



Ashmanhaugh Parish Council

Code of Conduct

Reviewed on 4th May 2021

As a member or co-opted member of Ashmanhaugh Parish Council Councillors have a responsibility to represent the community and work constructively with staff and partner organisations to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all. In accordance with the Localism Act provisions, when acting in this capacity Councillors are committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieve best value for our residents and maintain public confidence in this authority.

SELFLESSNESS: Holders of public office should act 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 seek to 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.

As a Member of Ashmanhaugh Parish Council Councillors conduct will in particular address the statutory principles of the Code by:

- Championing the needs of residents and putting their interests first.
- Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of our communities and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.
- Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests, to deter me from pursuing residents wishes or the interests of Ashmanhaugh Parish Council.
- Exercising independent judgement and not compromising the role by making obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way I perform my duties as a member/co-opted member of this Council.
- Listening to the interests of all bodies, including relevant advice from staff, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit.
- Being accountable for decisions.
- Contributing to making this Council's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible to enable residents to understand the reasoning behind the Council's decisions.
- Behaving in accordance with all our legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within this Council's policies, protocols and procedures, including on the use of the Council's resources.
- Valuing other Councillors and staff and engaging with them in an appropriate manner and one that underpins the mutual respect between us that is essential to good local government.
- Always treating people with respect, including the organisations and public Councillors engage with.
- Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles when championing the interests of the community with other organisations as well as within this Council.

Date of next review: May 2022