

# CODE OF CONDUCT

for

MEMBERS

of

**BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

*Localism Act 2011*

*Part 1, Local Government, Chapter 7, Standards, Sections 26 – 37*

## **Nolan Principles of Public Life**

You should heed the following principles of personal behaviour when acting in your capacity as a member of **Beercrocombe Parish Council**:

### **Selflessness**

You should act solely in terms of the public interest. You should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, or your friends.

### **Integrity**

You should not place yourself under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence you in the performance of your official duties.

### **Objectivity**

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, you should make choices on merit.

### **Accountability**

You are accountable for your decisions and actions to the public and must submit yourself to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.

### **Openness**

You should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that you take. You should give reasons for your decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

### **Honesty**

You have a duty to declare any private interests relating to your public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

### **Leadership**

You should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

## **Legal Obligations**

### **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests.**

1. You must, within 28 days of taking office notify **South Somerset District Council's Monitoring Officer** of any disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by Statutory Instrument 2012/1464. A "disclosable pecuniary interest" is where the pecuniary interest is yours and, should you be aware, those of your spouse or civil partner, or of the person you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners.

### **Matters effected by your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**

2. If you are present at a meeting, or committee, of **Beercrocombe Parish Council** that is considering a matter in which you have an unregistered disclosable pecuniary interest, you must disclose the interest to the meeting or committee.

3. Within 28 days you must also notify the District Council's Monitoring Officer of that unregistered disclosable pecuniary interest.

4. You may not participate in any matter under consideration by **Beercrocombe Parish Council** should you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in that matter, unless dispensation has been granted. Furthermore, the Council's Standing Orders would require you to leave the meeting while any discussion or vote takes place.

### **Sensitive Interests.**

5. Should you consider that disclosure of details of an interest could lead to you, or a person connected with you, being subject to violence or intimidation, you are advised to consult the District Council's Monitoring Officer.

### **Dispensations.**

6. Following a written request made to the Clerk prior to the meeting, you may be granted a dispensation to participate in a discussion and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest. The request would be granted by the Clerk to achieve a quorum or participation is in the interests of parishioners.

### **Offences.**

7. You commit an offence if, without reasonable excuse, you fail to comply with the obligations imposed on you by paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 above.

8. You commit an offence if you provide information knowing that it is false or misleading or if you are reckless as to whether the information is true and not misleading.

9. A person who is guilty of an offence under Section 34 of the Localism Act 2011 is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.