

HUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

MEMBER'S INTERESTS

(This Order supersedes Items 35 and 37
of Huntley Standing Orders dated September 1996)

1. INTRODUCTION

There are basically two types of interest which could influence how members contribute and subsequently vote at a council meeting, viz. personal or prejudicial. All interests must be recorded at the meeting to which they apply.

In the case of personal and prejudicial interest the ultimate test is to consider how a member of the public might see a councillor's involvement. If a member of the public or the Council perceives that a councillor has a clear and substantial interest then the rules should be applied.

Councillors have a duty to report any other councillor to the Monitoring Officer if believe another member has not declared an interest.

Definition: An interest is something that affects you, your finances, your partner, a relative, a friend, your employer or the employer of your partner, their relatives or friends or is likely to affect the business of the Council more than the majority of other residents. Also being a member of an organisation which has expressed an interest on a particular issue will give rise to a personal interest.

2. PERSONAL INTERESTS

Definition: An issue that affects you more than other people in the area.

If you wish to speak, you must declare an interest before any discussion takes place (or as soon as your interest becomes apparent). If you do not wish to speak there is no need to declare an interest.

You may stay and vote.

Exemption to the rule on declaring a personal interest.

(Exemptions are exceptional cases, and providing that you do not have a prejudicial interest, you only need to declare an interest if you wish to speak on the matter).

An exemption applies where your interest arises solely from your membership of or position of control or management on:

1. Any body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Parish Council.
2. Any body exercising functions of a public nature (for example another public authority)

3. PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

Definition: Prejudicial interests are personal interests that affect you, your family or close associates in the following ways:

1. Your finances or regulatory functions such as licensing or planning

AND
2. which a reasonable member of the public, with knowledge of the facts would believe it would harm or impair your ability to judge in the public interest.

You may speak, answer questions or give evidence but you must not take any part in the discussion. You must leave the room without observing the subsequent discussion or the vote.

Sources of information:

The Good Councillor's Guide (All members have a copy of this booklet).
Standing Orders and Chairmanship.
Huntley Parish Council Standing Orders (All members have a copy).
The Standards Board for England

Reference: Parish Council Meeting 4th March 2008 (Item 4(b))

4th March 2008