

A number of Councillors use Facebook as a tool for communicating with parishioners. In order to protect the Council, and those Councillors who choose this method of communication we make the following recommendations.

All posts should include a disclaimer such as "this is the personal view of an individual councillor, and does not represent the official views of the council".

Profile names should make it clear that you are a Councillor, and not an official representative of the Council.

There is various advice available online, <http://socialmedia.21st.cc/the-guide> is a good source:-

In the main, Councillors have the same legal duties online as anyone else, but failures to comply with the law may have more serious consequences. There are some additional duties around using their websites for electoral campaigning and extra care needs to be taken when writing on planning matters.[http://socialmedia.21st.cc/the-guide/a-word-of-warning/-TB\\_inline?height=440&width=380&inlineId=popupcomments-4](http://socialmedia.21st.cc/the-guide/a-word-of-warning/-TB_inline?height=440&width=380&inlineId=popupcomments-4)

You need to take care to avoid various infringements, including libel, copyright, bias & predetermination, data protection and the members' code of conduct should be complied with at all times.

You will need to be particularly aware of the following sections of the Code:[http://socialmedia.21st.cc/the-guide/a-word-of-warning/-TB\\_inline?height=440&width=380&inlineId=popupcomments-26](http://socialmedia.21st.cc/the-guide/a-word-of-warning/-TB_inline?height=440&width=380&inlineId=popupcomments-26)

- *Treat others with respect. Avoid personal attacks and disrespectful, rude or offensive comments.*
- *Comply with equality laws. Take care in publishing anything that might be considered sexist, racist, ageist, homophobic or anti-faith.*
- *Refrain from publishing anything you have received in confidence.*
- *Ensure you don't bring the council, or your councillor role, into disrepute.*