

HADNALL PARISH COUNCIL

CODE OF CONDUCT

CODE OF CONDUCT: As a member or co-opted member of the Parish Council, each Councillor has a responsibility to represent the community and work constructively with 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, each Councillor is committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieve best value for parishioners and to 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 they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands it.
 - **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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STATUTORY PRINCIPALS: As a Member of the Parish Council, a Councillor's conduct will address the statutory principles of the Code of Conduct by:

- Championing the needs of residents – the whole community (including those who did not vote for them) and putting their interests first.
- Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of the community and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.
- Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of themselves or others connected to them, to deter them from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of Hadnall Parish Council or the good governance of the authority in a proper manner.
- Exercising independent judgement and not compromising their position by placing themselves under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way they perform their duties as a member of the authority.
- Listening to the interests of all parties (including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers) and taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit.
- Being accountable for their decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally, including by residents.

- Contributing to making this authority’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 themselves 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 the legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within the Council’s policies, protocols and procedures, including on the use of the Council’s resources.
 - Valuing all colleagues and staff and engaging with them in an appropriate manner and one that underpins the mutual respect that is essential to good local government.
 - Always treating people with respect, including the organisations and public they engage with and those with whom they 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.
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C) REGISTRATION AND DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS: As a Member of the Parish Council (elected or co-opted) Councillors are required to register certain interests known as "disclosable pecuniary interests" of their own and of their partner (including spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as if they were a spouse or civil partner) These interests are set out under “Interests” below:

When a Councillors is present at a meeting of the Council and they have a disclosable pecuniary interest (which includes their own interest and that of their partner) in any matter which is being considered which is entered in the Council's register of interests, they do not need to disclose it to the meeting, but they will withdraw from the meeting room when the matter is being discussed and will not participate, or participate further, in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter at the meeting.

If a disclosable pecuniary interest (which includes their own interest and that of their partner) is not entered in the Council's register of interests, they will disclose its existence and, unless it is a sensitive interest, (that is, if its disclosure is such that they and their Monitoring Officer consider it may lead to them or a person connected with them being subject to violence or intimidation), its nature to the meetings and will notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the meeting. They will withdraw from the meeting room when the matter is being discussed and will not participate, or participate further, in any discussion of, or any vote taken on, the matter at the meeting.

INTERESTS:

Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation: Any employment, office, trade, etc carried on for profit or gain by a Councillor or their partner.

Sponsorship: Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided with the relevant period (meaning the period of 12 months ending with the day on which they give notification of its existence) in respect of any expenses incurred by them in carrying out their duties as a member, or towards their election expenses including any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Contracts: Any contract which is made between a Councillor or their partner (or a body in which they or their partner has a beneficial interest (meaning a firm in which they or their partner is a director, or in the securities of which they or their partner has a beneficial interest; and director includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society) and the Council - a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and b) which has not yet been fully discharged.

Land: Any beneficial interest in land (excluding an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income;) which is in the area of the Council (within the parish).

Licences: Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the Council (the parish) for a month or longer.

Corporate tenancies: Any tenancy where (to their knowledge) a) the landlord is the Council; and b) the tenant is a body in which a Councillor or their partner has a beneficial interest.

Securities: Any beneficial interest in securities (meaning shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme with the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society) of a body where: a) that body (to their knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the Council (the parish) and b) either; (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which they or their partner has a beneficial interest, exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Adopted 2012.