



MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

DRONE AND MODEL AIRCRAFT POLICY

1. Introduction

Medstead Parish Council's Drone and Model Aircraft Policy is in response to an upsurge in the public interest and usage occurrences of drones on council land including parks and public open spaces.

Drones and model aircraft may not be flown from or above any Parish Council land without permission granted by Medstead Parish Council. Permission will only be granted where usage of a drone device aids risk reduction in the work place such as working at height, land and building survey work or to undertake a professional service such as festivals & events media.

2. Need for permission

Reasons for zero tolerance on permission policy for recreational or commercial requests are:

- Medstead Parish Council granting permission could leave the local authority liable for subsequent actions brought about by drone activity when operated from land under our ownership.
- The close proximity of many of our sites to neighbouring residential and the potential risk of causing alarm, distress or harassment to occupants.
- Potential risk of accident, injury to other site users or property as a result of user or drone error.

Exemptions will only be considered, where users are part of a formalised model aircraft flying club that can demonstrate all health and safety and insurance measures are in place. A license agreement must be made with Medstead Parish Council and the formalised club **before** site usage can be established.

Types of Model aircraft, drones and other UAVs covered by this policy are:

- Electric-powered, remote-controlled drones capable of vertical take-off and landing;
- Remote-controlled fixed-wing model aircraft with a wingspan under two metres;
- Electric fan jet-powered models, weighing less than 1.5kg;
- UAVs that don't meet the above categories cannot be flown without express permission.

Request permission by sending an email to the Parish Clerk at clerk@medsteadpc.org, providing the following:

- i. A description of the purpose of the flight(s)
- ii. A copy of your public liability insurance (minimum £5 million)
- iii. A copy of your flight plan including launch and landing points
- iv. A copy of the required Operator ID and Flyer ID

A copy of the risk assessment upon receipt of these documents, consideration and approval / rejection will be given within 10 working days.

3. Consequences of non-compliance

If person(s) are found to be using a drone device from Medstead Parish Council land without a letter of permission, they will be instructed to stop immediately. If the user refuses to stop, the Police will be called to attend to cease activity and remove the user from Medstead Parish Council land.

4. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Regulations

The CAA has introduced new rules on flying drones, which came into effect on 1st January 2026

The new Drone and Model Aircraft Code is available on the CAA website at <https://www.caa.co.uk/media/q1il5nqs/the-drone-code-january-2026.pdf>

Further information is on the CAA website at <https://www.caa.co.uk/drones/getting-started-with-drones-and-model-aircraft/>

Whilst the Council endeavours to keep this policy up to date, should these links become superseded before the next review of this policy, it is the drone or aircraft user's responsibility to search the CAA website for the most up to date rules and make sure that they comply.

In summary, after 1st January 2026, the changes in rules are as follows:

- All owners of drones over 100g must obtain a Flyer ID by taking a free theory test on the CAA website. This requirement was previously set at 250g. It ensures owner can fly drones legally and safely.
- Owners must register for an Operator ID in order to fly a drone if it is >250g or camera-equipped >100g.
- It is against the law to fly a drone or model aircraft without having the required IDs.
- Children under 13 must have a Flyer ID but they can only fly when supervised by someone over 16. For data protection reasons, they must have a parent or guardian with them when taking the Flyer ID test.
- Children under 18 cannot apply for an Operator ID, so if the drone or aircraft they wish to fly requires an Operator ID, the parent or guardian must fly with them and have their own Operator ID. Those 13 and over can fly unsupervised if their aircraft only requires Flyer ID.
- All new drones with a UK class mark must have Active Remote ID to broadcast operator information. Legacy drones (purchased before 2026) must comply with Remote ID requirements by Jan 1, 2028.
- Drones will be classified under a new, UK-specific marking system (UK0 to UK6) based on weight and capabilities, which defines where they can legally fly.
- Drones flown at night must be equipped with a, flashing green light.
- Rules are structured into Operational Categories: Open (low risk), Specific (medium risk), and Certified (high risk) categories.

5. Version control

Version	Date adopted	Minute ref.
Drone Policy 2022	13 th April 2022	22.047(g)
Drone Policy 2024	14 th February 2024	24.030
Drone Policy 2025	12 th February 2025	24.280(b)
Drone and Model Aircraft Policy 2026	11 th February 2026	26.028(c)i

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Maintenance Committee and submitted to Full Council for readoption