

BARTON PARISH COUNCIL

CIVILITY AND RESPECT POLICY:

A commitment by Barton Parish Council to treat all with civility and respect

Adopted by a resolution of Barton Parish Council on 2/5/2 2023

The background to the policy and a joint mission statement

Barton Parish Council ("BPC") is fully supportive of and, by the adoption of this policy, committing to join with the National Association of Local Councils ("NALC"), One Voice Wales, the Society of Local Council Clerks and other county and parish associations throughout the country to stand against bullying, harassment and intimidation within the local government sector by insisting upon civil and respectful behaviour to all.

At the time of adopting this policy, 1161 councils countrywide have similarly taken this stance against such poor and unnecessary conduct by signing NALC's Civility and Respect Pledge ("the Pledge"), as detailed below and which can be viewed online at www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/civility-and-respect-project#the-pledge.

To quote NALC's mission statement, "civility and respect should be at the heart of public life and good governance is fundamental to ensuring an effective and well-functioning democracy at all levels. The intimidation, abuse, bullying and harassment of councillors, clerks and council staff, in person or online, is unacceptable, whether by councillors, clerks, council staff or public members. This can prevent councils from functioning effectively, councillors from representing local people, discourage people from getting involved, including standing for election, and undermine public confidence and trust in local democracy."

By adopting this policy and signing the Pledge, BPC is committing to work with NALC and the other founding and member bodies to promote civility and respect in public life; good governance; positive debate and the wellbeing of councillors, professional officers and staff.

The Pledge

Upon the adoption of this policy, BPC will forthwith sign the Pledge online as a demonstration of its commitment to taking action against bullying, harassment and intimidation.

In doing so, BPC agrees that it will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:

- will, upon signing the Pledge, put in place a training programme for councillors and staff;
- has signed up to the Local Government Association's Code of Conduct 2020;
- has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy;
- will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise;
- will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens;
- will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/ champion council through, for example, the Local Council Award Scheme;
- supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

Approved and adopted by Barton Parish Council on

2nd May 2023



John Howland Jackson
Chair



Danielle Stretch
Clerk