



Social Media Policy

1. The aim of the Tawstock Parish Council Facebook Group is to provide information and timely updates on the work of the Parish Council; to promote community activities and opportunities local to the Parish; and to promote positive thoughts and comments from our residents.

2. Posts on the group should be productive, respectful, and take into consideration the policies of the Parish Council:

- Councillors must be considerate and respectful of all users. They must not use abusive or crude language nor make threats to any other users.
- Post made by General Public must not include abusive or crude language, and threats to other users or councillors will not be tolerated.
- Fruitful and constructive discussions which come from a difference of opinion are to be encouraged. Diverse ideas when exercised respectfully are the foundation of a democratic society.
- Copyright laws must be complied with at all times. If an administrator or moderator suspects a potential infringement has occurred, they should respectfully enquire as to whether the person posing has permission from the copyright holder to share. If there is any doubt, the post should be removed until proof can be provided that permission has been granted.
- The Tawstock Parish Facebook Group should not be used for any commercial purposes or to market any products.
- This policy is to be used in conjunction with other policies of Tawstock Parish Council and the Local Government Association's Code of Conduct for Parish Councillors

3. Tawstock Parish Council is not the local planning authority. There is a regulated formal process and any members of the public who use social media to reference a planning application should be referred back to the local planning authority to make their comments formally.

4. Tawstock Parish Council is made up of councillors who give up their time in order to improve our local area. The Council will appoint Administrators/Moderators for the group as appropriate. We do not monitor the group 24/7 and we may not be able to respond to all messages and posts immediately. We will do our best to pass on any comments or suggestions from the group to our monthly council meetings if appropriate, and at the appropriate item of business.

5. The Facebook Group should not be seen as a primary contact method for communicating with the Parish Council. All correspondence for the Parish Council should in the first instance be directed to the Parish Clerk, whose contact details are available on our website. You must not include personal or sensitive information on any posts to the group.

6. Tawstock Parish Council reserve the right to remove any posts it deems to be inappropriate including, but not limited to:

- Obscene posts or posts negatively portraying any protected characteristics (e.g., racist, homophobic, sexist etc.)
- Personal Attacks, insults, or threatening language
- Any potentially libellous statements
- Material in violation of copywrite laws (or suspected of being) and plagiarised material
- Personal information posted without consent of the individual (known colloquially as “Doxxing”)
- Information which is deemed to be unrelated to the Parish Council or the local community.
- Commercial posts, promotions, or spam content – any advertisements contained within the Facebook site are entirely the responsibility of Facebook and Meta and the Parish Council cannot be held responsible for the content of any such material. It should always be assumed that posts have been made in good faith unless clearly inappropriate. Should any breach of rules occur, the post should be removed by the group administrator/moderator. After a third such breach, the individual may be banned by group administrators/moderators.

7. Tawstock Parish Council contains councillors who may be members of a political party. The Parish is not a forum for party politics and discussion of this nature is not permitted on our Social Media platforms. Tawstock Parish Councillors must not post any content of a political nature on any social media platforms.

8. Tawstock Parish Council cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of any content posted on the Council Facebook group by others. Opinions expressed on that forum do not necessarily represent those of Tawstock Parish Council. We cannot be held responsible for the content of any links other than to the Council’s website.

9. Users should be mindful that Tawstock Parish Council’s use of the Facebook Group is entirely governed by the terms and conditions of Facebook, a social media site run by Meta. Users sign up of their own volition and abide by the terms of that site. Tawstock Parish Council cannot be held responsible for any unavailability of Facebook which may result in our group being inaccessible for a short time.

10. It is the responsibility of the Administrators/Moderators to ensure that all security settings of the account are appropriate for the use. Moderators may assist in disseminating information; however, all must ensure that they follow this policy.

11. Tawstock Parish Council assumes no responsibility or liability for any injury, loss or damage which might result as a consequence of any use or reliance on any information or material posted to the Facebook Group

12. This policy has been adopted by Tawstock Parish Council on 17 October 2023 and is a live document, it is subject to change and should be reviewed every 3 years, or sooner should a substantive change affecting the policy be made.

To be reviewed October 2026