

Shirland and Higham Parish Council

CCTV Policy

1. Introduction

This policy is to control the management, operation, use and confidentiality of the CCTV system located at Shirland Village Hall and play area. The site is owned by Shirland and Higham Parish Council. Shirland Village Hall is run by a Management Committee.

The policy was prepared after taking due account of the Code of Practice published by the Data Protection Commissioner (revised 2015) and the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. This policy will be subject to periodic review by the Parish Council to ensure that it continues to reflect the public interest and that it and the system meets all legislative requirements.

Shirland and Higham Parish Council accepts the eight data protection principles based on the Data Protection Act 1998 as follows. Data must be:

1. fairly and lawfully processed;
2. processed for limited purposes and not in any manner incompatible with those purposes;
3. adequate, relevant and not excessive;
4. accurate;
5. not kept for longer than is necessary;
6. processed in accordance with individuals' rights;
7. secure;
8. not transferred to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area unless an adequate level of protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects is ensured.

2. Statement of Purpose

To provide a safe and secure environment for the benefit of those who might visit, work or live in the area. The system will not be used to invade the privacy of any individual, except when carried out in accordance with the law. The scheme will be used for the following purposes:

- to reduce the fear of crime by persons using facilities at Shirland Village Hall and play area, so they can enter and leave the building and facilities without fear of intimidation by individuals or groups;
- to reduce the vandalism of property and to prevent, deter and detect crime and disorder;
- to assist the police, the Parish Council and other Law Enforcement Agencies with identification, detection, apprehension and prosecution of offenders by

- examining and using retrievable evidence relating to crime, public order or contravention of byelaws;
- to deter potential offenders by publicly displaying the existence of CCTV, having cameras clearly sited that are not hidden and signs on display in areas being monitored;
- to assist all “emergency services” to carry out their lawful duties.

3. Changes to the Purpose or Policy

Any major change that would have a significant impact on either the purpose or this policy of operation of the CCTV scheme will take place only after discussion and resolution at a full Parish Council meeting.

4. Responsibilities of the Owner of the Scheme

Shirland and Higham Parish Council retains overall responsibility for the scheme.

CCTV Code of Practice

1. Management of the System

Day to day operational responsibility rests with the Clerk to the Council and the Chair.

Breaches of this policy will be investigated by the Clerk to the Council and reported to the Parish Council.

A CCTV system prevents crime largely by increasing the risk of detection and prosecution of an offender. Any digital evidence must be in an acceptable format for use at Court hearings. This policy must be read and understood by all persons involved in this scheme and individual copies of this policy will therefore be issued for retention. A copy will also be available for reference in the secure recording area.

2. Control and Operation of the Cameras, Monitors and Systems

The following points must be understood and strictly observed by operators:

- a) Trained operators i.e. the Clerk, the Chair and Councillors must act with integrity and not abuse the equipment or change the pre-set criteria to compromise the privacy of an individual.
- b) No public access whatsoever will be allowed to the monitor except for lawful, proper and sufficient reason, with prior approval of the Clerk to the Council or the Chair of the Parish Council. The Police are permitted access to information if they have reason to believe that such access is

necessary to investigate, detect or prevent crime. The Police are able to visit the Village Hall to review and confirm the Parish Council's operation of CCTV by arrangement. Any visit by the Police to view images will be logged by the operator.

- c) Operators should regularly check the accuracy of the date/time displayed.

d) Storage and Retention of Images

Digital records should be securely stored to comply with data protection and should only be handled by the essentially minimum number of persons. Digital images will be erased after a period of 28 days.

- e) Images will not normally be supplied to the media, except on the advice of the police if it is deemed to be in the public interest. The Clerk to the Council would inform the Chair of the Parish Council of any such emergency.

- f) As records may be required as evidence at Court, each person handling a digital record may be required to make a statement to a police officer and sign an exhibit label. Any images that are handed to a police officer should be signed for by the police officer and information logged to identify the recording and showing the officer's name and police station. The log should also show when such information is returned to the Parish Council by the police and the outcome of its use.

- g) Every single event that requires checking of recorded data should be clearly detailed in the log sheet of incidents, including crime numbers if appropriate, and the Parish Council notified at the next available opportunity.

- h) Any damage to equipment or malfunction discovered by an operator should be reported immediately to the Clerk to the Council and the Chair of the Council and recorded in the log. When a repair has been made, this should also be logged showing the date and time of completion.

i) Subject Access Requests

Any request by an individual member of the public for access to their own recorded image must be made on an Access Request Form. Forms are available by contacting the Clerk to the Council and will be submitted to the Parish Council for consideration and reply. There are no fees or charges for the first request but additional requests for the same personal data or requests which are manifestly unfounded or excessive may be subject to an administrative fee.

3. Accountability

Copies of the CCTV Policy are available in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, as will any reports that are submitted to the Parish Council providing it does not breach security needs.

Any written concerns or complaints regarding the use of the system will be considered by the Parish Council, in line with the existing complaints policy.

This policy was adopted by Shirland and Higham Parish Council on 21 March 2024.

THIS POLICY MUST BE COMPLIED WITH AT ALL TIMES.