

# Aslackby Parish Council

## GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has provided guidelines for lawfully using social media in public forums, entitled [Social Media and other Electronic Communications](#).

The Parish Council will not tolerate content on our website that contravenes these guidelines and would, in the first instance, request that a post be removed. Should this request be ignored, the Parish Council would report the infringement to the Police.

The key points from the Social Media and other Electronic Communications include:

### 1. Awareness of the law

The CPS Guidelines emphasises that the law applies to online behaviour, and individuals need to be mindful and take responsibility for their actions and statements while using social media platforms.

### 2. Defamation

The guidelines advise against making defamatory statements about others, as this can lead to legal consequences. It encourages users to be cautious, responsible, and respectful in their online interactions.

### 3. Harassment and threats

Online harassment, whether targeted at individuals or groups, is taken seriously by the law and can result in criminal charges. Village members are urged to report instances of harassment or threats.

## 4. Privacy and confidentiality

Users need to be aware that sharing others' personal information without their consent can be a breach of their privacy rights. Posting identifiable images of others without their consent is covered by this. The guidelines advise users to respect others' confidentiality when using social media.

## 5. Impersonation

The guidelines warn against impersonating others online, which is both dishonest and potentially illegal. Users are advised to verify the authenticity of accounts and report any fake profiles.

## 6. Cyberbullying

The guide emphasises the importance of recognising and preventing cyberbullying - and provides information on how to identify and report such behaviour.

## 7. Obscene or offensive content

Users are encouraged to refrain from posting or sharing explicit, offensive, or inappropriate material on social media, as this may breach laws regarding indecent or threatening communications.

## 8. Reporting offences

The guide emphasises the need to report any offensive or criminal behaviour encountered on social media platforms to the relevant authorities, i.e. the Police or the relevant social media platforms.