

Gressingham Parish Council

Code of Conduct

Status

- 1 This code of conduct has been adopted by Gressingham Parish Council (referred to in this document as GPC) in order to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members.
- 2 This code applies to you as a member or co-opted member of this Council when you act in that role and it is your responsibility to comply with the provisions of this code.

Selflessness

- 3 You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage on any person including yourself.

Objectivity

- 4 In carrying out public business you must make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

Accountability

- 5 You are accountable for your decisions and actions to the public and must submit yourself to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.

Openness

- 6 You must be as open as possible about your actions and those of your Council and must be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

Honesty and Integrity

- 7 You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned, must not behave improperly and must on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

Leadership

- 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 and in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

General Obligations

9. You must treat others with respect and ensure that you are aware of and comply with all legal obligations that apply to you as a member or co-opted member of the Council and act within the law. You must not bully any person.
- 10 You must not do anything that compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of the Council.
- 11 You must not disclose any information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you of which you are aware, or ought reasonably to be aware is of a confidential nature except where:
 - i you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;
 - ii you are required by law to do so;
 - iii the disclosure is made to a third party for the purposes of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person;
 - iv the disclosure is:
 - a) reasonable and in the public interest;

- b) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the council.
- 12 You must not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of your role as a member of the Council for your own personal advantage or gain.
- 13 When making decisions on behalf or as part of the Council you must have regard to any professional advice provided to you by the Council's officers.
- 14 When using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the Council:
 - i you must act in accordance with the Council's reasonable requirements;
 - li you must make sure that you do not use resources improperly for political purposes and do not use them at all for party political purposes.

Registering and Declaring Interests

- 15 You must within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member notify the Lancaster City Council's Monitoring Officer of any pecuniary interests to be disclosed. Pecuniary interest is defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse or civil partner's or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living as husband or wife or as if you are civil partners.
- 16 You must disclose the interest at any meeting of the Council at which you are present where you have an interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not of a 'sensitive interest'.
- 17 Following any disclosure of an interest not on the Council'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.
- 18 Unless a 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. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.

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