



Review date: August 2018

Next Review date: August 2019

HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member or co-opted member of Hunsdon Parish Council I have a responsibility to represent the community and work constructively with members and partner organisations to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 provisions, when acting in this capacity I am committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieve best value for our residents and maintain public confidence in this authority.

SELFLESSNESS: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

INTEGRITY: Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

OBJECTIVITY: In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

OPENNESS: Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

HONESTY: Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

LEADERSHIP: Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.



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As a Member of Hunsdon Parish Council, my conduct will in particular address the statutory principles of the code of conduct by:

- Championing the needs of residents - the whole community and in a special way my constituents, including those who did not vote for me - and putting their interests first.
- Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents and members of our communities fairly, appropriately and impartially.
- Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of myself or others connected to me, to deter me from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the Parish Council's area or the good governance of the Council in a proper manner.
- Exercising independent judgement and not compromising my position by placing myself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way I perform my duties as a member/co-opted member of this Council.
- Listening to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit.
- Being accountable for my decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally, including by local residents.
- Contributing to making this Council's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible to enable residents to understand the reasoning behind those decisions and to be informed when holding me and other members to account but restricting access to information when the wider public interest or the law requires it.
- Behaving in accordance with all our legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within this Council's policies, protocols and procedures, including on the use of the Council's resources.
- Valuing my colleagues, engaging with them in an appropriate manner and one that underpins the mutual respect between us that is essential to good local government.
- Always treating people with respect, including the organisations and public I engage with and those I work alongside.
- Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles when championing the interests of the community with other organisations as well as within this Council.

Registering And Declaring Pecuniary And Non-Pecuniary Interests

You must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify the Council of any disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State, where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse's or civil partner's, or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners.



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In addition, you must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify the Council of any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which the Council has decided should be included in the register.

If an interest has not been entered onto the Council's register, then the member must disclose the interest to any meeting of the Council at which they are present, where they have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a 'sensitive interest'.

Following any disclosure of an interest not on the Council's register or the subject of pending notification, you must notify the Council of the interest within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure.

Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State. Additionally, you must observe the restrictions the Council places on your involvement in matters where you have a pecuniary or non pecuniary interest as defined by your Council.

NOTES

A 'sensitive interest' is described in the Localism Act 2011 as a member or co-opted member of a Council having an interest, and the nature of the interest being such that the member or co-opted member, and the Council, consider that disclosure of the details of the interest could lead to the member or co-opted member, or a person connected with the member or co-opted member, being subject to violence or intimidation.

If a member (or co-opted member) fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with the registration or disclosure obligations, or participates or votes in contravention of these provisions, they may be liable to prosecution under criminal law. Conviction is punishable by a fine not exceeding £5000. They may also be disqualified from holding office for a period of up to 5 years.