

Lyonshall Parish Council Code of Conduct

As a Lyonshall Parish Councillor I have a responsibility to represent the community and to work constructively to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all within the parish. When acting in this capacity I am 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 the Parish Council:-

- **SELFLESSNESS:** I will act solely in terms of the public interest. I will not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for myself, my family, or my friends.
- **INTEGRITY:** I will not place myself under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence me in the performance of my duties as a councillor.
- **OBJECTIVITY:** In carrying out public business, including making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, I will choose on merit.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** I will be accountable for my decisions and actions to the public and will submit myself to whatever scrutiny is appropriate.
- **OPENNESS:** I will be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that I am involved with. I will give reasons for my decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands it.
- **HONESTY:** I will declare any private interests relating to my public duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- **LEADERSHIP:** I will promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

My financial interests involving the parish, and those of my family, will be disclosed by means of complying with Herefordshire Council's requirements on Registration of Financial Interests.

As a Lyonshall Parish Councillor my conduct will in particular address the statutory principles of the code of conduct by:

- Championing the needs of residents – the whole community - 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 of myself or others connected to me, to deter me from carrying out the duties of a Parish Councillor in a proper manner;
- Exercising independent judgement;
- not compromising my position by placing myself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way I perform my duties as a Parish Councillor;
- Listening to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit.
- Being accountable for my decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally, including by local residents.
- Ensuring that the Parish Council's decision-making processes are as open and transparent as possible to enable residents
 - to understand the reasoning behind those decisions and
 - to be informed when holding me and other members to account
- Restricting access to information only when the wider public interest or the law requires it;
- Behaving in accordance with all legal obligations, and with the policies and rules of Lyonshall Parish Council;
- Valuing my colleagues and the clerk and engaging with them in an appropriate manner that underpins the mutual respect between us;
- Always treating people with respect, including the organisations and public I engage with and those I work alongside;
- Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles when championing the interests of the community.