

November photo calendar competition winner Jeremy Eyeons

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Do you work with volunteers? Read this

A recent ruling by the Information Commissioner's Office has implications for parish councils which work with volunteers.

The ICO has found in favour of a complainant who wanted a parish council to provide copies of emails sent by one of its volunteers to a private company.

Goring On Thames Parish Council said it could not comply with the Freedom of Information request on the grounds that the correspondence was not held in its own records and the individual who had the email was not prepared to give it up.

Sounds reasonable enough? Apparently not.

The private company of consultants had been carrying out work relating to the development of the Goring Neighbourhood Plan.

The Commissioner's decision was that that under regulation 3(2)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations, any information held by a volunteer

working group acting on behalf of the council, is held by the council.

The Commissioner told the parish council to confirm or deny whether any information is held and issue a fresh response that complies with the EIR.

Depending on the parish council's response, the Commissioner could, ultimately, use her powers to gain release of the email to the complainant.

The complainant wrote to the parish council requesting all emails between the Goring Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group members, or members of any Neighbourhood Plan sub-groups, and the consultant.

"Having viewed guidance on the FOI I understand that since the work was carried out using public funding and on behalf of the parish council you are required to find and release this information even where emails are held on private accounts," said the complainant.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/2FlzeKQ>

DON'T FORGET TO CLICK THE LINKS TO READ MORE

All change?

Remember to declare it

All councillors have to fill out their DPI forms (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest), and you will be familiar with this. But it's not a one-off. You must ensure it is kept current. Any changes have to be declared within 28 days, and a failure to do this could amount to a criminal offence. *Read more at <https://bit.ly/2S9Oqle>*



Michelle's handy tips

Dementia Friends session for parish councils

Dementia is a scourge of the modern age – 600 people in the UK will develop dementia today, 600 more tomorrow and 600 more every day after. It can affect anyone of any age, but the elderly are most at risk, and more women than men get it. Half a million women in the UK are living with dementia and it is now the leading cause of death in women in the UK. It affects almost 50 million people worldwide. *Read more at <https://bit.ly/2OWx9di>*

Final garden waste collections of 2018

Could you remind residents of the final garden waste brown bin collections of 2018. They are week commencing Monday, December 3, for those who have a green bin collection week. Week commencing Monday, December 10, for those who have a blue bin collection week. Collections will resume week commencing Monday, February 2, until Sunday, March 31, 2019. The payment system for the 2019/20 service will open early in the New Year with collections starting week commencing Monday, April 1.

Algarkirk's MacMillan coffee morning

A Macmillan coffee morning held at the village hall raised £170, thanks to the village hall committee and everyone who attended.

Don't have a rubbish Christmas

Christmas is a busy time for generating additional recycling and rubbish material. In the run up and after Christmas most households will have leftovers, packaging and wrapping to get rid of. Turkey carcasses and other leftovers must never go into your blue bin for recycling. Any food waste causes major problems, contaminating the rest of the properly-recycled items, so please put it all in your green bin. *Read more at <https://bit.ly/2KoSXOm>*

Borough council meetings –

December 2018

Thursday 6 – 6.30pm – Overview and Scrutiny – Corporate and Community Committee in the Committee Room

Sunday 9 – 6.30pm – Town Carol Service at the Centenary Methodist Church

Monday 10 – 6.30pm – Audit and Governance Committee in the Committee Room

Tuesday 11 – 10am – Planning Committee in the Committee Room

Wednesday 19 – 10am – Cabinet briefing in the Committee Room

January 2019

Wednesday 2 – 6.30pm – Boston Town Area Committee in Committee Room

Tuesday 8 – 6.30pm – Overview and Scrutiny – Environment and Performance Committee in Committee Room

Wednesday 9 – 10am – Cabinet in Committee Room

Tuesday 15 – 10am – Planning Committee in Committee Room

Monday 21 – 6.30pm – Council in Council Chamber

Monday 28 – 6.30pm – Audit and Governance Committee in Committee Room

Wednesday 30 – 6.30pm – Boston Town Area Committee in Committee Room

Offices closed from Monday 24th at 4pm until Wednesday 2 January 2019.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers. We will be back in January.

