

**Wickhamford
PARISH COUNCIL
ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

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Zero Tolerance Policy – Dignity & Respect

Wickhamford Parish Council undertakes to serve the community responsibly, fairly and openly.

We treat everyone with courtesy and respect and ask for the same in return. We ask that you treat your councillors and council staff courteously without violence, abuse or harassment.

Councillors and council staff have the right to carry out their civic duties and work without fear of being attacked or verbally abused.

Any behaviour whether that be verbal, physical or in writing, which causes either councillors or council staff to feel uncomfortable, embarrassed, or threatened, is totally unacceptable.

The zero tolerance policy includes abuse, aggression or threats made in person, over the telephone or in written communication, including on social media.

The council considers threatening behaviour to be:

Attempted or actual aggression, verbal or physical actions made towards any councillor or member of staff.

The use of aggressive, or abusive language, (including raising of the voice, swearing, shouting or in writing) which threatens or intimidates councillors or council staff.

This policy applies throughout all council meetings, but it also applies to any councillor or council staff away from council in undertaking their role.

The Parish Council reserves the right to take appropriate actions with the appropriate authorities should they feel it necessary.