

## **Conflict of Interest – Definition for Thornhaugh Parish Council**

### **Clear conflict**

Where an individual Councillor will make tangible personal or financial gain from an issue, eg. contracting for paid services to the Parish Council or being the applicant or a family member of the applicant for planning applications under consideration by the Council. Another example would be where Councillors represent another body that is seeking financial or other support from the Parish Council (Church, Christie Hall, Environmental Committee, registered charity, etc.)

### ***Action***

In these cases, a conflict should be declared by the individual concerned at the start of meetings and this would be formally minuted and the conflicted councillor should take no part in discussions and not undertake any actions arising from decisions taken.

Since the meetings are open to the public, the conflicted Councillor may remain at the meeting and listen to the debate but not participate, as though they were a general member of the public, or they may withdraw until after the discussion. This would be a personal choice at the relevant meeting.

### **Potential conflict**

Any other agenda items which a councillor may feel might be in conflict. These might include close friendships with potential suppliers, etc.

In these cases, a potential conflict should be raised at the meeting and a discussion undertaken by the Council to decide whether there is a material conflict, the decision of which should be minuted.

### ***Action***

If a conflict is identified the same action applied to a Clear Conflict should be taken. If the Councillors present at the meeting decide that there is no material conflict then this should be minuted, but no-one would be excluded from the discussions or decision making process.