

NEWTON POPPLEFORD AND HARPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Adopted by resolution on 18th July 2019 – minute entry PPC19/22a)

ETHICAL POLICY

Adopted by the Parish Council on 18th July 2019

Due for review by 2021

Introduction

The Parish Council is a public body, funded mostly through the precept raised through Council tax payments. In that regard we are accountable to the public for what we do and the way we do it.

This ethics policy sets out guiding principles, how we aim to apply them in making decisions and in ways of working.

The Parish Council has a range of policies such as, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Health and safety, Code of Conduct etc. that include aspects of ethics in the way we interact with the world, make decisions and how we conduct council business. These policies affect all Councillors and staff. When policies are reviewed, we should bear in mind what has been set out in the ethics policy to ensure consistency. We will also consider these guiding principles when working with contractors and in the procurement of goods and services.

The [7 principles of public life](#) apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder. This includes people who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally. These are incorporated into the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

The Seven Principles of Public Life (from First Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (Cm 2850 I & II 11 May 1995)

Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

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

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

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

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Policy Objectives:

- Fair Trade practices, goods, and services – preferably locally sourced.
- Sourcing office/sales products from sustainable sources – preferably from local businesses where possible to encourage local business and reduce road miles whilst ensuring best value for Council.
- Using forest products that have been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – preferably locally sourced
- Looking after the welfare of all staff – using local suppliers and businesses can help to ensure this is the case
- Open and transparent tendering/purchasing/business transactions
- Ensuring equal opportunities via our advertising practices
- Ensuring animal welfare in any of our dealings, against animal testing or vivisection
- Making health and safety of all staff and suppliers a top priority
- Respecting/Protecting our environment and energy usage and aiming to minimize our impact on the environment in our practises
- Working collaboratively with other charitable causes
- Wherever and whenever possible, Council will avoid the use or purchase of single use plastic items.

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