

MARSH GIBBON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@marshgibbon-pc.gov.uk

Website: <http://marshgibbon-pc.gov.uk>

Tel: 01296 770568

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) POLICY

1. Purpose

This policy defines how Marsh Gibbon Parish Council manages its use of information technology, in line with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities (2015) and the 2025 edition of the Practitioner's Guide. It ensures the council's digital operations are transparent, secure and compliant with data protection laws..

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals who use Marsh Gibbon Parish Council's IT resources, including computers, networks, software, devices, data, and email accounts.

3. Governance and Oversight

Marsh Gibbon 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

Where required, authorised devices, software, and applications will be provided by Marsh Gibbon 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 Marsh Gibbon 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, internet and social media usage

Marsh Gibbon 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.

All social media posts and responses must be made via the Parish Council's site or using the Parish Council's user name (keeping the individual Members confidential). All responses should be timely, polite, and respectful in tone and content

7. Email communication

Email accounts provided by Marsh Gibbon Parish Council are for official communication only. All correspondence made on behalf of the Parish Council must be made using these official email accounts. Emails should be professional, and respectful in tone and content. 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

Marsh Gibbon 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 further enhance security.

Where personal devices are used for Parish Council activities, these should all have suitable antivirus and anti-spam security software, as well as being password/biometric protected. This includes all laptops, tablets and smart phones.

9. Mobile devices and remote Work

Mobile devices provided by Marsh Gibbon 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.

Where personal devices are used for Parish Council activities, these should all have suitable antivirus and anti-spam security software, this includes all laptops, tablets and smart phones.

10. Email monitoring

Marsh Gibbon 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 (clerk@marshgibbon-pc.gov.uk) for investigation and resolution . Report any email-related security incidents or breaches to the IT administrator immediately.

13 Training and awareness

Marsh Gibbon Parish Council will arrange, when required, training and resources to educate users about IT security best practices, privacy concerns, and technology updates.

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 Parish Clerk.

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

VERSION HISTORY					
Version	Approved by	Date	Description of Change		Author
1.0	Full Council	May 2026	New document		CJ
PREPARED BY	Carole Jackman	TITLE	CLERK	Date	Apl 2026