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**Oakthorpe Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council**

**Computer and Equipment Use Policy**

1. Purpose

This policy formalises how information technology and associated equipment should be used by Councillors, employees, volunteers and where appropriate contractors of Parish Council.

2. Scope

Computer equipment, software, data access and services provided by Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council for use in conducting Council business is supplied on the following terms and conditions as set out below.

3. General

3.1 These Conditions of Use may be modified from time to time, in response to changing circumstances of an operational, legislative or technological nature.

3.2 Periodic checks may be made by Internal Audit or the Manager to ensure compliance with these conditions. Where required to do so you must disclose passwords for this purpose. Always check with

the Manager before disclosing passwords.

4 Ownership

4.1 The computer equipment, software, data access and services provided are the property of ODA Parish Council. The equipment shall be recorded in the inventory of IT equipment.

The email account, software and Chrome book are provided for the duration of your work with the Council.

4.2 At the end of that period services provided will be terminated and equipment and software must be returned to ODA Parish Council in full working condition.

4.3 If equipment has been lost or damaged whilst on loan, a charge may be made for its replacement or repair if it is believed to have been handled unreasonably.

5 Installation

5.1 The equipment, software and services will be prepared for your use by an officer of ODA Parish Council.

5.2 ODA Parish Council will be responsible for supplying the equipment and any leads necessary to operate the equipment.

6 Training

It is the responsibility of the Manager to ensure that every member of Council can access emails and training whilst working on ODA Parish

Council. Systems has been given sufficient training to use the systems.

If any councillor believes they need training this should be raised with the manager.

7 Use of Computer Equipment, Software and Services

7.1 The equipment, software and services are provided for use in respect of ODA Parish Council business. In making use of the facilities provided you are required to comply with ODA Parish Council’s policy and guidelines with respect to the use of Information Communications Technology.

These include, but are not limited to:

• Data Protection Policies.

• Communication Policy

The relevant policies can be found on Share Point in ‘Chrome Book Support Policies’.

7.2 The relevant policies will have been supplied to you and are available on the ODA Parish Council shared drive and website.

7.3 When accessing the internet, you should be aware that the Internet contains potentially offensive material.

7.6 ODA Parish Council accepts no liability for any offence, injury or consequences that may result from your use of the Internet and its associated facilities. See section 8 for more detail.

7.7 You are also reminded of your responsibility of probity-*the quality of having strong moral principles; honesty and decency* (see section 9).

8 Legal Implications

8.1 ODA Parish Council must comply with all UK legislation with respect to the use of ICT. In using ODA Parish Council facilities, you must do likewise. You may be held personally liable for any breach of current legislation and any future legislation that may be enacted.

8.2 Examples of current legislation include, but are not limited to:

• Data Protection Act 1998.

• General Data Protection Regulations.

• Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988.

• Computer Misuse Act 1990.

• Obscene Publications Act 1959.

• Freedom of Information Act 2000.

8.3 It is your responsibility to ensure that your use of any personal information complies with the provisions of the Data Protection legislation.

8.4 The transmission of personal information contained within electronic mail or as an attachment to electronic mail is also subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

8.5 Personal information must not be sent over the internet without consent.

8.6 Printed reports must be disposed of with regard to the sensitivity of the information concerned and all material referring to personal data must be disposed of in accordance with ODA Parish Council’s policies and procedures.

8.7 Please also be aware that no unauthorised disclosure of information is permitted and all requests for access to personal data must be referred to the Manager.

8.8 The use, or possession, of unlicensed copies or "pirated" versions of software is illegal and is expressly prohibited under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act.

8.9 The use of equipment must follow all relevant legislation.

8.10 For specific guidance, please contact the Manager.

9 Computer Security

9.1 The Information Commissioners Office guidelines must be always complied with (see date protection/ data breech policies)

9.2 All Passwords should not contain personal information such as your name or date of birth; passwords must contain at least one letter, one.

number and one special character e.g., #

9.3 Information concerning ODA Parish Council’s computer security arrangements and access arrangement must not be divulged to unauthorised persons.

9.4 The use of all media (e.g., Memory Sticks) must conform to the media policy, and must be checked for viruses before use.

9.5 Where a virus is suspected/detected, the matter must be reported to the Manager immediately. Until virus repair is affected, an infected device must not be used.

9.6 Virus repair must be undertaken only by or under the guidance of the Manager or other authorised person.

9.7 Software or programs (including screen savers and wallpaper) must not be downloaded from the Internet or installed from removable media. This includes programs or software available for trial purposes or those that are free of charge.

9.8 No software can be loaded onto ODA Parish Council ICT equipment, except by the prior approval.

9.9 Where information is kept on portable media, such as USB sticks, then such media must be kept securely when not in use.

9.10 Where stolen equipment is recovered; or where it is suspected that equipment has been tampered with, it must be returned to the Manager to take the appropriate action.

10 Risk Management and Insurance

10.1 As part of its risk management and risk financing arrangements, the Council maintains insurance on the equipment provided to you.

10.2 All computer equipment must be secured from theft or unauthorised use as far as is practical.

10.3 If you travel with your Chrome book, it should not be left in an unattended vehicle unless there is no other option, in which case it should be secured out of sight in the boot. There is no insurance cover for losses arising from unlocked vehicles, hotel rooms or other unsecured situations.

Therefore, you should be especially careful when taking your Chrome Book away from Council buildings, as you will be liable for any such loss.

10.4 Any loss of, or damage to, the equipment should be reported as soon as possible to the Manager, and any criminal damage should be reported to the Police.

10.5 Any loss of personal data as the result of loss or theft of equipment shall be reported to the Manager and the Manager will arrange reporting to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

11 Internet Access and Electronic Mail

11.1 Internet access, electronic mail, electronic diaries and associated services may be made available for your use, if required in connection with Council business.

11.2 The policy for acceptable use of the Internet must be always adhered to.

11.3 Email will be provided using the corporate email service. You will be provided with an official Council electronic mail address. You are requested to monitor and manage your electronic mail on a regular basis.

11.4 In accordance with the Telecommunications (lawful business practice) Interception of communications regulations, the Council may lawfully view and monitor all email created, sent, forwarded, received or saved on the corporate email system without prior notice, and reserves the right to do so. You are therefore advised to think carefully before the facilities provided are used to communicate personal or sensitive information. The nature and content of electronic mail should be considered carefully and treated in the same way you would conventionally mail.

11.6 The Council may also lawfully view and monitor all internet access and reserves the right to do so.

11.7 You are reminded that Council equipment may only be used for lawful purposes. Viewing or transmission of any material which may be regarded as offensive or in violation of any UK law or legislation is not permitted. Such material may include copyright material, material judged to be threatening, pornographic, obscene or sexually explicit and material protected by trade secret.

12 Probity

12.1 All officers and members are reminded that you are bound by the relevant codes of conduct and policies and that general principles contained within these also apply to specific instances, such as the use of the Internet or e-mail. You should ensure that your conduct accords with the requirements of the codes and policies.

12.2 Any allegations of breach of the Code will be referred to the Manager or Chair of the Council for investigation.

13 Support

13.1 Any computer equipment or software problems which occur should be reported to the Manager.

13.2 No support will usually be provided outside of normal working hours.

13.3 In the event that the equipment suffers a complete hardware malfunction, ODA Parish Council will be responsible for putting the equipment back to the condition in which it was first supplied. ODA Parish Council will also reinstate, in so far as is reasonable and possible, information and data secured from the most recent backup.

14 Data Use

14.1 Any data that is available to be accessed must only be used for ODA Parish Council purposes and must not be transferred to any third party or other employers without the explicit agreement of the

Manager.

14.2 Confidential information held by ODA Parish Council will be given out in the relevant meeting and collected in afterwards for disposal. It will not be stored on personal laptops, phone, drives or. Council owned Chrome books.

15. Record of Equipment Software and Services Issued

Equipment:

Number:

Software:

18 DECLARATIONS

I confirm that: I have received the equipment, software and services specified above.

I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of use as set out above.

Signed

Print Name: -

Date