

## **Code of Conduct of Nuthall Parish Council**

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

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

- As a Member of the council my conduct will in particular address the statutory principles of the code of conduct by:
- having regard to the following principles – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership
- 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, members of our communities and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially
- not allowing other pressures to deter me from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the Council's area or the good governance of the authority in a proper manner
- never improperly conferring an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for myself, my family, a friend or close associate or place myself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence me in the performance of official duties
- when carrying out my public duties making all choices, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, on merit, 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 authority
- 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 authority's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible and being prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions 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

- declaring any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, that relate to my 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 the box below
- when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority, I will ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and I will have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986
- behaving in accordance with all the Council's legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within this authority's policies, protocols and procedures, including on the use of the Authority's resources
- valuing my colleagues and staff and 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 authority
- co-operating fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to office
- promoting and supporting high standards of conduct when serving in my public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example.

#### **Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**

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

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.

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'.<sup>1</sup>

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.

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 below. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.