BADGER PARISH COUNCIL

MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

1. PURPOSE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of the Code is to assist you, as a Councillor, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you. It is to protect you, the public, fellow councillors, and the reputation of local government. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.

 2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COUNCILLOR CONDUCT

2.1 You should uphold “The Seven Principles of Public Life” (also known as the Nolan Principles).These are regarding \* selflessness, \* integrity, \* objectivity, \* accountability, \* openness, \* honesty and \*leadership. Thus, you should act lawfully, treat all persons fairly, with respect, and lead by example.

2.2 In undertaking your Councillor role you should:

\* act impartially, \* do not improperly seek to confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person, \* avoid conflicts of interest, \* exercise reasonable care and diligence, and \* ensure public resources are used prudently.

 3. APPLICATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

3.1 On signing your declaration of acceptance of office as a Councillor The Code of Conduct applies to you until you cease to be a Councillor. This may include when you misuse your position as a Councillor, and your actions give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a Councillor.

3.2 The Code applies to all types of communications and interactions.

3.3 You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a Councillor.

 4. STANDARDS OF COUNCILLOR CONDUCT

4.1 Treat other councillors, stakeholders, and members of the public with respect, which means with politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech and written word.

4.2 As a Councillor you should promote equalities, do not discriminate unlawfully against any person, and you should not bully or harass any person.

4.3 As a Councillor you do not compromise, or attempt to compromise the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of the Council. The Clerk or any other employee who must be politically neutral should not be coerced or persuaded to act in any way that would undermine their neutrality.

4.4 As a Councillor you will not disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone. Also, any information acquired that is considered to be of a confidential nature should not be disclosed unless: \* you have received the consent of the person authorised to give it, \* you are required by law to do so, or, \* the disclosure is made by a third party for the purpose of obtaining legal advice, provided the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person, or \* the disclosure is reasonable and in the public interest, made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the Council, and the Council’s Clerk has been consulted prior to release who may need to refer to the Monitoring Officer of Shropshire Council.

4.5 You do not improperly use knowledge gained solely in your role as a Councillor for personal advancement, or for family. friends or your personal interests.

4.6 You do not as a Councillor prevent anyone from getting information they are entitled to by law.

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4.8 You do not, as a Councillor, use or attempt to use your position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of yourself, or anyone else, and not take advantage of opportunities gained in your role as Councillor to further your own or others’ private interests, or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

4.9 As a Councillor you do not misuse Council resources, and will, when using the resources of Council or authorising their use, ensure they are not used for political purposes unless that use can be reasonably regarded as properly helping to discharge the functions of the Council.

5. COMPLYING WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Councillor you will: 5.1 When necessary, undertake Code of Conduct training provided, such as by Shropshire Association of Local Councils.

5.2 Co-operate with any pertinent Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.

5.3 Not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.

5.4 Comply with any sanction imposed on you following a finding that you have breached the Code of Conduct.

6. PROTECTING YOUR REPUTATION AND THE REPUTATION OF THE COUNCIL

6.1 As a Councillor you register and disclose your interests on a register maintained by Shropshire Council, so that the public, any Council employees, and fellow Councillors know which of your interests give rise to a conflict of interest.

6.2 As a Councillor you will not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive gain, or a reasonable suspicion of influence from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the Council.

6.3 As a Councillor you will register any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50.00 within 28 days of receipt with the Monitoring Officer of Shropshire Council.

6.3 Any significant gift or hospitality that you have been offered as a Councillor but you refused to accept should also be reported to the Monitoring Officer of Shropshire Council.

7. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION’S MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

If needed for any reason, further explanatory information by you as a Councillor on The Code of Conduct can be found on the Local Government’s Code of Conduct that includes appendices covering the meanings of the Severn Principles of Public Life, and details pertaining to registering interests.

THIS REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT WAS APPROVED BY BADGER PARISH COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON

Clerk to the Council