



WARSOP PARISH COUNCIL

WARSOP NEWS EDITORIAL POLICY

Contents

Mission and Purpose	2
Editorial Independence and Neutrality	2
Accuracy and Accountability.....	2
Community Input and Letters to the Editor	2
Guest Contributions and Opinion Pieces.....	2
Content Guidelines.....	3
Advertising and Sponsored Content.....	3
Social Media and Online Engagement	3
Ethical Considerations	3
Complaints and Feedback.....	3
General Photo Submissions – What You Need to Know	3

Policy adopted: 9th June 2026

Minute Reference FG-26-17a

Policy version reference: v1

Policy effective from: Immediately

Date for next review: June 2028

Mission and Purpose

Warsop Parish News serves as the trusted source of news and information for our Parish, providing fair, accurate, and relevant reporting on local events, people, and issues. Our goal is to foster a sense of community, celebrate local achievements, and encourage thoughtful discussion while remaining politically neutral and committed to journalistic integrity.

Editorial Independence and Neutrality

We maintain editorial independence and do not endorse political candidates, parties, or ideological movements. All reporting will be balanced and free from partisan bias. Editorial decisions will be based on journalistic principles rather than external pressures, ensuring fairness and impartiality. Any individuals, organisations or groups that are mentioned by an author of an article, should be asked if they wish to comment (if appropriate).

Accuracy and Accountability

We are committed to factual accuracy and fairness in our reporting. All articles are fact-checked, and sources are verified before publication. If an error is identified, we will promptly issue a correction or clarification.

Community Input and Letters to the Editor

We welcome and encourage letters to the editor as a means of public discourse. However, letters must meet the following criteria:

- Be no longer than 250 words.
- Include the writer's full name and contact information (contact details will not be published but may be used for verification).
- Avoid personal attacks, hate speech, or libelous statements.
- Letters may be edited for clarity, length, and adherence to our editorial standards.
- The editor has the right to edit or remove articles at their discretion

Guest Contributions and Opinion Pieces

We accept submissions of opinion articles and guest columns from our M.P., County Councillor, District Councillors and Parish Councillors as well as other community members. While these pieces represent the views of the authors and not the newspaper, we require:

- A clear, respectful, and fact-based argument.
- A disclaimer that views expressed are solely those of the contributor.
- Editorial oversight to ensure adherence to journalistic ethics.

Content Guidelines

Our newspaper covers topics relevant to our readership, including local government, schools, businesses, events, and community achievements. We will not publish:

- Material that promotes hate, discrimination, or violence.
- Unverified rumours or speculative content.

Advertising and Sponsored Content

Advertising must be clearly distinguished from editorial content. Sponsored content will be labelled as such, and we will not accept ads that mislead readers or compromise our integrity.

Social Media and Online Engagement

We will work to achieve an active online presence and encourage civil discussion. Comments on our digital platforms must adhere to the same standards as letters to the editor, and we reserve the right to moderate or remove inappropriate content.

Ethical Considerations

Warsop Parish Council will adhere to ethical journalism standards, including transparency, accountability, and respect for privacy. We do not accept gifts or favours that could influence our reporting.

Complaints and Feedback

We value reader input and provide a process for addressing concerns about our coverage. Complaints should be submitted in writing to the Parish Clerk email: clerk@warsop-pc.gov.uk and we will review them in a timely manner.

This editorial policy is reviewed periodically to ensure it reflects the evolving needs of our community and the highest standards of local journalism.

General Photo Submissions – What You Need to Know

Copyright

- The person submitting the photo might not be the photographer, and only the photographer (or copyright holder) has the legal right to give permission for its use.
- You should always get a statement from the submitter that they either:
 - Took the photo themselves *or*
 - Have explicit permission to submit it for publication.

If they can't confirm that, you shouldn't use it — especially if it's a professional-looking image that might belong to a photographer or agency.

In public settings (like festivals, sports days, parades, etc.), the expectation of privacy is lower, but still: safest practice is to get permission where possible, this is particularly important when photographs include children.

Tip:

When in doubt — include a disclaimer in the paper (or on submission forms) saying:

"By submitting photos, you confirm you have the right to do so and that all identifiable individuals (or their parents/guardians, in the case of minors) have given permission for publication."

Signature of the Chair: _____