

Code of Conduct

You are a member or co-opted member of Urchfont Parish Council and hence you shall have regard to the following principles - **selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.**

You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your public post, in particular as characterized by the following requirements, by leadership and example.

Accordingly, when acting in your capacity as a member or co-opted member:

1. You must treat other Councillors, Officers and members of the public with respect and must not bully or behave in an intimidatory manner.
2. You must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend or close associate.
3. You must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organizations that might seek to influence you in the performance of your official duties.
4. When carrying out your public duties you must make all choices, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, on merit.
5. You are accountable for your decisions to the public and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.
6. You must be as open as possible about your decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of your authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions.
7. You must declare any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, that relate to your 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 below.
8. You must, when using or authorizing the use by others of the resources of your authority, ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and you must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.
9. You shall use the resources of the Council in accordance with its requirements.
10. You shall not disclose any information which is confidential or where disclosure is prohibited by law.

11. Outside of Council meetings:
 - a. you must ensure that you only disclose or confirm decisions that have already been made by the Council;
 - b. when expressing a view on a Council decision(s), issues still under Council consideration or any other matter, you must make it absolutely clear that you are expressing a personal not necessarily a Council view or opinion on such matters
 - c. you must ensure that you do not make a direct, speculative or otherwise inappropriate comment about an issue or individual which can be misinterpreted as a Council view

Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

12. 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 as a husband of wife, or as if you were civil partners.
13. 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 interests which your authority has decided should be included in the register.
14. If an interest has not been entered onto the authority's register you must disclose the interest to any meeting of authority at which you are present, where you have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a sensitive interest.
15. Following any disclosure of an interest which is 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.
16. 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. 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.
17. In certain circumstances the Council may grant a dispensation to permit a member(s) to take part in the business of the authority even if the member has a disclosable pecuniary interest relating to that business. A written request for dispensation is to be submitted, well in advance of any anticipated discussion, to the Clerk who has delegated responsibility to receive and approve such dispensation requests on behalf of the Council. The Clerk will notify the Council and Authority Monitoring Officer if dispensation is approved.

To be completed by all Councillors and Co-Opted Members of Committees and returned to the Clerk to the Council within 10 days of receipt of this Code of Conduct dated 8th October 2014

I (Name) hereby confirm that I have received, read and fully understand the requirements set down in this Code of Conduct.

Signed Dated

Please return this page only to: Bob Lunn, Clerk to the Council, 14 Walnut Close, Urchfont, SN10 4RU