

Lydiard Millicent Parish Council

Code of Conduct

Introduction

Pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, Lydiard Millicent 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. This Code of Conduct is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.

Member Obligations

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

You are a member or co-opted member of Lydiard Millicent 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 characterised by the following requirements, by leadership and example. Accordingly, when acting in your capacity as a member or co-opted member:

1. 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.
2. You must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence you in the performance of your official duties.
3. 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.
4. You are accountable for your decisions to the public and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. You must, when using or authorising 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.

Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

8. You must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, register your interests on line, notifying 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 or wife, or as if you were civil partners.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.

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12. 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.

Declaration of Interests at Meetings

- 13 Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest. The Member shall not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter. He/she only has to declare what his/her interest is if it is not already entered in the Member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.
- 14 Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest 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 he/she has an interest but not the nature of it.
- 15 Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest, the Member shall not vote on the matter. He/she may speak on the matter only if Members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.
- 16 A Member only has to declare his/her interest, if it is not already entered in his/her register of interests or he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it or if he/she speaks on the matter. If he/she holds an interest 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.
- 17 Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to a financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate (other than an interest of the Member) the Member shall disclose the nature of the interest and not vote on the matter. He/she may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. If it is a 'sensitive interest' the Member shall declare the interest but not the nature of the interest.

Dispensations

On a written request made to the Clerk, the Council may grant a member a dispensation to participate in a discussion and vote on a matter at a meeting even if he/she has an interest in, if the Council believes that the number of Members otherwise prohibited from taking part in the meeting would impede the transaction of the business; or it is in the interests of the inhabitants in the Council's area to allow the Member to take part or it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation

Adopted at the Parish Council meeting held March 2024