

CHEDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Code of Conduct -2015

Introduction

Pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, Cheddleton Parish Council ('the Council') has adopted this Code of Conduct to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour by its members and co-opted members whenever they conduct the business of the Council including the business of the office to which they were elected or appointed or when they claim to act or give the impression of acting as a representative of the Council.

The Code of Conduct is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code, a 'co-opted member' is a person who is not a member of the Council but who is either a member of any committee or sub-committee of the Council, or a member of, and represents the Council on any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Council, and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee.

For the purposes of this Code, a 'meeting' is a meeting of the Council, any of its committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees.

Member Obligations

When a member of the Council acts, claims to act or gives the impression of acting as a representative of the Council, he/she has the following obligations:

1. He/she shall behave in such a way that a reasonable person would regard as respectful.
2. He/she shall not act in a way which a reasonable person would regard as bullying or intimidatory.
3. He/she shall not seek to improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.
4. He/she shall use the resources of the Council in accordance with its requirements.
5. He/she shall not disclose information which is confidential or where disclosure is prohibited by law.

Registration of Interests

6. Within 28 days of this Code being adopted by the Council, or the member's election or the co-opted member's appointment (where that is later), a member shall register with the Monitoring Officer of the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council the interests which fall within the categories set out in Appendices A and B.
7. Upon the re-election of a member or the re-appointment of a co-opted member, the member shall within 28 days re-register with the Monitoring Officer any interests in Appendices A and B.
8. A member shall register with the Monitoring Officer any change to interests or new interests in Appendices A and B within 28 days of becoming aware of it.
9. A member need only declare the existence but not the details of any interest which the Monitoring Officer agrees is a 'sensitive interest.' A sensitive interest is one which, if disclosed on a public register, could lead the member or a person connected with the member to be subject to violence or intimidation.

Declaration of Interests at Meetings

10. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A the member shall withdraw from the meeting room and not participate in the discussion or voting on the matter. The member only has to declare the nature of the interest at the meeting if it is not already entered in the member's register of interests or is pending registration having been notified to the Monitoring Officer.
11. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A which is a sensitive interest, the member shall not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter. If it is a sensitive interest which has not already been disclosed to the Monitoring Officer, the member shall disclose the existence of the interest but not the nature of it.
12. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix B the member shall not vote on the matter.
13. A member only has to declare an interest in Appendix B if it is not already entered in the member's register of interests or is pending registration having been notified to the Monitoring Officer, or if the member speaks on the matter. If the member holds an interest in Appendix B which is a sensitive interest not already disclosed to the Monitoring Officer, he/she shall declare the interest but not the nature of the interest.
14. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to a financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate (other than an interest in Appendix A), the member shall disclose the nature of the interest and not speak or vote on the matter. If it is a 'sensitive interest' the member shall declare the interest but not the nature of the interest.

Dispensations

15. On a written request made to the Council's proper officer, the Council may grant a member a dispensation to participate in a discussion and vote on a matter at a meeting even if the member has an interest in Appendices A and B if the Council considers that;
 - a. Without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business.
 - b. Without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business.
 - c. Granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area.
 - d. It is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.