advising of the fee required within 20 working days of receipt of the request. This is known as a “Fees Notice”. When a Fees Notice has been issued, the 20 working day limit for responding stops, and then will start again when MPC receive payment. If MPC do not receive the fee within three months MPC are not obliged to comply with the request.

10. Complaints

If persons requesting information are dissatisfied with the way MPC has responded to a request for information, please write to: The Clerk, Mundesley-on-Sea Parish Council, The Old Fire Station, Back Street, Mundesley, NR11 8JJ.

The Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) is responsible for enforcing the operation of the Act, and you may raise issues with this office at any time. More information can be found on the ICO website or by writing to the Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Information available from Mundesley-on-Sea Parish Council under the model publication scheme adopted on 2 November 2015

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
<p>Class1 - Who we are and what we do (Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts) This will be current information only. N.B. Councils should already be publishing as much information as possible about how they can be contacted.</p>	Hard copy and / or website	
Who's who on the Council and its Committees	Hard copy or website	
Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))	Hard copy or website	
Location of main Council office and accessibility details	Hard copy	
Staffing structure	Hard copy	
<p>Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it (Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit) Current and previous financial year as a minimum</p>	Hard copy and / or website	
Annual return form and report by auditor	Hard copy	
Finalised budget	Hard copy	
Precept	Hard copy	
Borrowing Approval letter	Hard copy	

Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Hard copy or website	
Grants given and received	Hard copy	
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Hard copy	
Members' allowances and expenses	Hard copy	
Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews) Current and previous year as a minimum	Hard copy or website	
Parish Plan (current and previous year as a minimum)	N/A	
Annual Report to Parish or Community Meeting (current and previous year as a minimum)	Hard copy or website	
Quality status	N/A	
Local charters drawn up in accordance with DCLG guidelines	N/A	
Class 4 – How we make decisions (Decision making processes and records of decisions) Current and previous council year as a minimum	Hard copy and / or website	
Timetable of meetings (Council and any committee/sub-committee meetings and parish meetings)	Hard copy or website	
Agendas of meetings (as above)	Hard copy or website	
Minutes of meetings (as above) – n.b. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Hard copy or website	

Reports presented to council meetings – n.b. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Hard copy	
Responses to consultation papers	Hard copy	
Responses to planning applications	Hard copy or website	
Bye-laws	Hard copy	
Class 5 – Our policies and procedures (Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities) Current information only	Hard copy or website	
Policies and procedures for the conduct of Council business: Procedural standing orders Committee and sub-committee terms of reference Delegated authority in respect of officers Code of Conduct Policy statements	Hard copy or website	
Policies and procedures for the provision of services and about the employment of staff: Internal instructions to staff and policies relating to the delivery of services Equality and diversity policy Health and safety policy – N/A Recruitment policies (including current vacancies) Policies and procedures for handling requests for information Complaints procedures (including those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme)	Hard copy or website	

Information security policy	Hard copy	
Records management policies (records retention, destruction and archive)	Hard copy	
Data protection policies	Hard copy	
Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)	Hard copy	
Class 6 – Lists and Registers Currently maintained lists and registers only	(hard copy or website; some information may only be available by inspection)	
Any publicly available register or list (if any are held this should be publicised; in most circumstances existing access provisions will suffice)	Hard copy	
Assets register	Hard copy and website	
Disclosure log (indicating the information that has been provided in response to requests; recommended as good practice, but may not be held by parish councils)	N/A	
Register of members' interests	Hard copy	
Register of gifts and hospitality	Hard copy	
Class 7 – The services we offer (Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses) Current information only	(hard copy or website; some information may only be available by inspection)	
Allotments	N/A	
Burial grounds and closed churchyards	N/A	
Community centres and village halls	N/A	

Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities	Hard copy and website	
Seating, litter bins, clocks, memorials and lighting	Hard copy	
Bus shelters	Hard copy	
Markets	N/A	
Public conveniences	Hard copy	
Agency agreements	Hard copy	
Services for which the council is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees (e.g. burial fees)	N/A	
Additional Information This will provide Councils with the opportunity to publish information that is not itemised in the lists above		

Schedule of Charges

This describes how the charges have been arrived at and should be published as part of the guide.

Type of Charge	Description	Basis of Charge
Disbursement cost	Photocopying @ 10p per sheet (black & white)	Actual cost
	Photocopying @ 20p per sheet (colour)	Actual cost
	Postage	Actual cost of Royal Mail standard 2 nd class
Statutory fee		Max £450
Other		

Contact Details:

The Clerk

The Old Fire Station, Back Street, Mundesley

Tel: 01263 720603

e-mail: doreenmundesley@gmail.com