

Stonham Parva Parish Council - Councillor Code of Conduct

Introduction

This code has been adopted by the council as required by section 27 of the Localism Act 2011. The Council has a statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co opted members of the council. The code sets out the standards that the council expects members to observe.

Who does the code apply to?

The code applies to all members of the council and to all co opted members of any committee, sub-committee or joint committee.

When does the code apply?

The code applies whenever a member is acting in their capacity as a member, a representative of the council or when they claim to act or give the impression of acting as a member or representative of the council. It does not seek to regulate what members do in their purely private and personal lives, unless such conduct brings the council into disrepute.

What standards of conduct are members required to observe?

When carrying out their role members should always act in accordance with the seven principles of public life, the council's PEOPLE value and the following standards;

The seven principles of public life Standards of conduct

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

- 1 Serve the public.
- 2 Only take decisions in the public interest.
- 3 Treat everyone that they deal with equally and with respect and courtesy

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

- 1 Should declare and resolve their interests in accordance with the law and with the provisions of this code of conduct.
- 2 Should not place themselves in a position where they either are, or give the appearance that they are, under any financial or other obligation to anyone that might seek to influence them in the performance of their duties as a member.
- 3 Should not act or take decisions in order to (or attempt to) confer or secure an advantage, disadvantage, financial gain or other material benefits for themselves, their family or close associations.
- 4 Should declare gifts and hospitality that are accepted or not where the value exceeds £20

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

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Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

- 1 Be accountable to the public for their decisions and actions.
- 2 Co-operate fully with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular role or office.
- 3 Act in accordance with the member and officer relations code.
- 4 Act in accordance with the constitutional procedural rules and codes.
- 5 Do not prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled to by law

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

- 1 Be as open as possible about their decisions and actions and should give reason for their decisions and actions
- 2 Complete and maintain an up to date register of interests
- 3 Do draw attention to any code of conduct interest when performing their duties as a member.
- 4 Do not bully, harass, intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

- 1 Be truthful
- 2 Declare any private interests that relate to their duties as a member and resolve any such conflict in a way that protects the public interest
- 3 Only use the resources of the council in accordance with the reasonable requirements set out for their use from time to time.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

- 1 Actively promote and robustly support leadership principles.
- 2 Be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs
- 3 Never undertake any action which would bring the council, members or officers into disrepute
- 4 Never make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other members or anyone who works for, or on behalf of your council.

Code of conduct interests

Registerable Interests

The monitoring officer will maintain a register of interests which can be inspected at xxx and MSDC's website:

<https://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx?ID=491&LS=1>

The register of interests is defined by regulations made under section 30(3) of the Localism Act 2011("the Act"),