

For Information

Data Protection Policy

Adopted: 05/03/2026

Chairman: Cllr. D. Peat

Minute Ref.: 260503/9

*Administered by Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
to Simonstone Parish Council.*

Review Date: March 2027

INTRODUCTION

Simonstone Parish Council recognises its responsibility to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation. The act and regulation regulate the use of personal data, this does not have to be sensitive data, it can be as little as a name and address.

THE DATA PROTECTION ACT:

The Data Protection Act 1998 sets out high standards for the handling of personal information and protecting individuals' rights for privacy. It also regulates how information can be collected, handled and used. The Data Protection Act applies to anyone holding information about people electronically or on paper.

THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION:

The General Data Protection Regulation 2018 says that the information provided to people about how we process their personal data must be concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible, written in clear and plain language, particularly if addressed to a child and free of charge. As a local authority Simonstone Parish Council has a number of procedures in place to ensure that it complies with The Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 when holding personal information.

When dealing with personal data, Simonstone Parish Council's Clerk and Councillors must ensure that:

- it is processed fairly and lawfully

This means that information should only be collected from individuals if staff and Councillors have been open and honest about why they want the information.

- it is processed for specified purposes only
- it is relevant to what it is needed for

Data will be monitored so that too much or too little is not kept; only data that is needed should be held.

- it is accurate and kept up to date

Personal data should be accurate, if it is not, it should be corrected.

- it is not kept longer than it is needed
- it is processed in accordance with the rights of individuals

This means that individuals must be informed, upon request, of all the information held about them.

- it is kept securely

This means that only the Clerk and Councillors can access the data, it should be stored securely so it cannot be accessed by members of the public.

1. COLLECTING DATA

Simonstone Parish Council recognises its responsibility to be open with people when taking personal details from them. This means that the Clerk and councillors must be honest about why they want a particular piece of information.

If, for example, a member of the public gives their phone number to the Clerk or a member of Simonstone Parish Council, this will only be used for the purpose it has been given and will not be disclosed to anyone else.

Data may be collected via the Parish Council's website – the 'Contact Us' form.

The website contain policy statements about how the data will be stored and used. For more information about collecting data and electronic data storage please see the Simonstone Parish Council IT Policy.

2. STORING AND ACCESSING DATA

Simonstone Parish Council may hold information about individuals such as their addresses and telephone numbers. These are kept in a secure location at the Parish Clerk's place of residence and on the clerk's password-protected laptop and are not available for the public to access. All data stored on a computer is password protected. Once data is not needed anymore, if it is out of date or has served its use, it will be shredded or deleted from the computer.

The Parish Council is aware that people have the right to access any information that is held about them. If a person requests to see any data that is being held about them,

- They must be sent all of the information that is being held about them
- There must be explanation for why it has been stored
- There must be a list of who has seen it
- It must be sent within one month

Requests that are manifestly unfounded or excessive may be refused or a charge made. If a request is refused, a reason must be given.

If an individual requests that their data is rectified or erased, this will be carried out.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

If a councillor needs to access information to help carry out their duties, this is acceptable. They are only able to access as much information as necessary and it should only be used for that specific purpose.

4. CONFIDENTIALITY

The Clerk must be aware that when complaints or queries are made, they must remain confidential unless the subject gives permission otherwise. When handling personal data, this must also remain confidential. If a data breach is identified the ICO must be informed and an investigation will be conducted.

This policy will be reviewed annually, as well as an annual review of the compliance and effectiveness of the policy.

Data relating to Planning applications.

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, allows for personal data (e.g. addresses) to be published, so there is not the same restriction on this type of data