



Castlethorpe Parish Council

Volunteer Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

Castlethorpe Parish Council exists to focus on being an outward-looking organisation, putting into practice the values and objectives through engaging with the residents of Castlethorpe Village and key partners to improve the quality of life for our residents and the experience of those who work in and visit our village.

In line with the vision Castlethorpe Parish Council seeks to involve volunteers to:

- Enhance services to our clients;
- Bring new skills and perspectives;
- Through their involvement, increase contact with the local community the Parish Council serve.

2. PRINCIPLES

The Volunteering Policy is underpinned by the following principles:

- Castlethorpe Parish Council will ensure that volunteers are properly integrated into the organisation;
- Castlethorpe Parish Council does not aim to introduce volunteers to replace paid staff;
- Castlethorpe Parish Council expects that staff at all levels will work positively with volunteers.

3. PRACTICE GUIDELINES

The policy will deal with practical aspects of the involvement of volunteers. Detailed information is available from the Council.

3.1 RECRUITMENT

All prospective volunteers will be interviewed to assess their current skills and suitability for current/vacant volunteer roles, taking into consideration the work the volunteer would like to undertake and how best their potential might be realised.

3.2 VOLUNTEER AGREEMENTS AND VOLUNTARY WORK OUTLINES

After consultation, each volunteer will sign a Volunteer Agreement to confirm the specific role they will be undertaking and establish what Castlethorpe Parish Council undertakes to provide for them.

3.3 EXPENSES

All volunteers will have their travel and other expenses reimbursed. Details of applicable rates are available on request.

3.4 INDUCTION AND TRAINING

All volunteers will receive an induction into Castlethorpe Parish Council and the role they will undertake. Training will be provided as appropriate.

3.5 SUPPORT

All volunteers will have a named person as their main contact. They will be provided with regular supervision to feed back on progress, plan future development and discuss any problems in confidence.

3.6 THE VOLUNTEER'S VOICE

Volunteers are encouraged to express their views about matters concerning the organisation and may be invited to staff meetings or in confidence as appropriate.

3.7 INSURANCE

All volunteers are covered by Castlethorpe Parish Council's insurance policy whilst they are on the premises or engaged in work on Castlethorpe Parish Council's behalf. A copy of the policy is available on request.

3.8 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Volunteers are covered by Castlethorpe Parish Council's Health and Safety Policy, a copy of the policy is available on request.

3.9 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Castlethorpe Parish Council operates an equal opportunities policy in respect of both paid staff and volunteers. A copy of the policy is available on request.

3.10 CHILD / ADULT PROTECTION

Castlethorpe Parish Council operates a Child / Adult Protection policy. Volunteers must agree to a CRB check if their role involved working with children or vulnerable adults. A copy of the policy is available on request.

3.11 PROBLEM SOLVING

We aim to identify and solve problems at the earliest possible stage.

3.12 CONFIDENTIALITY

Volunteers will be bound by the same requirements for confidentiality as paid staff.