MAULDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Conflict Of Interests Policy

Adopted: April 13, 2026
Next Review Date: Annually

1: PURPOSE.

The Maulden Parish Council (MPC) Councillors' Code of Practice includes the following:

- Selflessness: 4.1 MPC members must always act in the public interest.
- Integrity: 4.5 MPC members must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work.
- Objectivity: 4.9 When making decisions on behalf of MPC, including awarding contracts or making appointments, MPC members must do so impartially, fairly and on merit, based on available evidence and without discrimination or bias.
- Openness: 4.15 MPC members must act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner.
- Honesty: 4.19 MPC members must declare any disclosable (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) interests or conflicts of interest that may arise in respect of their responsibilities as a Member of MPC.

This Policy expands the MPC Councillors' Code Of Practice, where MPC members are Trustees of Charities or have a management role in a Charity.

2: INTRODUCTION

A Parish Councillor acts in the interest of the parish council and residents of the parish.
A Trustee of a Charity is legally obliged to act solely in the best interests of that Charity. It is this legal responsibility that can lead to potential conflicts of interest when the Trustee is also a Parish Councillor
Holding both positions is not inherently illegal, if potential conflicts of interest are managed.
Charities and the Parish Council are separate entities. MPC need to ensure a MPC Councillor who is also a Charity Trustee can effectively switch, and be seen to switch, between their duties to MPC and the duties to the Charity.
In general, the potential for conflict of interest is most likely when MPC are discussing financial issues, such as grants, land, or hire fees.

3: APPLICABILITY

As with the Councillors' Code Of Practice, this policy applies to all MPC members and to all co-opted members of any committee, sub-committee or joint committee, sub-committee, or working group of MPC, who are Trustees of a Charity having an involvement within the community or, although not Trustees, have a management role in such a Charity.

Such Charities include, but are not limited to, the following, which are listed as operating in Maulden.

MAULDEN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
SAFER MAULDEN
MAULDEN WELFARE TRUST
MAULDEN VILLAGE HALL
FRIENDS OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH MAULDEN BEDFORDSHIRE
MAULDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
THOMAS SHEPPARD
THE CHARITY OF LOUISA MOORE FOR BIBLES FOR THE AGED
DUNSTABLE MENCAP
PEPLOW CHAPEL ENDOWMENT FUND
BEEE CREATIVE CIO
BEDFORDSHIRE PROFICIENCY TEST COMMITTEE
THE GREENSAND TRUST
BADGER HILL SCOUT GROUP
EDUCATIONAL CHARITY OF BECKET AND WICHALSE

Source: Charity Commission, Feb 2026

4: MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

a) A MPC member must declare their role as a Trustee of a Charity at any MPC meeting where that Charity or its undertakings are discussed, even if their role as a Trustee is known to all present. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes.

b) If a matter arises where a MPC member's duty as a Trustee is in conflict with their duty as a MPC Councillor, they must withdraw in the MPC meeting from the discussion and voting on that matter.

c) A MPC member who is also a Charity Trustee must register their Trustee position on their entry of the Register Of Interests held by the Monitoring Officer of Central Bedfordshire Council.

d) Failure to manage a conflict of interest could be a breach of MPC's Councillors' Code Of Practice and of Charity Law.

Note: MPC members who have a management role in non-Charity organisations within the community, have a duty of disclosure under MPC Councillors' Code Of Practice.

5: NOMINATION BY MPC OF MEMBERS AS A CHARITY TRUSTEES

Where MPC nominates a MPC member to be a Charity Trustee, nomination is made by MPC annually and is minuted.

6: MEMBERS AS MPC REPRESENTATIVE ON CHARITIES

MPC may nominate a MPC member to be the MPC Representative on a Charity.
This nomination is made by MPC annually and is minuted.
The role of such a Representative is as an information conduit between the Charity and MPC, and the Representative reports to MPC as required.
It is not the role of a MPC Representative to be or to become involved with the management of the Charity, therefore a MPC Representative cannot be a Trustee of that Charity.
Since the MPC Representative has no management role in the Charity, they are not required to register their role in the Register Of Interests held by Central Bedfordshire Council.