

**TRAINING SEMINAR
FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS**

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**THE NEW ETHICAL
FRAMEWORK**

Introduced by Part III Local Government Act 2000

Four principal components

- Codes of Conduct
- Standards Board
- Adjudication Panel
- Standards Committee

THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Three parts: -

- General Provisions
- Declaration of Interests
- Register of Members' Interests

Applies whenever a Member:

- Conducts the business of the Authority or the office to which s(he) has been elected
- Acts as a representative of the Authority

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Must not discriminate
- Must treat others with respect
- Must not compromise impartiality of Officers
- Must respect confidential information
- But not prevent access to information to which people are entitled
- Must take account of Statutory Officer's advice

(Cont'd)...

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(Cont'd)...

- Must not bring Authority into disrepute
- Must not improperly advantage or disadvantage any person
- Must not use resources for party political purposes
- Must report conduct of Members which breaches Code of Conduct

PERSONAL INTEREST

- Do I have a personal interest?
 - Yes, if it is in the register, or my financial position or wellbeing is affected to a greater extent than other people
- If yes, declare the existence and nature of interest before the matter is discussed
 - You may stay, take part in and vote in the meeting

PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

- Is my personal interest prejudicial?
 - Yes, if it is so significant that it would be perceived by a person who knows all the relevant facts as likely to prejudice my judgement
- If yes, declare the interest before withdrawing from meeting
 - You cannot stay, take part in or vote in the meeting

EXCEPTIONS

- You may regard yourself as not having a prejudicial interest if the matter relates to
 - Another relevant authority of which you are a Member
 - Another public authority in which you hold a position of general control/management
 - A body to which you have been nominated by Parish Council

(Cont'd)/...

DISPENSATIONS

- The Standards Committee may grant a dispensation if
 - The business of the authority would otherwise be impeded by the number of Members prohibited exceed 50% of those entitled/required to participate

(Cont'd)/...

DISPENSATIONS

(Cont'd)/...

- The Member has submitted a written request explaining why its desirable and

- The Committee concludes that having regard to the above and all other circumstances it is appropriate to grant the dispensation

REGISTER OF INTERESTS

- Public register of financial and other interests which might give rise to a conflict of interests

- Also, notification of any gift or hospitality received (over £25)

- Within twenty-eight days of taking office or receiving any gift or hospitality

DUAL - HATTED MEMBERS

- Can take part in decision making at both parish and district level

- Requirement for transparency and openness of mind
