THORPE MORIEUX PARISH COUNCIL

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

Thorpe Morieux Parish Council is committed to protecting the rights and freedoms of data subjects (natural persons), the safe and secure processing of their data, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The GDPR replaces the EU Data Protection Directive of 1995 and superseded the laws of Member States that were developed in compliance with the Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC.

We hold personal data about our employees and other individuals for a variety of Parish Council business.

This policy sets out how we seek to protect personal data and ensure that our employees understand the rules governing their use of the Personal Data to which they have access in the course of their work.

2. Definitions

Business purposes

The purposes for which personal data may be used by us:
Personnel, administrative, financial, regulatory, payroll and business development purposes.

Business purposes include the following:

- Compliance with our legal, regulatory and corporate governance obligations and good practice.
- Gathering information as part of investigations by regulatory bodies or in connection with any legal proceedings.
- Operational reasons, such as recording transactions, training and quality control, ensuring the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information, security vetting, credit scoring and checking.
- Investigating complaints.
- Checking references, ensuring safe working practices, monitoring and managing staff access to systems and facilities and staff absences, administration and assessments.
- Monitoring staff conduct, disciplinary matters.

Personal data

Personal data' means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.
Personal data we gather may include: individuals' phone number, email address, financial and pay details, details of certificates and diplomas, education and skills, nationality, job title, and CV.

Special categories of personal data

Special categories of data include information about an individual's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or similar beliefs, trade union membership (or non-membership), physical or mental health or condition, criminal offences, or related proceedings, and genetic and biometric information —any use of special categories of personal data should be strictly controlled in accordance with this policy.

Data controller

'Data controller' means the natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data; where the purposes and means of such processing are determined by law.

Data processor

'Processor' means a natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body, which processes personal data on behalf of the controller.

Processing

'Processing' means any operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or on sets of personal data, whether or not by automated means, such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.

3. Scope

This policy applies to the processing of personal data wholly or partly by automated means (i.e.by computer) and to the processing other than by automated means (i.e. paper records) that form part of filing system or are intended to form part of a filing system. This applies to all staff, who must be familiar with this policy and comply with its terms.

Who is responsible for this policy?

Our Clerk is our Data Protection Manager and has overall responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of this policy. Our Data Protection Manager can be contacted at: clerk@thorpemorieuxparish.gov.uk

4. The principles

Thorpe Morieux Parish Council shall comply with the principles of data protection (the Principles) enumerated in the EU General Data Protection Regulation. We will make every effort possible in everything we do to comply with these principles. The Principles are:

1. Lawful, fair and transparent - Data collection must be fair, for a legal purpose and we must be open and transparent as to how the data will be used.
2. Limited for its purpose Data can only be collected for a specific purpose.
3. Data minimisation - Any data collected must be necessary and not excessive for its purpose.
4. Accurate - The data we hold must be accurate and kept up to date.

5. Retention - We cannot store data longer than necessary.
6. Integrity and confidentiality - The data we hold must be kept safe and secure.

Accountability and transparency

We must ensure accountability and transparency in all our use of personal data. We must show how we comply with each Principle. You are responsible for keeping a written record of how all the data processing activities you are responsible for comply with each of the principles.

5. Our procedures

Fair and lawful processing
We must process personal data fairly and lawfully in accordance with individuals' rights under the first Principle. This generally means that we should not process personal data unless the individual whose details we are processing has consented to this happening.
If we cannot apply a lawful basis (explained below), our processing does not conform to the first principle and will be unlawful. Data subjects have the right to have any data unlawfully processed erased.

Lawful basis for processing data

We must establish a lawful basis for processing data. At least one of the following conditions must apply whenever we process personal data:
1. Consent - We hold recent, clear, explicit, and defined consent for the individual's data to be processed for a specific purpose.
2. Contract - The processing is necessary to fulfil or prepare a contract for the individual.
3. Legal obligation - We have a legal obligation to process the data (excluding a contract).
4. Vital interests - Processing the data is necessary to protect a person's life or in a medical situation.
5. Public function - Processing necessary to carry out a public function, a task of public interest or the function has a clear basis in law.
6. Legitimate interest - The processing is necessary for our legitimate interests. This condition does not apply if there is a good reason to protect the individual's personal data which overrides the legitimate interest.

Deciding which condition to rely on

Our commitment to the first Principle requires us to document this process and show that we have considered which lawful basis best applies to each processing purpose, and fully justify these decisions.
We must also ensure that individuals whose data is being processed by us are informed of the lawful basis for processing their data, as well as the intended purpose. This should occur via a privacy notice. This applies whether we have collected the data directly from the individual, or from another source.

6. Special categories of personal data

What are special categories of personal data?
Previously known as sensitive personal data, this means data about an individual which is more sensitive, so requires more protection. This type of data could create more significant risks to a

person's fundamental rights and freedoms, for example by putting them at risk of unlawful discrimination.
The special categories include information about an individual's: ▪ race ▪ ethnic origin ▪ politics ▪ religion ▪ trade union membership ▪ genetics ▪ biometrics (where used for ID purposes) ▪ health ▪ sexual orientation.

In most cases where we process special categories of personal data we will require the data subject's explicit consent to do this unless exceptional circumstances apply or we are required to do this by law (e.g. to comply with legal obligations to ensure health and safety at work). Any such consent will need to clearly identify what the relevant data is, why it is being processed and to whom it will be disclosed.

The condition for processing special categories of personal data must comply with the law. If we do not have a lawful basis for processing special categories of data that processing activity must cease.

7. Responsibilities

Our responsibilities:
▪ Analysing and documenting the type of personal data we hold
▪ Checking procedures to ensure they cover all the rights of the individual
▪ Identify the lawful basis for processing data
▪ Ensuring consent procedures are lawful
▪ Implementing and reviewing procedures to detect, report and investigate personal data breaches
▪ Store data in safe and secure ways
▪ Assess the risk that could be posed to individual rights and freedoms should data be compromised.

Your responsibilities:
▪ Fully understand your data protection obligations
▪ Check that any data processing activities you are dealing with comply with our policy and are justified
▪ Do not use data in any unlawful way
▪ Do not store data incorrectly, be careless with it or otherwise cause us to breach data protection laws and our policies through your actions.
▪ To always comply with this policy.
▪ Raise any concerns, notify any breaches or errors, and report anything suspicious or contradictory to this policy or our legal obligations without delay.

Responsibilities of the Data Protection Manager:
▪ Keeping the Parish Council updated about data protection responsibilities, risks and issues
▪ Reviewing all data protection procedures and policies on a regular basis
▪ Responding to individuals such as clients and employees who wish to know which data is being
held on them by us
▪ Ensure all systems, services, software and equipment meet acceptable security standards

Accuracy and relevance

We will ensure that any personal data we process is accurate, adequate, relevant and not excessive, given the purpose for which it was obtained. We will not process personal data obtained for one purpose for any unconnected purpose unless the individual concerned has agreed to this or would otherwise reasonably expect this.

Data security

You must keep personal data secure against loss or misuse.

Storing data securely
- In cases when data is stored on printed paper, it should be kept in a secure place where unauthorised personnel cannot access it
- Printed data should be shredded when it is no longer needed
- Data stored on a computer should be protected by strong passwords that are changed regularly. We encourage all staff to use a password manager to create and store their passwords.
- Data stored on CDs or memory sticks must be encrypted or password protected and locked away securely when they are not being used
- Data should be regularly backed up in line with the company's backup procedures
- Data should never be saved directly to mobile devices such as laptops, tablets or smartphones
- All possible technical measures must be put in place to keep data secure

Data retention

We must retain personal data for no longer than is necessary. What is necessary will depend on the circumstances of each case, considering the reasons that the personal data was obtained.

Transferring data internationally

There are restrictions on international transfers of personal data. You must not transfer personal data abroad, or anywhere else outside of normal rules and procedures without express permission.

8. **Rights of individuals**

Individuals have rights to their data which we must respect and comply with to the best of our ability. We must ensure individuals can exercise their rights in the following ways:

1. Right to be informed
    - Providing privacy notices which are concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible, free of charge, that are written in clear and plain language, particularly if aimed at children.
    - Keeping a record of how we use personal data to demonstrate compliance with the need for accountability and transparency.
2. Right of access
    - Enabling individuals to access their personal data and supplementary information
    - Allowing individuals to be aware of and verify the lawfulness of the processing activities.
3. Right to rectification

- We must rectify or amend the personal data of the individual if requested because it is inaccurate or incomplete.
- This must be done without delay, and no later than one month.

4. Right to erasure
   - We must delete or remove an individual's data if requested and there is no compelling reason for its continued processing.
5. Right to restrict processing
   - We must comply with any request to restrict, block, or otherwise suppress the processing of personal data.
   - We are permitted to store personal data if it has been restricted, but not process it further. We must retain enough data to ensure the right to restriction is respected in the future.
6. Right to data portability
   - We must provide individuals with their data so that they can reuse it for their own purposes or across different services.
7. Right to object
   - We must respect the right of an individual to object to data processing based on legitimate interest or the performance of a public interest task.
   - We must respect the right of an individual to object to direct marketing, including profiling.
   - We must respect the right of an individual to object to processing their data for scientific and historical research and statistics.
8. Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling
   - We must respect the rights of individuals in relation to automated decision making and profiling.
   - Individuals retain their right to object to such automated processing, have the rationale explained to them, and request human intervention.

9. Privacy notices

When to supply a privacy notice

A privacy notice must be supplied at the time the data is obtained if obtained directly from the data subject. If the data is not obtained directly from the data subject, the privacy notice must be provided within a reasonable period of having obtained the data, which mean within one month.

If the data is being used to communicate with the individual, then the privacy notice must be supplied at the latest when the first communication takes place.

If disclosure to another recipient is envisaged, then the privacy notice must be supplied prior to the data being disclosed.

Subject Access Requests

An individual has the right to receive confirmation that their data is being processed, access to their personal data and supplementary information, which means the information, which should be provided in a privacy notice.

How we deal with subject access requests

- We must provide an individual with a copy of the information the request, free of charge. This must occur without delay, and within one month of receipt. We endeavour to provide data

subjects access to their information in commonly used electronic formats, and where possible, provide direct access to the information through a remote accessed secure system.
▪ If complying with the request is complex or numerous, the deadline can be extended by two months, but the individual must be informed within one month.
▪ We can refuse to respond to certain requests, and can, in circumstances of the request being manifestly unfounded or excessive, charge a fee. If the request is for a large quantity of data, we can request the individual specify the information they are requesting.
▪ Once a subject access request has been made, you must not change or amend any of the data that has been requested. Doing so is a criminal offence.

Data portability requests

We must provide the data requested in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format.

We must provide this data either to the individual who has requested it, or to the data controller they have requested it be sent to. This must be done free of charge and without delay, and no later than one month. This can be extended to two months for complex or numerous requests, but the individual must be informed of the extension within one month.

11. Right to erasure

What is the right to erasure?

Individuals have a right to have their data erased and for processing to cease in the following circumstances:
▪ Where the personal data is no longer necessary in relation to the purpose for which it was originally collected and / or processed
▪ Where consent is withdrawn
▪ Where the individual objects to processing and there is no overriding legitimate interest for continuing the processing
▪ The personal data was unlawfully processed or otherwise breached data protection laws.
To comply with a legal obligation
▪ The processing relates to a child.

How we deal with the right to erasure

We can only refuse to comply with a right to erasure in the following circumstances:
▪ To exercise the right of freedom of expression and information
▪ To comply with a legal obligation for the performance of a public interest task or exercise of official authority
▪ For public health purposes in the public interest
▪ For archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific research, historical research or statistical purposes
▪ The exercise or defence of legal claims.

If personal data that needs to be erased has been passed onto other parties or recipients, they must be contacted and informed of their obligation to erase the data. If the individual asks, we must inform them of those recipients.

The right to object

Individuals have the right to object to their data being used on grounds relating to their situation. We must cease processing unless:
▪ We have legitimate grounds for processing which override the interests, rights and freedoms of the individual.
▪ The processing relates to the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

We must always inform the individual of their right to object at the first point of communication, i.e. in the privacy notice. We must offer a way for individuals to object online.

The right to restrict automated profiling or decision making

We may only carry out automated profiling or decision making that has a legal or similarly significant effect on an individual in the following circumstances:
▪ It is necessary for the entry into or performance of a contract.
▪ Based on the individual's explicit consent.
▪ Otherwise authorised by law.

In these circumstances, we must:
▪ Give individuals detailed information about the automated processing.
▪ Offer simple ways for them to request human intervention or challenge any decision about them.
▪ Carry out regular checks and user testing to ensure our systems are working as intended.

12. Third parties

Using third party controllers and processors

We must have written contracts in place with any third-party data controller and/or data processor that we use. The contract must contain specific clauses which set out our and their liabilities, obligations and responsibilities.

As a data controller, we must only appoint processors who can provide sufficient guarantee.

Contracts

Our contracts with data controllers and/or data processors must set out the subject matter and duration of the processing, the nature and stated purpose of the processing activities, the types of personal data and categories of data subject, and the obligations and rights of the controller.

At a minimum, our contracts must include terms that specify:
▪ Acting only on written instructions
▪ Those involved in processing the data are subject to a duty of confidence
▪ Appropriate measures will be taken to ensure the security of the processing
▪ Sub-processors will only be engaged with the prior consent of the controller and under a written contract
▪ The controller will assist the processor in dealing with subject access requests and allowing data subjects to exercise their rights under GDPR

▪ The processor will assist the controller in meeting its GDPR obligations in relation to the security of processing, notification of data breaches and implementation of Data Protection Impact Assessments
▪ Delete or return all personal data at the end of the contract
▪ Submit to regular audits and inspections and provide whatever information necessary for the controller and processor to meet their legal obligations.
▪ Nothing will be done by either the controller or processor to infringe on GDPR.

13. Criminal offence data

Any criminal record checks are justified by law. Criminal record checks cannot be undertaken based solely on the consent of the subject. We cannot keep a comprehensive register of criminal offence data. All data relating to criminal offences is a special category of personal data and must be treated as such. You must have approval from the DPO prior to carrying out a criminal record check.

14. Audits, monitoring and training

Data audits

Regular data audits to manage and mitigate risks will inform the data register. This contains information on what data is held, where it is stored, how it is used, who is responsible and any further regulations or retention timescales that may be relevant.

Monitoring

Everyone must observe this policy and must always comply with this policy fully.

Training

Should you require or request training we will arrange for training.

15. Reporting breaches

Any breach of this policy or of data protection laws must be reported as soon as practically possible. This means as soon as you have become aware of a breach.

All members of staff have an obligation to report actual or potential data protection compliance failures. This allows us to:
▪ Investigate the failure and take remedial steps if necessary
▪ Maintain a register of compliance failures
▪ Notify the Parish Council of any compliance failures that are material either in their own right or as part of a pattern of failures.

Any member of staff who fails to notify of a breach or is found to have known or suspected a breach has occurred but has not followed the correct reporting procedures will be liable to disciplinary action.

Failure to comply

We take compliance with this policy very seriously. Failure to comply puts both you and the organisation at risk.

The importance of this policy means that failure to comply with any requirement may lead to disciplinary action under our procedures, which may result in dismissal.

This policy was adopted by Thorpe Morieux Parish Council on 23rd May 2018

Last reviewed by Thorpe Morieux Parish Council at a meeting on 12th September 2024