

SPRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

Introduction

Spratton Parish Council is committed to compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (“the Act”), which came into force on the 1st March 2000. The Council will therefore follow procedures that aim to ensure that all employees, elected members, contractors, agents, consultants, partners or other servants of the Council, who have access to any personal data held by or on behalf of the Council, are fully aware of and abide by their duties and responsibilities under the Act.

In order to operate efficiently, Spratton Parish Council has to collect and use information about people with whom it works or otherwise interacts. These may include members of the public, current, past and prospective employees, clients and customers, and suppliers.

All personal information must be handled and dealt with properly, however it is collected, recorded and used, and whether it be on paper, in computer records or recorded by any other means.

The principles of data protection

The Act stipulates that anyone processing personal data must comply with **Eight Principles** of good practice. These Principles are legally enforceable. The Principles require that personal information:

1. Shall be processed fairly and lawfully and in particular, shall not be processed unless specific conditions are met;
2. Shall be obtained only for one or more specified and lawful purposes and shall not be further processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or those purposes;
3. Shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose or purposes for which it is processed;
4. Shall be accurate and where necessary, kept up to date;
5. Shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes;
6. Shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under the Act;
7. Shall be kept secure i.e. protected by an appropriate degree of security;
8. Shall not be transferred to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area, unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of data protection.

Implementation

The Clerk will be responsible for ensuring that the Policy is implemented, and monitored.