

Clerk to the Parish Council  
South Petherton Parish Office  
Frogmary Green Farm, West Street,  
South Petherton, TA13 5DJ

Telephone: 01460 241002  
Email: [clerk@southpethertonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southpethertonparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.southpethertonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.southpethertonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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Adopted: 11th May 2023  
Review date: May 2024

## Code of Conduct

### Introduction

Pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, South Petherton 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. All text in **bold** are statutory obligations that must be complied with.

**This Code of Conduct is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership set out in Appendix C.**

### 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.

For the purposes of this Code, and unless otherwise expressed, a reference to a member of the Council includes a co-opted member of the Council.

### 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), he/she shall register all 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, he/she shall within 28 days re-register any interests in Appendices A (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and B (Other Interests).

8. A member shall register 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 on the public register of interests 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

10. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A (disclosable pecuniary 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.

11. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A (disclosable pecuniary 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.

12. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix B (other interests), the member shall withdraw from the meeting. He/she may speak on the matter before withdrawing only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.

13. A member only has to declare his/her interest in Appendix B (other interests) 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 before withdrawing. If he/she 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, the member shall disclose the nature of the interest and withdraw from the meeting. He/she may speak on the matter before withdrawing 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**

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 he/she has an interest in Appendices A (disclosable pecuniary interest) and B (other interests) and 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.

### **Appendix A**

#### **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST**

#### **Description**

A 'disclosable pecuniary interest' is an interest of yourself or your partner (which means spouse or civil partner, 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) within the following descriptions:

#### **Interest**

Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation  
Sponsorship

An employment, office trade profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.  
Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council ) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by M in carrying out duties as a member, or towards

the election expenses of M.

This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Contract

Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) 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

Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the Council.

Licenses

Any license (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 M's knowledge) – (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.