



SEAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Parish **Sue Doble**
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CODE OF CONDUCT

(Adopted under the Localism Act 2011 – LGA Model Code of Conduct)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Code of Conduct applies to all elected and co-opted members of the Council.

1.2 The purpose of this Code is to:

- 1.2.1 support high standards of conduct
- 1.2.2 protect public confidence in local government
- 1.2.3 provide clarity on expected behaviour
- 1.2.4 assist councillors in carrying out their role

1.3 This Code is based on the Nolan Principles (Appendix A).

2. APPLICATION OF THE CODE

2.1 This Code applies when a councillor is:

- 2.1.1 acting in their official capacity
- 2.1.2 representing or appearing to represent the Council
- 2.1.3 using Council title, resources, or position

2.2 This Code applies to all forms of communication including:

- 2.2.1 meetings (in person or remote)
 - 2.2.2 written communication
 - 2.2.3 verbal communication
 - 2.2.4 social media and electronic communication
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3. GENERAL CONDUCT

3.1 Respect

3.1.1 Councillors will treat others with respect at all times.

3.1.2 Councillors will not engage in:

- (a) personal attacks
- (b) abusive or offensive behaviour
- (c) conduct that undermines others

3.1.3 Robust debate is permitted provided it remains civil.

3.2 Bullying, harassment and discrimination

3.2.1 Councillors will not:

- (a) bully any person
- (b) harass any person
- (c) unlawfully discriminate

3.2.2 Councillors will promote equality and inclusion in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

3.3 Officer impartiality

3.3.1 Councillors will not compromise the political neutrality of officers.

3.3.2 Councillors may seek clarification but will not seek to improperly influence professional advice.

3.4 Confidentiality

3.4.1 Councillors will not disclose confidential information unless:

- (a) legally permitted
- (b) authorised
- (c) in the public interest and approved where required

3.4.2 Councillors will not use confidential information for personal or third-party advantage.

3.5 Disrepute

3.5.1 Councillors will not act in a manner which could reasonably bring their office or the Council into disrepute.

3.6 Use of position

3.6.1 Councillors will not use their position improperly to:

- (a) gain advantage for themselves or others
 - (b) disadvantage any person
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3.7 Council resources

3.7.1 Councillors will use Council resources only in accordance with Council policy.

3.7.2 Councillors will not use resources for personal or political gain unless properly authorised.

3.8 Decision-making

3.8.1 Councillors will have regard to advice from the Responsible Finance Officer where required.

3.8.2 Where advice is not followed, reasons will be recorded or stated.

3.9 Compliance

3.9.1 Councillors will:

- (a) undertake Code training where required
 - (b) co-operate with investigations
 - (c) not submit malicious complaints
 - (d) comply with sanctions
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4. INTERESTS

4.1 Registration

4.1.1 Councillors will register interests within 28 days of:

- (a) election
- (b) co-option
- (c) change in circumstances

4.1.2 Councillors will keep their register up to date.

4.2 Disclosure

4.2.1 Councillors will disclose interests at meetings where required.

4.3 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)

4.3.1 Where a DPI arises, councillors will:

- (a) disclose the interest
- (b) not participate in discussion or vote
- (c) leave the room unless dispensation is granted

4.3.2 Failure to disclose a DPI is a criminal offence.

4.4 Other Registerable Interests

4.4.1 Councillors will declare ORIs where relevant and comply with Appendix B.

4.5 Non-Registerable Interests

4.5.1 Councillors will declare relevant interests and apply the public interest test before participation.

5. GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

5.1 Acceptance

5.1.1 Councillors will not accept gifts or hospitality that could reasonably be seen as influencing decisions.

5.2 Registration

5.2.1 Gifts or hospitality over £50 will be registered within 28 days.

6. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Seven Principles of Public Life

- Selflessness
 - Integrity
 - Objectivity
 - Accountability
 - Openness
 - Honesty
 - Leadership
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Appendix B – Other Registerable Interests

Councillors will register:

B1 Unpaid directorships where relevant

B2 Appointments by the Council to outside bodies

B3 Membership of organisations including:

- charities
- political parties
- trade unions
- pressure groups
- organisations influencing public policy

B4 Any other interest that could reasonably influence decision-making

Appendix C – Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

As defined in the Relevant Authorities Regulations 2012:

- employment
 - sponsorship
 - contracts
 - land and property
 - licences
 - corporate tenancies
 - securities
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Date Adopted	19 th May 2026
Next Review Date	