



EGLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Code of Conduct for Members

1. Introduction

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected of members of Eglingham Parish Council when acting in their official capacity. It is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership – known as the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life.

2. Scope

This Code applies to all members and co-opted members of Eglingham Parish Council when:

- Acting as a representative of the council,
- Conducting council business, or
- Performing functions associated with the office of Councillor.

This includes all forms of communication and interaction, whether in person, in writing, online, via social media, or in any public or private forum where the member could reasonably be perceived as acting in their official capacity.

3. General Principles of Conduct

Members must:

- Treat others with respect and courtesy.
- Not unlawfully discriminate against any person.
- Not bully or harass any person.
 - **Bullying** means offensive, intimidating, malicious, or insulting behaviour that may undermine or harm the recipient.
 - **Harassment** is repeated behaviour that causes alarm, distress, or puts someone in fear.
- Not compromise or attempt to compromise the impartiality of council staff or contractors.
- Not misuse their position to gain advantage for themselves or others.
- Not disclose confidential information without proper authority.



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- Not bring the council into disrepute through their actions.
- Use council resources and facilities responsibly and only for official purposes.

4. Interests

Members must:

- Declare any disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) as required by law and the council's standing orders.
- Not participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which they have a DPI and must leave the room when the item is discussed, unless a dispensation has been granted.

5. Gifts and Hospitality

Members must:

- Declare any gifts or hospitality worth over £25 received in connection with their role as a Councillor.
- Not accept gifts or hospitality that could be seen as an inducement or reward.

6. Confidentiality and Data Protection

Members must:

- Maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information.
- Comply with data protection legislation in handling personal data.

7. Use of Social Media and Public Statements

Members must:

- Be mindful of their position as Councillors when using social media or speaking in public.
- Ensure that public comments do not bring the council into disrepute.
- Avoid posting content that may be perceived as disrespectful, misleading, or damaging to the council's reputation.
- Where possible, maintain separate personal and Councillor social media accounts.



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8. Allegations of Breach

Any complaints that a member has breached this Code shall be referred to the Monitoring Officer at Northumberland County Council, who will advise on the appropriate process.

Adoption

Adopted by Eglingham Parish Council on: 20/05/2025 Minute 55/25(c)