

Supplementary Advice for Parish Councillors regarding Councillor Conduct

This supplementary advice to the Code of Conduct has been put together following consultation and is supported by SALC and the Monitoring Officer at Babergh District Council.

The Parish Council is a democratically elected body and as such any decisions made by the Parish Council are decided by a majority vote. The Parish Council is a corporate body and decisions made are the decision of the Parish Council and not the decision of individuals. The Parish Councillors work together for the benefit of the whole parish and once a decision has been made this is the Parish Council view and all Parish Councillors should respect the decision and must not do anything to undermine the Council decision.

Parish Councillors must not use their position as a Parish Councillor to gain influence. To do so would be a breach of the code of conduct and a Councillor would not be fulfilling their obligations under the Nolan Principles, as set out in the code of conduct. It would also be disrespectful to the Parish Council and the other Councillors for an individual Parish Councillor to try to use their position to gain influence when they do not agree with a particular decision of the Parish Council.

Under the Code of Conduct Parish Councillors are expected to follow the principles of public life – Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership. Parish Councillors must not conduct themselves in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or authority into disrepute. Councillors must not use or attempt to use their position as a member improperly to confer or secure an advantage.

Therefore, a Parish Councillor must not use their position as a Councillor to gain influence. A Parish Councillor may give responses to consultations as an individual but not in their capacity as a Parish Councillor or on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk is responsible for making responses to consultations for the Parish Council.

Sarah Partridge
Kersey Parish Council Clerk
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