



## **Huntington Parish Council - Social Media Engagement and Conduct Policy**

### **1. Engaging with the Council on Social Media**

1.1 The Council welcomes engagement from members of the public, local organisations, community groups, members of the press, elected councillors, and others within the wider community through its official social media channels.

1.2 We encourage individuals and groups to share content from our official social media accounts, especially during emergency situations or when timely dissemination of information is critical.

1.3 Councillors may also choose to engage with residents through their own official or personal 'councillor' social media accounts. These accounts are managed independently and may not reflect the official views or policies of the Council.

1.4 All individuals and organisations are responsible for the content they choose to post or share on their social media platforms, including reposting or sharing content created by others.

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### **2. Standards of Conduct on Social Media**

2.1 The Council is committed to treating everyone with courtesy, professionalism and respect on its social media channels. We ask that all users engaging with us uphold the same standard.

2.2 Council staff and elected members should be treated respectfully at all times. Bullying, harassment or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.

2.3 Council staff and councillors have the right to conduct their work and civic responsibilities without fear of abuse or intimidation. Any behaviour-verbal, written, or physical-that causes staff or councillors to feel threatened, embarrassed, or harassed is unacceptable.

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### **3. Reporting and Managing Inappropriate Conduct**

3.1 Staff and others managing the Council's social media accounts will operate in line with internal policies and procedures, including the Council's Code of Conduct.

3.2 Abusive, threatening, or offensive behaviour directed at the Council via social media may be documented and reported. The Council may retain evidence, such as screenshots, and take appropriate action in response (see below).

3.3 The Council reserves the right to moderate its social media channels. This may include hiding or deleting posts, blocking users, or reporting inappropriate behaviour to the relevant platform in accordance with platform guidelines and Council policy.

3.4 In cases involving persistent abuse, impersonation (e.g. fake accounts), or other serious conduct issues, the Council may report incidents directly to the relevant social media platform.

3.5 If a post or interaction appears to involve criminal behaviour-such as hate speech, threats of violence, or harassment-the Council may refer the matter to the Police or relevant authority.

3.6 Anyone who believes that a councillor, council staff member, or member of the public has failed to act with civility or respect on our social media channels is encouraged to report the matter to the Council.

3.7 To report an incident or raise a concern, please contact:

**Ebony Frankland**  
**Deputy Parish Clerk**

- **Address:** 26 Strensall Road, Huntington, York, YO32 9RG
- **Telephone:** 07354 670192
- **Email:** clerk@huntington-pc.gov.uk