



BROMSBERROW PARISH COUNCIL

CODE OF CONDUCT

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Introduction and Interpretation

1. (1) This Code applies to you as a member of this authority, and has been adopted pursuant to the Council's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct. It is your responsibility to comply with the provisions of this Code.

(2) You must observe the following general principles of public life:-

Selflessness - you should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person, including yourself.

Honesty and Integrity - you should not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

Objectivity - you should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

Accountability - you are accountable to the public for your actions and the manner in which you carry out your responsibilities, and should cooperate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to your particular office.

Openness - you should be as open as possible about your actions and those of your authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

Personal Judgement - you may take account of the views of others, including your political groups, but should reach your own conclusions on the issues before you and act in accordance with those conclusions.

Respect for Others - you should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. You should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers, and its other employees.

Duty to Uphold the Law - you should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in you.

Stewardship - you should do whatever you are able to do to ensure that your authority uses its resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

Leadership - you should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

Scope:

2. (1) You must comply with this Code whenever you:-

1. conduct the business of the Council (which, in this Code, includes the business of the office to which you are elected or appointed); or
2. act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of the Council; and references to your official capacity are construed accordingly.

(2) This Code does not have effect in relation to your conduct other than where it is in your official capacity, in accordance with paragraph 2(1) above.

(3) Where you act as a representative of the Council:-

1. on another relevant authority, you must, when acting for that other authority, comply with that other authority's Code of Conduct; or
2. on any other body, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with your authority's Code of Conduct, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.

General Obligations

3. (1) You must treat others with respect.

(2) You must not:-

- (a) do anything which may cause your authority to breach any of the equality enactments;
- (b) bully any person;
- (c) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be:
- (d) a complainant;
- (e) a witness; or
- (f) involved in the administration of any investigation of proceedings, in relation to an allegation that a Member (including yourself) has failed to comply with his or her authority's Code of Conduct; or
- (g) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, your authority.

4. You must not:-

- (1) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where:-
 - (a) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;
 - (b) you are required by law to do so;
 - (c) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
 - (d) the disclosure is -
 - (i) reasonable and in the public interest; and
 - (ii) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the authority; or
 - (e) before making any disclosure under the provisions of clause (d) above, you must seek and consider the written advice of the Solicitor to the Council.
- (2) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

5. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or the Council into disrepute.

6. You:-

- (1) must not use or attempt to use your position as a Member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage; and
- (2) must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the Council:-
 - (a) act in accordance with your authority's reasonable requirements;
 - (b) ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes); and
- (3) must have regard to any applicable Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986