Code of Conduct

for Councillors and Co-opted Councillors of Grindon & Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

General principles of public life

The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to adopt a Code of Conduct for Councillors that is consistent with the following principles:

Selflessness – Councillors should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

Honesty and integrity – Councillors should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned. The public nature of a Councillor's role means the distinction between acting in your official capacity and your private life may become blurred and a Councillor's honesty and integrity may therefore be questioned. As a result, a Councillor must ensure that, as far as possible, there is clear separation between what they do in their private life and in their capacity as a Councillor. This is especially the case when a Councillor's activity in their private life relates to the functions of the Council and/or their corporate responsibilities as a Councillor such that a reasonable member of the public may perceive that the conduct comes within the scope of this Code of Conduct.

Objectivity – Councillors should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

Accountability – Councillors should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their office.

Openness – Councillors should be as open as possible about their actions and those of the Parish Council and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

Leadership – Councillors should promote and support these principles by leadership and, by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

- **Duty to uphold the law** – Councillors should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.
- **Personal judgement** – Councillors may take account of the views of others, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.
- **Respect for others** – Councillors should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of any protected characteristic. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the Parish Council's statutory officer and other Councillors and treat volunteers with the appropriate respect.
- **Stewardship** – Councillors should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that the Parish Council uses its resources prudently, and in accordance with the law. Whilst these overriding principles are not formally part of the Code of Conduct, they underpin the purpose and provisions of the Code of Conduct and are principles in accordance with which Councillors should conduct themselves.

Adopted: October 2022

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