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Review annually

## Civility & Respect Pledge

By signing the Pledge, the Beaulieu Parish Council has agreed that the council will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:

- Maintains an ongoing programme of training and development for councillors and staff
- Has signed up to the LGA's Model Councillor Code of Conduct, an overview of which is attached
- Has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy
- Will seek professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise
- Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
- Will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to be a role model council, including through participation in the Local Council Award Scheme
- Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate

## Local Government Association

### Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020

#### Overview<sup>1</sup>

The Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 was adopted by Beaulieu Parish Council on 17 November 2022, on which date the Civility & Respect Pledge was also first signed. The annual review by LGA ensures the Code remains relevant. Councillors must uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles): being:

1. **Selflessness**  
Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
2. **Integrity**  
Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
3. **Objectivity**  
Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
4. **Accountability**  
Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
5. **Openness**  
Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for doing so.
6. **Honesty**  
Holders of public office should be truthful.
7. **Leadership**  
Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

The Code requires Councillors and the Clerk to the Council to:

- act with integrity, honesty, and lawfulness
- treat all persons fairly and with respect, promote equality and avoid conflicts of interest
- exercise reasonable care and diligence
- actively promote a culture of zero tolerance of any bullying, harassment, or discrimination
- maintain confidentiality and ensure transparency in council proceedings
- not misuse position for personal advantage or disadvantage to others
- use local authority resources responsibly and in accordance with policies
- undertake Code of Conduct training and cooperate with investigations
- register and disclose interests to maintain transparency and public trust
- avoid accepting gifts that could influence decision-making

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<sup>1</sup> Overview has been produced by Beaulieu Parish Council