
HAPTC Guidance Note – Recording of Meetings Sept 2026

Background

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as amended by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014), anyone attending an open council, committee, or sub-committee meeting has a statutory right to "report" on it, which includes:

- Filming, photographing or making an audio recording of proceedings
- Live streaming or other means allowing people not present to see/hear proceedings
- Written or oral commentary during or after the meeting
-

Guidance and Resources

Model Standing Orders provisions (standing order 3):

- 3(l) – Subject to 3(m), a person attending a meeting is permitted to report on it while the meeting is open to the public.
- 3(m) – A person present may not provide oral commentary during the meeting without permission (to avoid disruption).
- 3(n) – The press must be given reasonable facilities to take their report.
- Important limits:

A council cannot adopt standing orders that undermine or restrict this statutory right to report.

The right does not extend to real-time oral commentary without permission.

Good Practice

- Councils may wish to adopt a policy on filming/recording children or vulnerable adults, requiring consent from a responsible adult (parent, guardian, teacher, carer, or medical professional as appropriate).
- The chair should remind those present at the start of a meeting that it may be recorded and remind them of any restrictions on filming children/vulnerable adults.
- Standing orders should be used to control disruptive behaviour arising from recording activity if it obstructs the meeting.
- No prior permission is required to record, but it may be advisable for the person recording to notify the council in advance so reasonable facilities can be arranged.
- The public/press have no statutory right to exclude themselves from being filmed if they participate in the meeting, though a designated area may be provided for those who object, or for children/vulnerable adults without consent.

Sources:

Model Standing Orders (England) – Standing Order 3 [Model Standing Orders \(England\)](#)

Parish council meetings (England) – "Rights of the Public and the Press" section [Meetings of parish meetings](#)

Local Councils Explained 2025 – Chapter 9, "Chairing Meetings" [NALC publishes the all-new digital edition of Local](#)

[Councils Explained](#) NB 7/9/2026