

CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

Based on The National Association of Local Councils 2012

Part 1: General Provisions and Interpretation

Introduction

This Code of Conduct is adopted by **Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council** pursuant to its statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the Council. This Code applies to all Members and Co-opted Members of the Council.

This Code is based on and is consistent with the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership as referred to in the Localism Act 2011.

In the interests of transparency and openness, and in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, a copy of the Register of Members' Interests is published on the Winchester City Council's website, and on the Parish Council's website through a link to the City Council website. It is also available for public inspection at the City Council's offices at all reasonable hours or through arrangement with the Clerk.

1. Scope

This Code applies to all Members and Co-opted Members of the Council when acting in their official capacity, or when giving the impression that they are acting as a representative of the Council.

References in this Code to "Member" shall also be interpreted to include co-opted Member.

Where a Member is a member of more than one local authority, but acting on behalf of the Council, such Member is, for the avoidance of doubt, bound by this Code of Conduct.

General obligations of Members and Co-opted Members

As a Member of the Parish Council, your conduct will address the principles of the Code of Conduct by:

3.1 Representing the needs of residents, and putting their interests first.

3.2 Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of communities within the administrative area of the Town/Parish Council and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.

3.3 Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of yourself or others connected to you, to deter you from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the Council's area, or the good governance of the Council in a proper manner.

3.4 Exercising independent judgement and not compromising your position by placing yourself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way you perform your duties.

3.5 Listening to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers of the Council, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit.

3.6 Being accountable for your decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally.

3.7 Contributing to making the Council's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible.

3.8 Restricting access to information when the wider public interest, the Council's Constitution (or Standing Orders), or the law requires it.

3.9 Behaving in accordance with all the Council's legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained in the Council's policies, protocols and procedures relating to conduct.

3.10 Ensuring that when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the Council that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes.

3.11 Having regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986 or otherwise.

3.12 Not knowingly doing anything which might cause the Council to breach any legislation.

3.13 Valuing your colleagues and Officers of the Council and engaging with them in an appropriate manner.

3.14 Always treating all people and organisations with respect and propriety.

3.15 Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles.

11 May 2016

Part 2: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

1. Introduction

A disclosable pecuniary interest is an interest falling within the Schedule set out at Paragraph 3 below of:

1.1 Yourself; or

1.2 Your spouse or civil partner, or someone you are living with as if you were husband and wife or civil partners, where you are aware that that other person has the interest.

2. Interpretation

In the Schedule set out at Paragraph 3 below, the following words or expressions mean as follows:

2.1 'the Act' means the Localism Act 2011;

2.2 'body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest' means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director, or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest;

2.3 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;

2.4 'land' excludes 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;

2.5 'M' means a member of a relevant authority;

2.6 'member' includes a co-opted member;

2.7 'relevant authority' means the Town/Parish Council of which M is a member;

2.8 'relevant period' means the period of 12 months ending with the day on which M gives a notification of a disclosable pecuniary interest for the purposes of Section 30(1) or Section 31(7), as the case may be, of the Act;

2.9 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

3. Schedule of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by M in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of M. This includes 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 the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority: (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (along or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to M's knowledge): (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where: (a) that body (to M's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either: