

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – PUBLICATION SCHEME

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council, like all other public authorities, is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”). The Act aims to make information held by public authorities more accessible to the public and allows individuals and companies to request a wide variety of material. This document is based on the Model Publication Scheme for Parish / Community Councils as approved by the Information Commissioner.

Many of the items covered by the Scheme are regularly published on the noticeboards and on the website. The terms under which other items of information may be viewed are set out below. The categories of information covered by the Scheme, and the terms pertaining to each, are listed in the schedule below.

TERMS UNDER WHICH ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE

1. Items will be available for inspection only to Boughton Monchelsea parishioners unless the Parish Council agrees that an exception should be made.
2. Where items are not freely available on the noticeboards or the website, a copy may be requested by e-mail or in writing giving 20 working days notice from the Parish Clerk (80 Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Maidstone, Kent. ME17 4HN) and a charge of 20p per sheet with a minimum charge of £2.00 will be made to cover the cost of the photocopying, the Clerk’s time in dealing with the request, and the postage and packing (by Royal Mail Second Class Delivery). The charge is to ensure that ratepayers do not have to pay collectively for the added legal requirement but so that it shall fall on individuals who exercise the right. It is also intended to act as a deterrent to frivolous or mischievous requests. The 20 day period of response is set on hold until the fee is duly paid. If the fee is not paid within 3 months the request is deemed to have lapsed. All requests must state the name and address of the person applying for the information and the required information.
3. If your preference is to inspect the records containing the information, written application should be made at 20 working days notice to the Clerk for an appointment for viewing at the parish office. A reasonable time will be allowed for viewing and the taking of notes. A charge will be made not exceeding £10.
4. Information will not be made available where it is readily available elsewhere e.g. at the Borough Council’s Offices under existing arrangements.

CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION COVERED BY THE PUBLICATION SCHEME AND HOW THEY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE

CLASS 1 – Who we are and what we do – *Current information only*

(Organisation Information, Structures, Locations and Contracts)

- 1.1 Who's who on the Council and its Committees**
Published on the website and on the noticeboards
- 1.2 Contact details for the Parish Clerk and Council Members**
Published on the website and on the noticeboards
- 1.3 Location of main Council office and accessibility details**
Published on the website and on the noticeboards
- 1.4 Staffing structure**
Available by written request to the clerk

CLASS 2 – What we spend and how we spend it – *Current and previous financial year only*

(Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit)

- 2.1 Annual return form and report by auditor**
Available by written request to the clerk
- 2.2 Finalised budget**
Available by written request to the clerk
- 2.3 Precept**
Available by written request to the clerk
- 2.4 Financial Regulations**
Published on the website and available by written request to the clerk
- 2.5 Grants received and given**
Available by written request to the clerk
- 2.6 List of current contracts awarded and value of contracts**
Available by written request to the clerk
- 2.7 Members allowances and expenses**
Available by written request to the clerk

CLASS 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing

(Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews)

- 3.1 Made Neighbourhood Plan**
Available on the website and by written request to the clerk
- 3.2 Chairman's reports (*current and previous year only*)**
Published in the Parish Council newsletters and available by written request to the clerk

CLASS 4 – How do we make decisions – *Current and previous year only*

(Decision making processes and records of decisions)

- 4.1 Timetable of Council meetings including committees**
Published on the website

- 4.2 Agendas of meetings including committees**
Published on the website and on noticeboard
- 4.3 Minutes of meetings including committees** (will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting)
Published on the website
- 4.4 Reports presented to Council meetings** (will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting)
Available by written request to the clerk
- 4.5 Responses to consultation papers**
Available by written request to the clerk
- 4.6 Responses to planning applications**
Available on the website and by written request to the clerk

CLASS 5 – Our policies and procedures – *Current information only*

(Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivery of our services and responsibilities)

The following information is available by written request to the clerk

- 5.1 Procedural standing orders**
- 5.2 Committee terms of reference**
- 5.3 Delegated authority in respect of officers**
- 5.4 Code of conduct**
- 5.5 Policy Statements**
- 5.6 Complaints Procedures** (including those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme)

CLASS 6 – Lists and registers – *Current maintained lists and registers only*

The following information is available by written request to the clerk

- 6.1 Any publicly available register or list**
- 6.2 Asset register**
- 6.3 Register of members' interests**
- 6.4 Register of gifts and hospitality**

CLASS 7 – The services we offer – *Current information only*

(Information about the services we offer, including leaflets and newsletters)

The following information is available by written request to the clerk

- 7.1 Public open spaces, playing fields and recreational facilities**