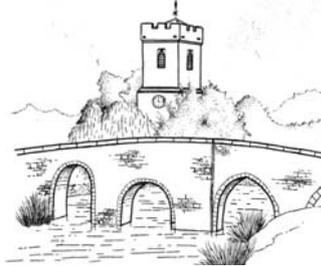


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



BIDFORD-ON-AVON PARISH COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

Members of Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council are the elected representatives of the people within the parish (Bidford-on-Avon, Barton, Broom and Marlcliff) and they take decisions on their behalf. The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to set out the standards of conduct expected of members when carrying out their duties and to demonstrate to the public the standards of conduct they can expect from their elected representatives.

This code applies to members of the Parish Council whenever they are carrying out their official duties as an elected representative of Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council. Although, in line with the Localism Act 2011 this code only applies to members when they are carrying out their official duties, nevertheless the Council expects its members to uphold high standards of conduct at all times in order to uphold the reputation of the Council and the office to which they have been elected.

All holders of public office must uphold the seven principles of public life and these principles underpin and inform the Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council Code of Conduct.

The seven principles are:

1. Selflessness

Holder of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest

2. 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 to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

3. Objectivity

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

4. 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

5. 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.

6. Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful

7. 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

The Code of Conduct

A. Behaviour

1. Do not treat others with disrespect
2. Do not use your position as a member of the Council for personal financial gain
3. Do not use your position as a member of the council improperly to confer an advantage or disadvantage on

yourself or any other person

4. Do not place yourself under any financial obligation to any person or organisation who might attempt to influence you.
5. Do not misuse Council resources
6. Do not disclose confidential information
7. Do not bring Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council or the role of Parish Councillor into disrepute

B. Interests

Registration of Interests

8. Within 28 days of this Code being adopted by your authority or your election or appointment to office (where that is later) you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in Appendix A (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)
9. You must ensure that your Register of Interest is kept up to date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest in Appendix A or B, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

10. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A, you must declare the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless granted dispensation. If this is a "sensitive interest", you do not have to declare the nature of the interest.

Other Registerable Interests

11. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix B, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but must not take part

in any vote on the matter unless you have been granted dispensation. If it is a "sensitive matter", you do not have to declare the nature of the interest.

Non-registerable Interests

12. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to your financial interest (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) or a financial interest of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest and not vote in the matter unless granted dispensation. You 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" you do not have to declare the nature of the interest.
13. Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or a financial interest of a friend, relative, close associate or body covered by Appendix B you must disclose the interest.
14. Where the matter affects the financial interest to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the Parish affected by the decision and a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest you must not vote on the matter unless granted dispensation. You 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" you do not have to declare the nature of the interest.

C. Related Documents

The following documents also provide guidance on the standards of conduct expected of members and can assist in the interpretation of this Code of conduct. They can be found on the Parish Council's website

- Social Media Policy - <http://www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/pdfs/documents/proc-socialmedia.pdf>

- Media Policy - <http://www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/pdfs/documents/proc-media.pdf>
- Making Decisions outside a Formal Meeting - <http://www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/pdfs/documents/policy-externaldecisions.pdf>
- Commenting on Late Planning Applications Policy - <http://www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/pdfs/documents/proc-planningcomments.pdf>
- Handling of Complaints Procedure - <http://www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/pdfs/documents/proc-complaints2014.pdf>

Approved and adopted by Bidford on Avon Parish Council on 18th December 2017