

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. This Code of Conduct is drafted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011.
2. All members of the Parish Council must conduct the business of the Council with:
 - a. Selflessness,
 - b. Integrity,
 - c. Objectivity,
 - d. Accountability,
 - e. Openness, and
 - f. Honesty.
3. In addition, the Parish Council must offer guidance to parishioners, to the best of its ability, on any matters arising where regulations or guidance provided by Wiltshire Council are involved, or where such matters are within the specific province of the Localism Act.
4. In making decisions Councillors must demonstrate leadership, having proper regard for:
 - a. The evident interests of the village as a whole;
 - b. Any reasonable representation or objection raised by any parishioner present at the relevant meeting; and
 - c. Any national or local regulation affecting a particular decision, of which Councillors are aware.
5. Any Councillor who has a pecuniary interest, or whose spouse has a pecuniary interest, in any business within the parish boundaries must declare it, and the interest must be entered on a register which is to be published on Ham Village website. For clarity, a financial responsibility as an office holder for All Saints' Church or for Ham Village Hall, is not deemed to be a pecuniary interest in this regard. Similarly, ownership of a private dwelling in which the Councillor resides is not deemed to be a pecuniary interest as such, but see paragraph 6 below. Where a Councillor has a declared interest, they are debarred from taking part in the discussion or the decision on any matter where that interest may create a conflict, but they will not be required to leave the meeting.
6. Where the Parish Council discusses a planning application which materially affects a Councillor's own dwelling, the Councillor should declare a conflict of interest before the Parish Council considers the application and is debarred from taking part in the discussion or the decision of that planning application. However, the Councillor may make a representation regarding that planning application by moving to the floor of the meeting and making a representation as a member of the public.