



COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest Procedure

Adopted by

Resolution of the Parish Council

on

9th October 2018

Introduction and Background

This procedure applies to all Members of Copythorne Parish Council, *i.e.* the Parish Councillors.

The 2011 Localism Act made seeking to influence the vote of fellow Council Members on an item brought forward for decision by the Council, when the Council Member could be described as having a Pecuniary Interest in that item, a Criminal Offence. Similarly, non-declaration of an interest is also a Criminal Offence.

The definition of a Pecuniary Interest is in an item that could be viewed by a member of the Electorate / Public as having a financial effect on any property; land or business interests held by a Council Member

As qualifications for eligibility for Council Office include being a land owner or tenant; being in full time employment or running a business and finally, either living in (or within three miles of) the Civil Parish, it is likely that a Councillor will at some time have a pecuniary interest in an agenda item.

This procedure is designed to protect both individual Council Members and the Council as a whole, from being in breach of the act in the view of the Electorate / Public and thereby bring the Council into disrepute.

Procedure

1. At the item, "Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda", the Council Member formally states a declaration of interest to the Chair of the meeting, specifying the item number and content in which they have an interest .
2. When the relevant item is reached in the order of business, the Council Member, with acknowledgment to the Chair of the meeting, removes them self from the Council table to the Public area, where they may make representation on the item as a member of the Public.
3. Prior to the Council vote on the item, the Council Member must remove them self from the meeting room so as not to be seen to be influencing the vote of the remaining members.

4. Once the vote has been taken and recorded, the Council Member may return to the Council table and active participation in the rest of the meeting providing no further interests have been declared.