

## BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

<b>Date of Parish Council Meeting</b>	Monday 7 January 2019
<b>Agenda Item Number</b>	<i>Item Number 11 (i)</i>
<b>Author</b>	Councillor Leonard Leigh
<b>Title of Report</b>	Code of Conduct
<b>Summary</b>	To approve an amended Code of Conduct to provide for the disclosure of significant non-pecuniary interests and consider the advice from Cherwell District Council's Monitoring Officer.
<b>Recommendation</b>	Adopt the Amended Code of Conduct.
<b>Reasons for the Recommendation</b>	Useful addition to the existing Code of Conduct.
<b>Impact on Budget</b>	None
<b>Risks</b>	None
<b>Background</b>	<p>Councillor Leonard Leigh suggested to the Parish Council in November 2018, that it should consider including the disclosure of non-pecuniary interests in the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Parish Council asked for advice from Cherwell District Council's Monitoring Officer and that advice is below:</p> <p><i>There are differing views regarding the wisdom of registering non-pecuniary interests. There is obviously no obligation to record them in law. Most parishes do not have them and that is usually because CDC ordinarily only advise on the mandatory elements of the Code.</i></p> <p><i>The concern about non-pecuniary interests are that such interests could suggest bias on the part of the Councillor(s) who hold such an interest. Sometimes that is best headed off but clear guidance to Members on what amounts to a bias or predetermination can help Councillors navigate this area. Again, that is usually a more fruitful discussion rather than trying to work out if a non-pecuniary interest is significant or substantial.</i></p> <p><i>That said, what you have put in the Code looks fine to me.</i></p> <p>The Parish Council's current Code of Conduct was adopted by the Parish Council because it was recommended to all Parish Councils in the Cherwell area, by Cherwell District Council.</p>
<b>Supporting documents; advice, reports etc should always be attached to the report and listed here</b>	The Code of Conduct is attached and the additions are in red.