



## **Supporting Civility and Respect**

Parish Councils and their Councillors, Committee members and employees are at the heart of their community and as such play a vital role in encouraging civility and respect. The Bembridge Parish Council (BPC) achieve this in the following ways;

### **Code of Conduct and the Nolan Principles.**

All Councillors agree to abide by the Council's Code of Conduct at their first meeting and review this policy at the annual meeting. The Code of Conduct builds upon the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles:

|              |           |             |                |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| Selflessness | Integrity | Objectivity | Accountability |
| Openness     | Honesty   | Leadership  |                |

In addition, in October 2022 the BPC were happy to sign up to the 'Civility and Respect Pledge' and proudly display details of this on all Council correspondence and social media.

Finally, the BPC produce and review annually several policies that outline best practice for how the Council and its members should carry out their duties, this includes a Training Policy designed to keep Officers, Employees and Councillors up to date on best practice.

### **Setting an example at meetings**

The most frequent interaction between a Council and the public will be at meetings of the Council and its Committees. It is important at these meetings therefore to not only encourage civility and respect in the interactions of Councillors and Officers but also provide encouragement for respectful engagement from members of the public. The BPC Standing Orders are therefore a vital tool to create fairness, accessibility and inclusivity. The Chairs role in managing the meeting to avoid conflict and encourage debate and understanding is therefore vital, and BPC regularly offer training on best practice to the Chair of the Council and the Chairs of each Committee.

### **Supporting Community Cohesion**

A key tenet of civility and respect involves listening. The BPC not only provide a public forum at all meetings, but also regularly look for ways to engage with the public and gather their thoughts. Annually the BPC carry out a survey of residents inviting their opinions on the Council's performance and highlighting areas that we can improve.

It is also important that the community feel not only that they are listened to but also truly heard. Our major project for 2026 will be the regeneration of the local park based upon the feedback received from public consultation.

A full programme of events are catered for by the Parish Council such as annual Community Groups Day, the Bembridge in Bloom competition and monthly beach cleans that aim to bring the community together alongside the Parish Council and create a sense of shared ownership of the village that we all live in. By encouraging better cohesion, the community will work together and become more respectful of their neighbours and neighbourhood.