

Ditchingham Parish Council

Code of Conduct Policy

Version Control

Version	Date	By	Reason
Draft 0.1d	31/08/2013	Full Council	Adopted
Draft 0.2b	12/11/2014	Full Council	No Changes. Agreed by F&R Committee
Draft 2.0	17/11/2014	Full Council	Revisions. Adopted by Council
Draft 2.1	16/11/2015	Full Council	Revisions. Adopted by Council
Draft 2.3	16/11/2015	Full Council	Revisions. Adopted by Council
Draft 3	16/01/2017	Full Council	Revisions. Adopted by Council

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this Document

The Localism Act abolishes the standards regime established under the Local Government Act 2000 and replaces it with a simpler, less prescriptive method of addressing standards and ethics issues within Local Authorities. Ditchingham Parish Council has adopted a conduct model based on that of South Norfolk Council and this document sets out that code.

Members' Code of Conduct

1. Principles

You are a member or co-opted member of DITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL and hence you shall have regard to the following principles:

- i. **Selflessness**
- ii. **Integrity**
- iii. **Objectivity**
- iv. **Accountability**
- v. **Openness**
- vi. **Honesty**
- vii. **Leadership**

2. Capacity

Accordingly, when acting in your capacity as a member or co-opted member:

- 2.1. You must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend or close associate.
- 2.2. You must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence you in the performance of your official duties.
- 2.3. When carrying out your public duties you must make all choices, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, on merit.
- 2.4. You are accountable for your decisions to the public and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.
- 2.5. You must be as open as possible about your decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of your authority and should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions.
- 2.6. You must declare any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, that relate to your public duties and must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest, including registering and declaring interests in a manner conforming with the procedures set out in paragraph 3 below.
- 2.7. You must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority, ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and you must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.
- 2.8. You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example.

3. Registration and declaration

Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

- 3.1. You must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your authority's monitoring officer 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

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pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners.

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

3.3. If an interest has not been entered onto the authority's register, then the member must disclose the interest to any meeting of the authority 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.

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

3.5. 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 your authority places on your involvement in matters where you have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest as defined by your authority.

3.6. A sensitive interest is described in the Localism Act 2011 as a member or co-opted member of an authority having an interest, and the nature of the interest being such that the member or co-opted member, and the authority's monitoring officer, 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.