

WYCK RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council has adopted this Code of Conduct to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour by Councillors whenever they conduct the business of the Council or when they claim to act or give the impression of acting as a representative of the Council.

1.2 This Code is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.

2. OBLIGATIONS

2.1 A Councillor who acts, claims to act, or gives the impression of acting as a representative of the Council shall :

- act with integrity and honesty;
- treat all persons fairly and with respect;
- lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor;
- impartially exercise responsibilities in the interests of the local community;
- not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person;
- avoid conflicts of interest and perceived conflicts of interest;
- exercise reasonable care and diligence;
- ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with the Council's requirements and in the public interest;
- not disclose information which is confidential or where disclosure is prohibited by law.

3. REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

3.1 Within 28 days of election or appointment a Councillor shall register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in Appendices A (pecuniary) and B (other registerable).

3.2 Upon re-election of a member or re-appointment a Councillor shall within 28 days re-register with the Monitoring Officer any interests in Appendices A and B.

3.3 A Councillor shall register with the Monitoring Officer any change to interests or new interests in Appendices A and B within 28 days of becoming aware of it.

3.4 A Councillor need only declare the existence but not the details of any interest which the Monitoring Officer agrees is a sensitive interest, that 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.

3.5 Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendices A and B the Councillor shall leave the meeting and not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter unless a dispensation has been granted.

3.6 Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to a financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate, other than an registered interest, the Councillor shall disclose the nature of the interest at the meeting and not vote on the matter unless granted a dispensation but may speak on it if members of the public are also allowed to do so.

3.7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which a reasonable member of the public would believe that it would affect the Councillor's view of the wider public interest the Councillor shall disclose the conflict of interest at the meeting and not vote on the matter, unless granted a dispensation but may speak on it if members of the public are also allowed to do so.

3.8 Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Clerk as soon as possible before the meeting, or failing that, at the start of the meeting for which the dispensation is required.

3.9 A dispensation request shall describe the nature of the disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest to which the request for the dispensation relates and explain why the dispensation is sought.

3.10 A dispensation may be granted if, having regard to all relevant circumstances, any of the following apply:

- without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in the particular business would be so great a proportion of the meeting transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business;
- granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the

Council's area; or

- it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

A decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made by the Council, excluding the applicant, and that decision is final.

APPENDIX A – PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession, or vocation carried on for profit or gain by the Councillor or by his/her spouse or civil partner or by the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made to the Councillor during the 12-month period ending on the latest date referred to in paragraph 6 above for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties, 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 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	Any beneficial interest in land held by the Councillor or by his/her spouse or civil partner or by the person with whom the Councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partner 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.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) held by the Councillor or by his/her spouse or civil partner or by the person with whom the Councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners 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	<p>Any beneficial interest held by the Councillor or by his/her spouse or civil partner or by the person with whom the Councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners in securities* of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the Council; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(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 has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

*'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

*'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.

APPENDIX B – OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS

An interest which relates to or is likely to affect:

1. (i) any body of which the Councillor is in a position of general control or management and to which he/she is appointed or nominated by the Council;
2. (ii) any body—
 - a) exercising functions of a public nature;
 - b) directed to charitable purposes; or
 - c) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which the Councillor is a member or in a position of general control or management;
3. (iii) any gifts or hospitality worth more than an estimated value of £50 which the Councillor has received by virtue of his or her office.