Bleasby Parish Council

Code of Conduct for Members

Introduction

The Council has adopted this Code of Conduct pursuant to Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour by its Members and Co-Opted Members whenever they conduct the business of the Council including the business of the office to which they were elected or appointed or when they claim to act or give the impression of acting as a representative of the Council.

This Code is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership ("The Nolan Principles").

1. Application

This Code of Conduct applies to you whenever you are acting in your capacity as a member of the Parish Council, including:-

1.1 at formal meetings of the Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees

1.2 when acting as a representative of the Parish Council

1.3 at briefing meetings with officers and

1.4 at site visits

1.5 when corresponding with the Parish Council other than in a private capacity

2. General Conduct

You must:-

2.1 provide leadership to the Parish Council and communities within its area, by personal example and

2.2 respect others and not bully any person

2.3 recognise that the Clerk (and other officers of the Council) is/are employed by and serve the Council as a whole

2.4 respect the confidentiality of information which you receive as a member:-
- 2.4.1 not disclosing confidential information to third parties unless required by law to do so or where there is a clear and overriding public interest in doing so; and
- 2.4.2 not obstructing third parties' legal rights of access to information

2.5 not conduct yourself in a manner which is likely to bring the Parish Council into disrepute

2.6 use your position as a member in the public interest and not for personal advantage

2.7 accord with the Parish Council's reasonable rules on the use of public resources for private and political purposes

2.8 exercise your own independent judgement, taking decisions for good and substantial reasons

2.9 ensure that the Parish Council acts within the law

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

You must:-

3.1 comply with the statutory requirements to register, disclose and withdraw from participating in respect of any matter in which you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

3.2 ensure that your register of interests is kept up to date and notify the Monitoring Officer in writing within 28 days of becoming aware of any change in respect of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

3.3 make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest at any Meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent (unless the interest is a sensitive interest as defined by the Localism Act in which event you need not disclose the nature of the interest)

3.4 "Meeting" means any meeting organised by or on behalf of the Town / Parish Council, including:-

3.4.1 any meeting of the Council, or a Committee or Sub-Committee
3.4.2 any briefing by officers; and
3.4.3 any site visit to do with business of the Parish Council

4 Other Interests

4.1 In addition to the requirements of Paragraph 3, if you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a "non-disclosable pecuniary interest" or "personal interest" in that item, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.

4.2 You have a "non-disclosable pecuniary interest" or "personal interest" in an item of business of your Council where:-

4.2.1 a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well being or financial standing of you, or a member of your family, or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the

majority of the inhabitants of the [ward] (or electoral area) for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Council's administrative area, or

4.2.2 it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests listed in the Table in the Schedule to this Code, but in respect of a member of your family (other than your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as spouse or civil partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

and that interest is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

5 Gifts and Hospitality

5.1 You must within 28 days of receipt, notify the Clerk in writing of any gift, benefit or hospitality with a value in excess of £100 which you have accepted as a member from any person or body other than the Council.

5.2 The Clerk will place your notification on a public register of gifts and hospitality.

5.3 This duty to notify the Clerk does not apply where the gift, benefit or hospitality comes within any description approved for this purpose as set out in the Council's protocol on gifts and hospitality.