

## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

**Equality:** Providing equal opportunities to everyone and protecting people from being discriminated against.

**Diversity:** Recognising and respecting and valuing differences in people.

The aim of this policy is to communicate the commitment of Holcot Parish Council, its Members and Officer(s) to meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on 5 April 2011. Holcot Parish Council is committed to meet the standards of inclusiveness and equal access to all members of the public as outlined in The Equality Act and by not discriminating against an individual on the grounds listed below when recruiting, employing or managing someone.

The Equality Duty applies to public bodies and others carrying out public functions. It supports good decision-making and the promotion of equality and diversity by ensuring public bodies consider how different people will be affected by their activities, helping them to deliver policies, representation and services which are efficient and effective; accessible to all; and which meet different people's needs.

It is our policy to provide representation, information, facilities, services and employment to all irrespective of:

- Gender, including gender reassignment
- Marital or civil partnership status
- Pregnancy or maternity
- Religious belief or political opinion
- Race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins)
- Disability
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Age

The Parish Council is opposed to all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. All people and employees will be treated fairly and will not be discriminated against on any of the above grounds. All decisions about will be made objectively and without unlawful discrimination.

The Parish Council recognises that supporting Equality is of primary importance. This policy will help all those who are Council Members or work for the Council to develop sound and effective policies that impact on the village, community and surrounding areas.

The Parish Council aims to create a culture that respects and values each other's differences, that promotes dignity, equality and diversity. We aim to remove barriers, bias or discrimination that prevents individuals or groups from realising their potential and contributing fully to the community to develop a culture that positively values diversity.

The Parish Council will challenge discrimination. It aims to provide equality and fairness to all in the community and expects all Members and Officers to be aware and understand the Equality Act 2010.

### **Equality Commitments**

Holcot Parish Council is committed to:

- Promoting equality of opportunity for all persons.
- Promoting a good and harmonious environment in which all persons are treated with respect.
- Preventing occurrences of unlawful direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Fulfilling our legal obligations under equality legislation and associated codes of practice.
- Complying with our own equal opportunities policy and associated policies.
- Taking lawful affirmative and positive action where appropriate.

### **Implementation**

The Chair has specific responsibility for the effective implementation of this policy. In order to implement this policy he or she shall:

- Communicate the policy to Members, the Clerk and members of the public
- Incorporate equal opportunities into general practices
- Ensure that other persons or organisations will comply with the policy in their dealings with the Council

### **Monitoring and Review**

Holcot Parish Council will establish appropriate information and monitoring systems to assist the effective implementation of our equal opportunities policy.

The effectiveness of our equal opportunities policy will be reviewed annually, and action taken as necessary.

In addition to our internal procedures, any person has the right to pursue complaints of discrimination under the Equality Act 2010.

<b>Approved by Holcot Parish Council: <i>Signed Copy Held By Clerk</i></b>		
<b>Signature of Chair</b>		<b>Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>
<b>Signature of Clerk</b>		<b>Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>

To be reviewed 2027

Version	Purpose	Author	Date	Minute Ref
1	New	RC	06/09/2022	22/165
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