

Report on Web Casting

I went to Tavistock to talk to the staff about their web cast system as requested. I have also contacted Cornwall Council for their system.

Their set-up is in the main Council room. It consists of 3 cameras and fixed microphones. The microphones have speaking and cut off buttons. These were bought approx. 2 years ago for a cost of microphones £4,200 and the video/camera £9,500. We may well look for a less pricey system and we already have microphones.

Tavistock start the recording after the questions from the public (to avoid the public being filmed) and stop them if any items go into part 2.

The recordings are uploaded to YouTube with a clip on the icon on the laptop at the start of the relevant part of the meetings and that is the only admin task as far as I could see. This could be done by the person taking the minutes.

There were no GDPR or privacy issues as long as there were sufficient notices in the room and a spoken part on the agenda as this makes everyone aware that they are possibly going to be recorded, although we would do our best to avoid this. See attached Cornwall Council 'Principles of Broadcasting Public Meetings'.

Pros

The Council has already agreed that this is the way forward.

The public are asking for more openness and transparency with our council meetings and this would address this.

It would allow members to view the meeting if they could not attend to see the debate that led to the decisions in the minutes.

If members of the public or members of the Council make their own recordings, and possibly edit them we have the definitive recording as to what happened.

Cons

The cost. We could possibly go for a cheaper system but would that do the job properly?

If we go for the larger system we may have to keep the room intact and not take it down between meetings.

If there are any problems coming from the web cast, we would have to deal with them.

Decisions to be made if we move on with this project

Do we use the company that Cornwall Council uses <https://www.public-i.tv/council-webcast/> or do we do it ourselves?

If we do record how long do we keep it? Some councils take them down as soon as the minutes are approved, some keep them on YouTube for up to 6 months.

If we change the committee system and allow every member the opportunity to be part of most main committee meetings does make them 'mini FC meetings' and should we then web cast all of these meetings.

When would we start and finish the recordings.

We would have to adapt our public media policy to include web casting.

J Dent