



Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

CCTV DATA PROTECTION POLICY

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Watton-at-Stone Parish Council (the Council) uses closed circuit television (CCTV) images to deter and reduce crime and antisocial activity in order to provide a safe and secure environment for members of the public, and to prevent the loss or damage to property.
- 1.2 The CCTV Scheme is registered with the Information Commissioner under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998. The use of CCTV and the associated images is governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. This policy outlines the Council's use of CCTV and how it complies with the Act.

2 Statement of Intent

- 2.1 The Council complies with Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) CCTV Code of Practice to ensure it is used responsibly, and safeguards both trust and confidence in its continued use. The Code of Practice is published on the ICO website.
- 2.2 In areas where CCTV is used, the Council will ensure that there are prominent signs placed within the controlled area.
- 2.3 It is not possible to guarantee that the system will cover or detect every single incident taking place in the areas of coverage.

3 Description of the CCTV System

- 3.1 The system shall consist of a number of fixed high-definition cameras and a multi-channel control unit complete with built in USB drive.
- 3.2 The system does not have sound recording capability.
- 3.3 The CCTV system is owned and operated by the Parish Council and is controlled by them.
- 3.4 The CCTV may be monitored centrally from a secure location in the Nigel Poulton Community Hall
- 3.5 Access to recordings shall be securely password-protected to prevent unauthorised access.
- 3.6 All authorised operators with access to images are aware of the procedures that need to be followed when accessing the recorded images. All operators are aware of the restrictions in relation to access to, and disclosure of, recorded images.

4 Siting the Cameras

- 4.1 The Council has carried out a privacy impact assessment (PIA).
- 4.2 Cameras will be sited so they only capture images relevant to the purposes for which they are intended.
- 4.3 The Council will ensure that the location of equipment is carefully considered to ensure that images captured comply with the Data Protection Act.
- 4.4 Cameras will be mounted in such a way as to avoid pointing directly at occupied properties, And care will be taken to ensure that reasonable privacy expectations are not violated.

5 Normal Operation

- 5.1 Other than for routine testing purposes, real-time CCTV images will not be monitored.
- 5.2 CCTV images will be automatically recorded on a secure, password-protected control unit, and shall be automatically deleted after a defined period not normally exceeding 30 days.
- 5.3 Recorded CCTV images will normally be accessed by authorised personnel only in the event of a qualifying incident, or during routine system testing.

6 Storage and Retention of CCTV images

Recorded data will be retained for no longer than is necessary. While retained, the integrity of the recordings will be maintained to ensure their evidential value and to protect the rights of the people whose images have been recorded. All retained data will be stored securely.

7 Applications to Review CCTV images and Disclosure of Images to Third Parties

- 8.1 Individuals may apply for CCTV footage to be reviewed when a crime or incident has occurred, and there is a reasonable likelihood that the event or evidence has been captured by the CCTV system.
- 8.2 Individuals submitting applications for a review of CCTV recordings will be required to provide sufficient information to enable the request to be considered and for the relevant footage to be located. This will include the date, time, location, and nature of the incident.
- 8.3 An authorised person will then determine whether the incident warrants examination of the recording and whether there is a reasonable likelihood that the event or evidence has been captured by the CCTV system.
- 8.4 The Council reserves the right to refuse to examine CCTV footage for minor or trivial events, or where dates and times cannot be provided, or if the likelihood of the event being captured by the CCTV system is low.
- 8.5 Access to recorded images will be restricted to those personnel authorised to view them, and will not be made more widely available.
- 8.6 There will be no disclosure of recorded data to third parties other than to enforcement authorities such as the Police, and statutory organisations where these would reasonably and lawfully need access to the data.
- 8.7 Applications should be made in writing to the Parish Clerk. There may be a charge, which may be waived in the event that images of the crime or incident are captured by the CCTV system.

9 Subject Access Requests (SAR)

- 9.1 Individuals have the right to request access to CCTV footage relating to themselves under the Data Protection Act.
- 9.2 All requests should be made in writing to the Parish Clerk.
- 9.3 Individuals submitting requests for access will be required to provide sufficient information to enable the relevant footage to be identified. For example, the date, time, location, and description of the applicant. A recent photograph may also be required to aid identification.
- 9.4 Individuals submitting requests for access will be required to provide proof of identity.
- 9.4 A fee of £10 will be charged per request.**
- 9.5 The Council will endeavour to respond to requests within 28 calendar days of receiving the written request and fee, but in any event no later than 40 days.
- 9.6 The Council may be unable to provide copies of images where this may prejudice the legal rights of other individuals during a Police investigation.

9 Policy Review

Policies, procedures, passwords, and authorised personnel shall be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

10 Complaints

Complaints and enquiries about the operation of CCTV within the Council should be directed to the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

11 Further Information

Further information on CCTV and its use is available from the following:

- CCTV Code of Practice (published by the Information Commissioners Office)
- Surveillance Camera Code of Practice (published by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner)
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Human Rights Act 1998