

Tollesbury Parish Council

Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Tollesbury Parish Council will be held on **Monday 1**st **August 2022**, in **The Pavilion, Tollesbury Recreation Ground, Elysian Gardens** commencing at **7.30 pm**, to which members of the Council are summoned for the transaction of the under-mentioned business.

M. Curtis

Michelle Curtis – Clerk to the Council

27th July 2022

Councillors: S Plater (Chairman), T Lowther (Vice-Chairman), M Bell, V Chambers, R Clare, A Ferneyhough, L Goldie, S Hawes, J Rogers, A St Joseph

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

Photographing, recording, broadcasting, or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is permitted; however, the privacy of (i) persons who object to the same and (ii) children and vulnerable adults must be respected by anonymising the identities of such.

1. Co-option

To co-opt a Parish Councillor for Tollesbury Parish Council.

2. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

3. Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded that they are required to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests and Non-Pecuniary Interests which they know they might have in items of business on the agenda. They are reminded that they will need to repeat their declarations at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if required under the Code of Conduct. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

4. Public Forum

Members of the public will be given an opportunity to put forward their question(s) or statements to the Council. The Chairman will, at his discretion, then decide if he is able to answer the question(s) or proposes to put the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. County Councillor and District Councillors

- **5.1** To receive a report from County Councillor Durham
- **5.2** To receive a report from the District Councillors

6. Minutes

To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th July 2022

7. Finance

- **7.1** To receive and approve the Monthly Financial Report as of 31st July 2022
- **7.2** To receive and approve the payment schedule

8. Planning

8.1 Planning Applications

Applications are circulated to all Councillors with the agenda for study ahead of the meeting. Planning documents are also available for everyone to view on Maldon District Council's website (www.maldon.gov.uk).

To consider planning applications received from Maldon District Council, including the following:

Application No: HOUSE/MAL/22/00751 PP-11345407

Proposal: Single-storey side extension Location: 4 Kings Walk Tollesbury

Application No: FUL/MAL/22/00542 PP-11194969

Proposal: Temporary use of land for the stationing of three caravans

in connection with carrying out approved development refs.

21/00622 and 21/00307.

Location: Barn A At Guisnes Lodge Back Road Tollesbury

Application No: OUT/MAL/22/00237

Proposal: Residential development of up to 4 no. dwellings and

associated works (all matters reserved).

Location: Land East Of Guisnes Lodge Chapel Road Tollesbury

Application No: HOUSE/MAL/22/00788 PP-11377475

Proposal: Proposed double garage with side store, pitched roof and

basement.

Location: Monk House 115 Mell Road Tollesbury

Amended Description

Application No: HOUSE/MAL/22/00527 PP-11185439

Proposal: Proposed side and front extensions and the creation of a room in the roof (including increased roof height and dormer window to front elevation)

Location: 5 Woodrolfe Farm Lane

Drawing Nos: 2109-003 Rev A, 2109-004 Rev B, 2109-001, 2109-

002 Rev A.

For Information only

Application No: AGR/MAL/22/00803 PP-11385305 Proposal: Prior notification for a barn for hay storage. Location: Barn South Of Wick Farm Mell Road Tollesbury

8.2 Planning Decisions

To receive notification of Planning Decisions from Maldon District Council.

HOUSE/MAL/22/00645 - 1 Sceptre Close - Refused

TCA/MAL/21/01259 - 10 - 12 West Street – Approved

<u>COUPA/MAL/21/01031 - Land Adjacent To Old Hall Farm Old Hall Lane – Prior approval required and refused</u>

NMA/MAL/22/00718 - White Leighs 44 Woodrolfe Road - Non-Material Amendment Refused

8.3 Applications Withdrawn

To receive notification from Maldon District Council of Planning Applications withdrawn.

Application No: 22/00518/LBC PP-11171268
Proposal: Conversion of outbuilding into office

Location: Rolls Farm 3 Prentice Hall Lane Tollesbury

8.4 Planning Appeals

To receive notification of Planning Appeals from Maldon District Council.

8.5 Planning Appeal Decisions

To note appeal decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate.

8.6 Tree Preservation Orders for information

To note TPOs made by Maldon District Council.

9. Recreation Ground

- **9.1** To receive a verbal update from the Recreation Ground Committee
- **9.2** To receive the Monthly Inspection Report

10. Environment & Amenity (Allotments, Burial Ground, Hasler Green, Woodrolfe Green, Streetlight, Dog/Litter Bins, Highways, Footpaths)

10.1 To receive a verbal update from the Environment and Amenity Committee.

11. Woodrolfe Hard

11.1 To receive a verbal update from the Woodrolfe Hard Committee

12. Woodup Pool

- **12.1** To receive a verbal update from the Woodup Pool Committee
- 12.2 <u>To consider the request from 1st Blackwater Scouts (Tollesbury) to</u> use Woodup Pool for Cubs/Scouts activities.

12.3 To receive the decision on the application to the Locality Fund for funding towards the water sampling at Woodup Pool.

13. Community Initiatives Fund

- 13.1 To consider the quotations for a kick wall for the Recreation Ground
- **13.2** To approve the application to the Essex County Community Initiatives Funds

14. Code of Conduct

- **14.1** To receive a copy of the <u>PowerPoint presentation</u> from Maldon District Council for the new Code of Conduct *
- **14.2** To consider adopting the new <u>Code of Conduct</u> as recommended by Maldon District Council *

15. Environment Agency

To receive an <u>email from David Kemp</u>, Senior Team Leader, Coastal Partnerships & Strategic Overview Team, regarding Tollesbury Flood Defences *

16. Maldon District Council - Public Space Protection Order

To receive notification of the <u>Maldon District Council (Dog Control) Public Space Protection Order</u> which came into effect on Monday 18th July 2022 for 3 years, until 18 July 2025.

17. Police/Community Protection Officers (CPO)

- **17.1** To receive the Police Reports (confidential) and discuss policing matters within the village to feedback to Essex Police
- 17.2 To receive the CPO Report for June 2022

18. Administration

To receive information from the Clerk – update on current and ongoing matters

19. Community Concerns

To receive information only or note future agenda items

20. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

In view of the confidential personnel and contractual nature of the business to be transacted, to consider excluding the press and public from the meeting.

21. Employment Matters

To review the remuneration for the Caretaker.

22. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

To consider permitting the press and public to return to the meeting.

23. Dates of the Next Meetings

Monday 5th September 2022 – Woodrolfe Hard Committee – 7.30 pm – Pavilion

Tuesday 6th September 2022 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm – Pavilion

Tuesday 13th September 2022 – Finance and Policy committee – 7.30 pm – Pavilion

Tuesday 20th September 2022 - Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm – Pavilion

Tuesday 20th September 2022 – Recreation Ground Committee – Following the Full Council Meeting

Tuesday 4th October 2022 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm – Pavilion

Tuesday 18th October 2022 - Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm – Pavilion

Tuesday 18th October 2022 – Woodup Pool Committee – Following the Full Council Meeting

If you would like an item on the agenda at any Parish Council or Committee Meeting, you should write your request to the Parish Clerk at least a week before the meeting.

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Address: PO Box 13205, Maldon, Essex CM9 9FU

Telephone: 01621 869039. Email: tollesburypc@btinternet.com

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Weekly List Of Decisions Week Ending 15th July 2022



HOUSE/MAL/22/00645 Tollesbury East

Construction of two storey side extension 1 Sceptre Close Tollesbury Essex CM9 8XB (UPRN - 100090563829) Mr & Mrs Hills

REFUSE for the following reason:-

The proposed two storey side extension, by reason of its position, size and design, would be a contrived, cramped and incongruous addition to the host dwelling and the streetscene to the detriment of the appearance and character of the main dwelling and wider locality. It is therefore considered that the proposed development is contrary to Policies D1 and H4 of the Maldon District Approved Local Development Plan and the NPPF.

POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE STATEMENT

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Positive and Proactive Statement:

The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by identifying matters of concern with the proposal and determining the application within a timely manner, clearly setting out the reason(s) for refusal, allowing the Applicant/Agent the opportunity to consider the harm caused and whether or not it can be remedied by a revision to the proposal. The Local Planning Authority is willing to liaise with the Applicant/Agent to discuss the best course of action and is also willing to provide pre-application advice in respect of any future application for a revised development.

Officer: Jade Elles Dated: 13/07/2022

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Weekly List Of Decisions Week Ending 22 July 2022



TCA/MAL/21/01259 Tollesbury West

Sycamore - Crown reduction up to a maximum of 4m 10 - 12 West Street Tollesbury Essex CM9 8RJ (UPRN - 100090566127) Emma Hammersley

ALLOWED TO PROCEED

Officer: Nicola Ward Dated: 18/07/2022

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Weekly List Of Decisions Week Ending 22 July 2022



COUPA/MAL/21/01031 Tollesbury West

Change of use of agricultural buildings to 2no. dwellinghouses (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.

Land Adjacent To Old Hall Farm Old Hall Lane Tolleshunt D'Arcy Essex (UPRN - 010094634975)

J Paramenter

PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED AND REFUSED for the following reasons:-

- 1. The proposed development does not comprise permitted development under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q, of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as the proposed works, namely the addition of glazed elements to the side of the front door on the western elevation, including the considerable extent of proposed fenestration and glazing to the elevations, the re-construction of external walls and roof and the re-construction of the cartlodge as part of a substantial overall scheme of building works, would go beyond the works reasonably necessary for the building to function as a dwelling and go beyond the permitted works listed within Class Q(i).
- 2. Condition Q.2 (1) (d) of Class Q of Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) requires the Local Planning Authority to assess the flood risks on site. In this instance it not considered that adequate information has been provided to enable the Council to be satisfied that the proposed development would not result in unacceptable flooding risks to the occupiers of site. Therefore in line with Paragraph W (3)(a) and (b), the Local Planning Authority is obliged to deem that the application does not comply with the limitations of Schedule 2 Part 3 Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended).
- 3. Condition Q.2 (1) (f) of Class Q of Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) requires the Local Planning Authority to assess the design or external appearance of the building. In this instance it not considered that adequate information has been provided to enable the Council to be satisfied that the proposed development would maintain the agricultural appearance of the building and character of the rural area. Therefore in line with Paragraph W (3)(a) and (b), the Local Planning Authority is obliged to deem that the application does not comply with the limitations of Schedule 2 Part 3 Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended).

4. Insufficient information is available to ensure that the completed legal agreement pursuant to Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is robust in securing a necessary financial contribution towards Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy or an appropriate mitigation strategy to overcome the impacts of the development on the European designated nature conservation sites. It has therefore not been demonstrated to the satisfactory of the Local Planning Authority that the development would not have an adverse impact on those European designated nature conservation sites, contrary to Policies S1, and I1 of the Maldon District Local Development Plan and the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Officer: Devan Hearnah Dated: 15/07/2022

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Weekly List Of Decisions Week Ending 15th July 2022



NMA/MAL/22/00718 Tollesbury East

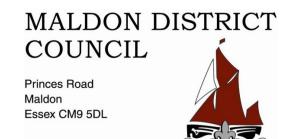
Application for non-material amendment following grant of Planning Permission 20/01147/HOUSE (Single storey rear/ side extension. Roof addition including roof lights and flue pipe. Changes to fenestration.) Amendment sought: Omission of hipped/pitched roof to new side extension and replacement with flat roof as existing. 1no. new flat rooflight and 1no. new glazed lantern within flat roof. Insertion of 1no. rooflight into exising pitched roof.

White Leighs 44 Woodrolfe Road Tollesbury Essex (UPRN - 100090566499) Mr and Mrs Peter Buist

REFUSED

Officer: Jade Elles Dated: 11/07/2022

25 July 2022



Clerk to Tollesbury Parish Council PO Box 13205 Maldon Essex CM9 9FU

Enquiries to: Hannah Dungate Email: dc.planning@maldon.gov.uk

www.maldon.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Application No: 22/00518/LBC PP-11171268

Proposal: Conversion of outbuilding into office

Location: Rolls Farm 3 Prentice Hall Lane Tollesbury Essex

Further to our recent correspondence on the above application I can inform you that LBC permission is not required and so the application is now deemed closed. The application will therefore no longer be considered by the Council and the application file has been closed.

Should the applicant decide to submit a further application it would be publicised in the normal way and consultations will be undertaken on the new application.

Yours faithfully

Matt Leigh

Lead Specialist Place





25 July 2022



Clerk to Tollesbury Parish Council PO Box 13205 Maldon Essex CM9 9FU

Enquiries to: Hannah Dungate Email: dc.planning@maldon.gov.uk

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Lead Specialist Place



TOLLESBURY PARISH COUNCIL PLAYGROUND CHECKLIST

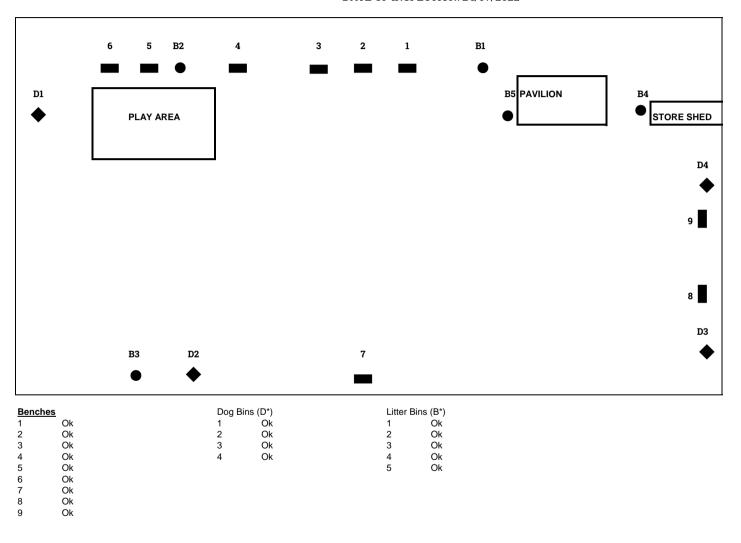
DATE OF INSPECTION: 24/07/2022

	Checked	Comments
EQUIPMENT	√	
Junior Swing	√	Rubber matting under swing needs replacing
Toddler Swing	√	
Snake Slide	√	Graffiti which has now been removed
Wooden Climber Platform	√	
Tower and Slide	√	
Spinning Seasaw	√	
Igloo Climber	√	
Roundabout	√	
Zip Wire	√	
Playship	√	Graffiti which has now been removed
Chicken and Cow Springer	√	
Youth Shelter	√	New graffiti 24/06/22
Skate Park	√	New good graffiti 17/06/22
Surfer Springer	√	
Fire Engine	√	
Fence	√	
Football Goal Posts	√	

Signed: $S \mathcal{J}$ Curtis

TOLLESBURY PARISH COUNCIL BENCHES AND BINS

DATE OF INSPECTION: 24/07/2022



Signed: S J Curtis



11th July 2022

Dear Tollesbury Parish Council

On behalf of the 1st Blackwater Scout Group, we would be grateful if you could consider the following request:

Use of Woodup pool for Cubs/Scouts activities on the following Friday evenings from 5pm – 9pm.

9th September 2022

16th September 2022

23rd September 2022

30th September 2022

7th October 2022

14th October 2022

21st October 2022

The Group is happy to follow the previously agreed process for the Cubs summer term activities, including sectioning off the agreed portion of the pool to allow for resident's use, publish our proposed dates of use, and any other notices the Parish Council agrees are required.

A copy of our risk assessment and link to insurance cover is enclosed with this request.

Kind regards

Cameron Kennedy

Emma Field

Layla Drewell

Jolene Rogers

1st Blackwater Scouts Executive Committee

Blackwater Scout Group Risk Assessment 1St

Hazard: #9 Drowning

Review Date: 01 May 2023

vessels. All activities must confirm that the water is Cat C Risk Assessment Summary: Boundaries, Call for Help distress calls must be part of the leaders briefing. The use of buoyancy aids (or life Jackets) for all activities on

Authorised on Behalf of the 1** Blackwater Scout Group Risk Management Committee by

ervised by the Leader in Charge

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Activities shall be approved by the Section Leade Activities shall be approved by the Group's Risk Own

Not cancibned without special Risk Ass

Residual Danger (1=Low / 4 = High) Activities may be Plannel/Supe E'mental 0 7 0 0 Risk to Life 7 4 Likelihood Level of Supervision (No impact Outcome [Note: Consider Exposure Hazard] Distress Procedures: Individual / Emergency services / 1st phase coordination Causes and must be warn for water activities where the Stowage of equipment Coast Guard Association report loss / Wearing Buoyancy aids is a control across all Root Inform HM Report to Process to blank Cameron Kennedy | GSL | DD MMM YY water is greater than 0.8m deep. Mitigation Control Training - Ability to provide Clothing to control 'cold water shock' Ability to 'cut free' First Ald
Training /
equipment /
means of equipment and Training / equipment / means of location and evacuation emergancy Security of nature of hazardous First Aid stowage evacuation Crew Training Safety Crew in Training / appropriate VHF coms – Distress Safety Crew in On the water – accounting procedures / buoyancy / tow) Individual appropriate Planning (Additional Qualified Contingency Qualified vessel vessel 1 to 2 time per year aggregated Risk Event 10+ times per year Uncontrolled submersion 3 to 9 times a year Scouting activities proximity to water Unlikety to accur undertaken in Most occasions Hazard 7 or the name of the Permit Holder. Supervision Ratio
& Marking of
weak swimmers] Entry/Exit into watercraft Weather conditions – Appropriate objective and equipment selection briefing/ training / supervision/ **Distress Signal** accounting Correct On the water **Preventative Controls** Appropriate Equipment [Footwear / Safety Hamess] Training – avoidance of physical hazards / nav markers / rules-of-the-road Seaworthiness – vessel buoyancy Water activities undertaken in Fit of clothing and group with "Safety Boat / Training [Currents / submersed objects] Leader Briefing (where swimming Leader Briefing righting vessel marking of weak swimmers Seaworthiness of bailing equipment Selection of Boundaries / Training -Identification Buoyancy / water for is allowd) Vessel activity loot Caus

Unlikely to occur

llfeguard"

- 1 to 2 time per year 3 to 9 times a year
- - Most occasions 10+ time
- Likelihood of causing a Risk Event
 - occurrence (with preventative controls in place):

Unlikely to cause damage

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minor or temporary damage (no need for external assistance) negligible damage

resulting from a Risk Event (with

mitigation controls in place):

Most probable residual danger

Supervision ratios

- significant or permanent damage (external assistance/resource required to make good) Catastrophic damage (external assistance/resource required to make good)

From: Cllr Mark Durham - Member CC <Cllr.Mark.Durham@essex.gov.uk>

To: Tollesbury Parish Council <tollesburypc@btinternet.com>

Date: Jul 6, 2022 11:51:47 AM **Subject: Locality Fund Application**

Michelle,

I am very sorry to advise that my application to the locality fund to cover the water sampling costs has been refused. This is because the fund rules do not allow funding for ongoing running costs for any project.

This is a shame, but I can understand the decision.

Mark

Cllr Mark FL Durham

Deputy Cabinet Member for Devolution, The Arts, Heritage and Culture

Chairman of Visit Essex

Division Member for Heybridge & Tollesbury

Email: <u>Cllr.Mark.Durham@essex.gov.uk</u> | <u>www.essex.gov.uk</u>

Renewal, Equality and Ambition

I have adopted the Essex County Council Standard Privacy Notice for Councillors, this tells you what I do with your personal information. To view the privacy notice <u>click here</u>. The privacy notice can be found on the <u>Councillor page</u>



The LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct

Maldon District Council



Purpose of the training

- To reflect on the importance of standards in public life
- To outline the provisions of the local authority's code of conduct
- To look at the requirements of behaviour and conduct for councillors
- · To explore interests, bias and predetermination



The importance of standards in public life

"Local government impacts the lives of citizens every day, providing essential services to those it serves. Its decisions directly affect the quality of life of local people. High standards of conduct in local government are needed to demonstrate that those decisions are taken in the public interest and to maintain public confidence"

The Committee on Standards in Public Life



What are the main challenges for you as a councillor in ensuring high standards of conduct?



The LGA Model Code

- The Committee on Standards in Public Life recommended the introduction of an updated model code in January 2019
- The LGA model code was introduced in December 2020 and the Council will bring the Code into effect on the 4th July



Purpose of the code

- To assist councillors in modelling the expected behaviour
- To provide a personal check and balance
- To set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you
- Also to protect you, the public, your fellow councillors, officers and the reputation of local government



General principles of councillor conduct



Principles

- Everyone in public office at all levels who serve the public or deliver public services should uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles
- The Model Code takes into account these Principles which were developed specifically for the role of councillor



The Nolan Principles

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership



General Principles (on all occasions)

- I act with integrity and honesty
- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor



General Principles (in undertaking your role)

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person
- I avoid conflicts of interest
- I exercise reasonable care and diligence
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with the local authority's requirements and in the public interest



Application of the code of conduct





The code applies...

- When you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when.....
 - You misuse your position as a councillor or
 - Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts, that you are acting as a councillor



The code applies to

- Face-to-face meetings
- Online or telephone meetings
- Written communication
- Verbal communication
- Non-verbal communication
- Electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments



Examples from the Guidance

- An argument with your neighbour private
- A councillor and an officer having a personal relationship – covered by the code
- Writing on council notepaper or using council e mail, using councillor business cards or wearing council regalia – covered by the code
- An argument with a taxi driver and a threat to their licence – covered by the code



Social Media

- Now explicitly covered by the code
- Can be the main source of code of conduct complaints in many local authorities

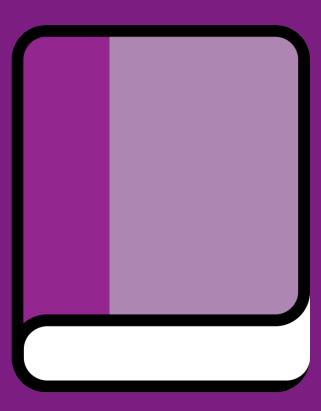


Examples from the Guidance

- Calling yourself a councillor (or not doing so) is not conclusive
- There must be a link within the posting or thread to your role as a councillor or to local authority business
- Councillor posted on Facebook (as a member of the public) that an officer should be sacked – covered by the code
- Councillor made insulting remarks about the Prime Minister – not covered by the code



General obligations under the code of conduct





Which of these do you think generates the most complaints?

- 1. Treating others with respect
- 2. Not bullying, harassing or discriminating
- 3. Not compromising the impartiality of officers
- 4. Dealing properly with information
- 5. Not bringing the council or your office into disrepute

- 6. Improper use of your position
- 7. Improper use of resources
- 8. Cooperating with code of conduct issues
- Registering and disclosing interests
- 10. Dealing properly with gifts and hospitality



Standards of Councillor Conduct (1)

- I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect
- I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with respect and respect the role they play



Examples from the Guidance

- Highly critical comment and offensive caption posted about a councillor who had recently died – disrespect (and disrepute)
- Comments on a blog about nepotism in the award of contracts – disrespect (and disrepute)
- Councillor made abusive insulting and personal remarks to a police officer in his capacity as a ward member – disrespect



Standards of Councillor Conduct (2)

- I do not bully any person
- I do not harass any person
- I promote equalities and do not discriminate against any person



Examples from the Guidance on bullying and harassment

- Isolated minor incident unlikely to be bullying, but cumulative minor incidents can be
- Did the councillor know their actions constitute harassment, would a reasonable person consider the actions to be harassment and what was the impact on the victim
- At an official event, a councillor made unwarranted and inappropriate physical contact with councillors and officers and made patronizing and demeaning comments – this was a breach of the code



Examples from the Guidance on equalities and discrimination

- Councillor "liked" racially discriminatory comments on social media advocating violence against travellers – a breach of the code
- Councillor made a derogatory racist comment about a candidate for a job – a breach of the code



Standards of Councillor Conduct (3)

 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority



Examples from the Guidance

- Councillor became involved in a social care case and inappropriately sought to influence operational decision making. He sent discourteous correspondence to officers
- Councillor sought to influence the decision of council officers dealing with a complaint by his son and daughter-in-law against a tenant
- Both were breaches of the code



Standards of Councillor Conduct (4)

- I do not disclose confidential information unless...
 - I have the required consent
 - I am required to do so by law
 - I need professional third-party advice
 - The disclosure is reasonable, in the public interest, in good faith, complies with the local authority's requirements and there has been consultation with the Monitoring Officer



Standards of Councillor Conduct (4) (cont.)

- I do not improperly use knowledge gained as a result of my role
- I do not prevent lawful access to information



Examples from the Guidance

 Councillor was involved in an adoption case and inadvertently shared information about the matter with a relative of the constituent – a breach of the code

 Councillor circulated information about the medical condition of an officer without consent – a breach



Standards of Councillor Conduct.(5)

I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute



Examples from the Guidance

- Councillor posted an offensive tweet about another councillor referring to the SFO investigating her conduct
 this brought the authority into disrepute
- Councillor took advantage of a mistake and failed to prevent local authority employed contractors working on his (privately owned) home – this brought the authority into disrepute
- Chair of a council made a deeply inappropriate remark at a meeting. Many other councillors expressed concerns and found the remarks inappropriate – this brought his office (but not the authority) into disrepute



Standards of Councillor Conduct (6)

 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else



Examples from the Guidance

- Councillor discussed and voted on a new lease to a community group without revealing that she was the "joint co-ordinator" of the group – this was using her position improperly
- Leader failed to declare a conflict of interest and used his position to enhance the value of his own land (by instructing a planning officer re the route of a by-pass) – a breach of the code (and an 18 month prison sentence)



Standards of Councillor Conduct (7)

- I do not misuse local authority resources.
- I will use them in accordance with the local authority's requirements and will not use them for political purposes (unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local authority or my office)



Examples from the Guidance

- Councillor used council computer equipment for private purposes by downloading pornographic images – this was a misuse of resources (and also disrepute)
- Councillor used council notepaper in an attempt to avoid parking penalties incurred by his son – this was a breach of the code (and a conviction for deception)



Standards of Councillor Conduct (8)

- I undertake standards training
- I co-operate with any standards investigation and/or determination
- I do not intimidate/attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of an investigation or proceedings
- I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a breach finding



Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority



Standards of Councillor Conduct (9)

I register and disclose my interests



Standards of Councillor Conduct (10)

- I do not accept gifts and hospitality, irrespective of value, which could give rise to gain or concern
- I register any gift or hospitality of £50 or more with the MO within 28 days
- I register with the MO any significant gift or hospitality I have been offered but rejected



Registration and disclosure of interests





Which aspects of registering or disclosing interests do you find most challenging?



Interests

- Three types...
 - Disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs)
 - Other registerable interests (ORIs)
 - Non-registerable interests (NRIs)
- Two situations...
 - Registration
 - Disclosure



Disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs)

- They relate to things such as your employment, interests in land, contracts with the Council etc. (Table 1)
- They cover interests of you and of your spouse/partner
- You must register them within 28 days of election and whenever your position changes
- It is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011 to fail to register DPIs, to fail to disclose them at meetings, to participate or vote where you have a DPI or to provide false or misleading information about them



DPIs (2)

 Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to a DPI, you must disclose it, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and not remain in the room (unless you have a dispensation)



Guidance on DPIs

- You have a DPI where the matter being discussed directly relates to your registered interest rather than just affecting it
- If you live at 1 Acacia Avenue, you will have a DPI if you apply for planning permission for 1 Acacia Avenue or if the whole of Acacia Avenue is being considered for a Residents' Parking Zone.
- You will not have a DPI if 3 Acacia Avenue has put in a planning application (though you may have a NRI)



Examples from the guidance – DPIs

- Awarding a contract to your own company
- Planning application for your own property
- Resident parking zone includes your house
- All these are DPIs, so you you should disclose and withdraw (unless you have a dispensation)
- Criminal offence if you fail to do so Section 34 of the Localism Act 2011



Other registerable interests (ORIs)

- Relate to unpaid directorships, membership of outside bodies, charities, lobby groups, TUs, political parties etc. (Table 2)
- Must register them within 28 days of election/appointment to office and whenever your position changes



ORIs (2)

- Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of an ORI, you must disclose it
- You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have a dispensation
- (See later for what to do if something affects one of your ORIs)



Examples from the guidance – ORIs

- Awarding/withdrawing grant funding or granting planning permission to a body of which you are a member e.g. community hall
- Both directly relate to the finances of an ORI.
- Both are therefore interests you should disclose, you should not participate in the discussion or vote and withdraw (unless you have a dispensation or the public can address the meeting)



Non-registerable interests (NRIs) "directly relates to"

- Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a DPI) or to a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose it.
- You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have a dispensation



Examples from the guidance

- Determining an application submitted by your sister or your neighbour for a dog breeding licence
- Partner with free parking permit and policy review decision to be made
- You object in a private capacity to your neighbour's planning application



Examples from the guidance

 All these three directly relate to the finances of you, a partner, relative or close associate

 All are therefore interests you should disclose and you should not take part in any discussion, not vote and not remain in the room, (unless you have a dispensation or the public can address the meeting)



Non-registerable interests (NRIs) "affects"

- Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or well-being or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate or of a body included in your list of "Other Registerable Interests"....
- Disclose it, but you can remain in the meeting, participate and vote unless...



Non-registerable interests (NRIs) "The test"

- ...the matter affects the financial interest or well-being
 - (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward and
 - (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest



Non-registerable interests (NRIs) The consequences...

 If so, you may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have a dispensation



Examples from the guidance

- Awarding grant funding to a competitor to a community hall, where you are on the membership committee
- Application for housing development on land near to partner's business property
- Your neighbour applies for planning permission
- These examples affect the finances or well-being of an ORI or a relative/close associate ...



Examples (cont)

- So apply the test
 - Does it affect the finances or well-being more than the finances or well-beingof the majority of inhabitants of the ward and
 - Would a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest?
- If so, these are interests you should disclose, not participate in the discussion, not vote and withdraw (unless you have a dispensation or the public can address the meeting)



Applying the test - what do you think?

- A major development proposal affects the ward where your sister lives. She lives at the other end of the ward rather than next door to the development.
- You help to run a food bank and the council is considering a motion to investigate the causes of poverty in the area.



Applying the test (2)

 You are over 65 and are taking part in a discussion about provision for older people. You would be more affected than the majority by the outcome of the discussion.

 You are discussing closure of the local authority run care home where your father lives.



Examples from the guidance – well-being

- Road works noise outside your house
- Odours from nearby tip
- Anti-social behaviour from rough sleepers housed in B+Bs nearby
- These are not financial issues but could affect your well-being/quality of life, so apply the test



Sensitive interests

- An interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with her/him, being subject to violence or intimidation
- Where you have a sensitive interest you must notify the Monitoring Officer with reasons and, if the MO agrees, they will withhold the interest from the public register



Sensitive interests (2)

 When a sensitive interest arises at a meeting, you have to disclose that you have an interest, but not the nature of it



Dispensations

- The Localism Act sets out circumstances in which the council can grant a dispensation, so allowing a councillor to vote and/or speak in a meeting where they would otherwise have had to disclose an interest and withdraw.
- Standing dispensations



Summary of interests









Bias and predetermination (1)

- Not explicitly covered in the code of conduct
- But they are important legal concepts to ensure that decisions are taken solely in the public interest and not to further any private interests



Bias and predetermination (2)

- Bias where a decision maker's connections make it appear that there is a real danger of bias when s/he makes the decision
- Pre-determination where a decision maker has completely made up his/her mind before the decision is taken.



Bias and predetermination (3)

- The risk in both cases is that the decision maker does not approach the decision with an objective, open mind
- This makes the local authority's decision challengeable (and may also be a breach of the code of conduct by the councillor)



Section 25 Localism Act 2011

 An elected or co-opted member is not to be taken to have had, or to appear to have had a closed mind when making a decision just because the decisionmaker had previously done anything that directly or indirectly indicated what view the decision maker took or would or might take in relation to a matter and the matter was relevant to the decision



Example from the guidance (1)

 A councillor said publicly that he was "inclined to go along with" a barrister's recommendation in relation to a TVG application. He then voted on the decision making committee. Probably predisposition and not predetermination.



Example from the guidance (2)

- A district councillor also belongs to a parish council that has complained about the conduct of an officer of the district council. The officer has been disciplined. The officer has appealed to a councillor panel and the councillor seeks to sit on the panel hearing the appeal
- The councillor should not participate



Roles and process for dealing with code of conduct complaints





Role of the Monitoring Officer re: standards

- Maintaining the registers of interests
- Ensuring the investigation of complaints
- Supporting councillors and complainants

 Seek early advice from the Monitoring Officer on any issues re standards/interests



Usual arrangements for dealing with standards complaints





Mini scenarios





Weatherfield Council

Weatherfield Council has recently changed hands. At the first Council meeting the Mayor, Councillor Ken Barlow, loses control of the proceedings. Councillors start shouting over each other and ignoring rulings from the Mayor. They are strongly critical of the politics and policies of the opposing groups and make disparaging remarks about members and senior officers. The press describe the meeting as "shambolic".



Councillor Sally Webster

The new Leader of the council, Councillor Sally Webster, calls the Chief Executive into her office and says that things must change. She tells him she is determined to sort out "all the deep-seated problems" she has inherited. In her Leader's Blog, she posts that her party is going to sort out all the "dead wood" at the Council. The former Council Leader, Councillor Roy Cropper, responds robustly on social media calling Councillor Webster a "stupid woman".



Councillor Leanne Battersby

Councillor Battersby keeps two twitter accounts – a personal one (LeaB) and one in the name of Councillor Leanne Battersby. She posts the following on her personal account:

"I was outraged at the planning committee last week. I voted against the dreadful application for the windfarm but was outvoted by idiotic opposition members who swallowed the unprofessional report written by officers who are in the pocket of the developer. These are my personal views".



Councillor Ken Barlow

Councillor Barlow is the Mayor, and his family are major landowners in the area. He votes at the Planning Committee in support of an application for development on land which he realises, after the meeting, borders land owned by his wife. The grant of planning permission arguably adds value to her land. Councillor Barlow realises that he had completely overlooked his wife's ownership (which he was aware of) and it is not included in his register of interests. He apologises profusely.



Councillor Mike Baldwin

Councillor Baldwin is passionately in favour of an application which is coming to the Planning Committee. He thinks that it will bring jobs to the area and provide homes for local people. He says that his son and daughter-in-law cannot afford to buy a property in the town and this development may help them. He is also a member of 'Local Homes for Local People' a campaigning group trying to bring affordable housing into the area.



Conclusions and close



<u>Local Government Association</u> <u>Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020</u>

Joint statement

The role of councillor across all tiers of local government is a vital part of our country's system of democracy. It is important that as councillors we can be held accountable and all adopt the behaviors and responsibilities associated with the role. Our conduct as an individual councillor affects the reputation of all councillors. We want the role of councillor to be one that people aspire to. We also want individuals from a range of backgrounds and circumstances to be putting themselves forward to become councillors.

As councillors, we represent local residents, work to develop better services and deliver local change. The public have high expectations of us and entrust us to represent our local area, taking decisions fairly, openly, and transparently. We have both an individual and collective responsibility to meet these expectations by maintaining high standards and demonstrating good conduct, and by challenging behaviour which falls below expectations.

Importantly, we should be able to undertake our role as a councillor without being intimidated, abused, bullied, or threatened by anyone, including the general public.

This Code has been designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in local government.

Introduction

The Local Government Association (LGA) has developed this Model Councillor Code of Conduct, in association with key partners and after extensive consultation with the sector, as part of its work on supporting all tiers of local government to continue to aspire to high standards of leadership and performance. It is a template for councils to adopt in whole and/or with local amendments.

All councils are required to have a local Councillor Code of Conduct.

The LGA will undertake an annual review of this Code to ensure it continues to be fit-for-purpose, incorporating advances in technology, social media and changes in legislation. The LGA can also offer support, training and mediation to councils and councillors on the application of the Code and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the county associations of local councils can offer advice and support to town and parish councils.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, a "councillor" means a member or co-opted member of a local authority or a directly elected mayor. A "co-opted member" is defined in the Localism Act 2011 Section 27(4) as "a person who is not a member of the authority but who

- a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or;
- b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint subcommittee of the authority;

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 of Conduct, "local authority" includes county councils, district councils, London borough councils, parish councils, town councils, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, joint authorities, economic prosperity boards, combined authorities and National Park authorities.

Purpose of the Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to assist you, as a councillor, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow councillors, local authority officers and the reputation of local government. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The LGA encourages the use of support, training and mediation prior to action being taken using the Code. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.

General principles of councillor conduct

Everyone in public office at all levels; all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, councillors and local authority officers; should uphold the <u>Seven Principles of Public Life</u>, also known as the Nolan Principles.

Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of councillor.

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- I act with integrity and honesty
- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

In undertaking my role:

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person
- · I avoid conflicts of interest
- I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.

Application of the Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to you as soon as you sign your declaration of acceptance of the office of councillor or attend your first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to you until you cease to be a councillor.

This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when:

- · you misuse your position as a councillor
- Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a councillor;

The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- at face-to-face meetings
- · at online or telephone meetings
- in written communication
- in verbal communication
- in non-verbal communication
- in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments.

You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a councillor.

Your Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from your Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct. Town and parish councillors are encouraged to seek advice from their Clerk, who may refer matters to the Monitoring Officer.

Standards of councillor conduct

This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a councillor. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken.

Guidance is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed.

General Conduct

1. Respect

As a councillor:

- 1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.
- 1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in councillors.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider or the police. This also applies to fellow councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct, and local authority employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the local authority's councillor-officer protocol.

2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination As a councillor:

- 2.1 I do not bully any person.
- 2.2 I do not harass any person.

2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face, on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Councillors have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there is a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

3. Impartiality of officers of the council As a

councillor:

3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority.

Officers work for the local authority as a whole and must be politically neutral (unless they are political assistants). They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. You can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

4. Confidentiality and access to information

As a councillor:

- 4.1 I do not disclose information:
 - a. given to me in confidence by anyone
 - b. acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless
 - i. I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it;
 - ii. I am required by law to do so;

- iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
- iv. the disclosure is:
 - 1. reasonable and in the public interest; and
 - 2. made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and
 - 3. I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.
- 4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a councillor for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer or my business interests.
- 4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.

Local authorities must work openly and transparently, and their proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined circumstances. You should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents and other information relating to or held by the local authority must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

5. Disrepute

As a councillor:

5.1 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

As a Councillor, you are trusted to make decisions on behalf of your community and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on you, other councillors and/or your local authority and may lower the public's confidence in your or your local authority's ability to discharge your/its functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your local authority into disrepute.

You are able to hold the local authority and fellow councillors to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

- 6. Use of position As a councillor:
 - 6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.

Your position as a member of the local authority provides you with certain opportunities, responsibilities, and privileges, and you make choices all the time that will impact others. However, you should not take advantage of these opportunities to further your own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

7. Use of local authority resources and

facilities As a councillor:

7.1 I do not misuse council resources.

- 7.2 I will, when using the resources of the local authority or authorising their use by others:
 - a. act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and
 - b. ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local authority or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.

You may be provided with resources and facilities by the local authority to assist you in carrying out your duties as a councillor.

Examples include:

- office support
- stationery
- · equipment such as phones, and computers
- transport
- · access and use of local authority buildings and rooms.

These are given to you to help you carry out your role as a councillor more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and the local authority's own policies regarding their use.

8. Complying with the Code of Conduct As a

Councillor:

- 8.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by my local authority.
- 8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.
- 8.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.
- 8.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.

It is extremely important for you as a councillor to demonstrate high standards, for you to have your actions open to scrutiny and for you not to undermine public trust in the local authority or its governance. If you do not understand or are concerned about the local authority's processes in handling a complaint you should raise this with your Monitoring Officer.

Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority

9. Interests

As a councillor:

9.1 I register and disclose my interests.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the authority .

You need to register your interests so that the public, local authority employees and fellow councillors know which of your interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The register

also protects you by allowing you to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for you to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be disclosed by you or other councillors when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in **Table 1**, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

Appendix B sets out the detailed provisions on registering and disclosing interests. If in doubt, you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

10. Gifts and hospitality

As a councillor:

- 10.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence or other significant advantage.
- 10.2 I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt.
- 10.3 I register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that I have been offered but have refused to accept.

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the local authority, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness in which case you could accept it but must ensure it is publicly registered. However, you do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a councillor, such as Christmas gifts from your friends and family. It is also important to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with your duties as a councillor. If you are unsure, do contact your Monitoring Officer for guidance.

Appendices

Appendix A - The Seven Principles of Public Life

The principles are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must disclose and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Appendix B Registering interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1** (**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**) which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2** (**Other Registerable Interests**).

"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

- You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
- 2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.

3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

- 4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.
- 5. [Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it]

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which *directly relates* to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

- 7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which *directly relates* to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
- 8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects
 - a. your own financial interest or well-being;
 - b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
 - c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2**

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied

- 9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) **affects** the financial interest or well-being:
 - a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
 - b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

10. [Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it]

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Subject	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 council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. 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 made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the

	APPENDIX 1
	councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council—
	(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 and Property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; 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 the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the

councillor is living as if they were

spouses/civil partners have a beneficial
interest exceeds one hundredth of the
total issued share capital of that class.

^{* &#}x27;director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

Table 2: Other Registrable Interests

You must register as an Other Registerable Interest:

a) any unpaid directorships

b)any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority c) any body

- (i) exercising functions of a public nature
- (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
- (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

Appendix C – the Committee on Standards in Public Life

The LGA has undertaken this review whilst the Government continues to consider the recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in their report on <u>Local Government Ethical Standards</u>. If the Government chooses to implement any of the recommendations, this could require a change to this Code.

The recommendations cover:

- Recommendations for changes to the Localism Act 2011 to clarify in law when the Code of Conduct applies
- · The introduction of sanctions
- An appeals process through the Local Government Ombudsman
- Changes to the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012
- Updates to the Local Government Transparency Code
- Changes to the role and responsibilities of the Independent Person
- That the criminal offences in the Localism Act 2011 relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests should be abolished

The Local Government Ethical Standards report also includes Best Practice recommendations. These are:

^{* &#}x27;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.

Best practice 1: Local authorities should include prohibitions on bullying and harassment in codes of conduct. These should include a definition of bullying and harassment, supplemented with a list of examples of the sort of behaviour covered by such a definition.

Best practice 2: Councils should include provisions in their code of conduct requiring councillors to comply with any formal standards investigation and prohibiting trivial or malicious allegations by councillors.

Best practice 3: Principal authorities should review their code of conduct each year and regularly seek, where possible, the views of the public, community organisations and neighbouring authorities.

Best practice 4: An authority's code should be readily accessible to both councillors and the public, in a prominent position on a council's website and available in council premises.

Best practice 5: Local authorities should update their gifts and hospitality register at least once per quarter, and publish it in an accessible format, such as CSV.

Best practice 6: Councils should publish a clear and straightforward public interest test against which allegations are filtered.

Best practice 7: Local authorities should have access to at least two Independent Persons.

Best practice 8: An Independent Person should be consulted as to whether to undertake a formal investigation on an allegation, and should be given the option to

review and comment on allegations which the responsible officer is minded to dismiss as being without merit, vexatious, or trivial.

Best practice 9: Where a local authority makes a decision on an allegation of misconduct following a formal investigation, a decision notice should be published as soon as possible on its website, including a brief statement of facts, the provisions of the code engaged by the allegations, the view of the Independent Person, the reasoning of the decision-maker, and any sanction applied.

Best practice 10: A local authority should have straightforward and accessible guidance on its website on how to make a complaint under the code of conduct, the process for handling complaints, and estimated timescales for investigations and outcomes.

Best practice 11: Formal standards complaints about the conduct of a parish councillor towards a clerk should be made by the chair or by the parish council, rather than the clerk in all but exceptional circumstances.

Best practice 12: Monitoring Officers' roles should include providing advice, support and management of investigations and adjudications on alleged breaches to parish councils within the remit of the principal authority. They should be provided with adequate training, corporate support and resources to undertake this work.

Best practice 13: A local authority should have procedures in place to address any conflicts of interest when undertaking a standards investigation. Possible steps should include asking the Monitoring Officer from a different authority to undertake the investigation.

Best practice 14: Councils should report on separate bodies they have set up or which they own as part of their annual governance statement and give a full picture of their relationship with those bodies. Separate bodies created by local authorities should abide by

APPENDIX 1

the Nolan principle of openness and publish their board agendas and minutes and annual reports in an accessible place.

Best practice 15: Senior officers should meet regularly with political group leaders or group whips to discuss standards issues.

The LGA has committed to reviewing the Code on an annual basis to ensure it is still fit for purpose.

From: Kemp, David <david.kemp@environment-agency.gov.uk>

To: Tollesbury pc <tollesburypc@btinternet.com>

Date: Jul 19, 2022 11:21:19 AM **Subject: Tollesbury Flood Defences**

Hello Michelle,

I promised to get back to you regarding the maintenance of the Tollesbury walls. I understand that we plan to cut the wall from the marina to the sewage treatment works in August. (I'm not quite sure when in August, that will depend on a number of factors.

There is currently no scheduled date for the improvement of the wall (the repair of low spots etc.) this is in line with many walls in Essex. Once I know more I will share the information with you.

Kindest regards

David

David Kemp

Senior Team Leader,

Coastal Partnerships & Strategic Overview Team

2 07880 780490

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The Anti-Social, Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

THE MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL (DOG CONTROL) PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2019

Maldon District Council (in this order called "the Council") hereby makes the following order under section 59 of the 2014 Act

The Order comes into force on the 18 July 2022 for a period of 3 years until 18 July 2025.

General provision:

A person who fails to comply with any obligation imposed by this order is guilty of a criminal
offence by virtue of section 67(1) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and
liable to fine of summary conviction not exceeding level 3 of the standard scale.

Obligations on person with dogs:

2. Fouling

If within the administrative area of the Council a dog defecates at any time on land to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as or right or by virtue of express of implied permission and a person who is in charge of the dog at the time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless

- They have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

2. Dog on leads

- 2.1 A person in charge of a dog on any land to which the public are permitted access within the District of Maldon must put their dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised Officer unless:
 - they have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.
- 2.2 A person in charge of dog must keep that dog on a lead at all times in Maldon, Heybridge & Burnham cemeteries in the areas edged blue on Maps 1,2 and 3 unless;
 - they have reasonable excuse for failing to do so.
- 2.3 A person in charge of a dog must keep that dog on a lead at all time in Promenade Park, Maldon around the lake and by the cafés and on the path to the statue of Brythnoth as delineated on

Map 4 in blue and marked areas A and B. This applies between the dates of 01 April – 30 September only unless;

- they have reasonable excuse for failing to do so.
- 2.4 A person in charge of a dog must keep that dog on a lead at all times in Burnham on Crouch Quay Front West, Quay Front East and Quay Front adjoining Riverside park as delineated on Map 5 in blue and marked areas B, C and D. This applies between the dates of 01 April 30 September only, unless;
 - they have reasonable excuse for failing to do so.

3. Dog Exclusion Areas

Areas where dogs are excluded at all times are:

- 3.1 All children's play site to which the public have access within the District of Maldon.
- 3.2 Enclosed sports pitches which are artificially surfaces or any enclosed bowling green within the District of Maldon

The COMMON SEAL of MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL Was affixed in the presence of:-

Authorised Signatory

15/7/2022

Parish / Town Council	Month	Total Number of Hours	
Tollesbury	June	3	
PCNs Issued	FPNs Dog Fouling	FPNs Litter Fouling	
17	0	0	
ASB Issues		VMO (Vehicle Moved On)	
0		6	
Any Other Details			

Officer	Date	Parish	Start	Finish	Total	Patrol Area	COMMENTS ON PATROL
AR/BC	02/06/2022	Tollesbury	14:20	15:20	01:00		On st patrol of saltpool and woodrolfe Rd.
BC/AR	03/06/2022	Tollesbury	14:20	15:20	01:00	Village	On st cp of woodrolfe Rd and saltpool.
SC/DR	23/06/2022	Tollesbury	14:30	15:30	01:00	School Patrol. Patrol of Recreation Ground.	Engaged with dog walkers.
					3:00:00		