

# Cotesbach Parish Council

## Anti-Bribery Policy

The Bribery Act 2010 came into force on 1 July 2011 and affects everyone in all aspects of professional and public life.

Bribery is an inducement or reward offered, promised or provided to gain personal, commercial, regulatory or contractual advantage.

Section 1 of the Bribery Act 2010 makes it an offence to offer, promise or give a bribe, or Section 2 to request, agree to receive or accept a bribe. Section 7 of the Act states the corporate offence of failure by an organisation to prevent bribery.

Bribery is a criminal offence. Cotesbach Parish Councillors and Officers do not, and will not:

- pay or accept bribes or offer improper inducements to anyone for any purpose.
- use a third party as a conduit to channel bribes to others nor engage indirectly in or otherwise encourage bribery. They will not accept payments, inducements or gifts to secure or expedite actions.

The Council is committed to the prevention, deterrence and detection of bribery and have zero-tolerance towards bribery.

### **Procedure if Offered a Bribe or Inducement**

If, in the course of their duties, a Councillor or officer is offered a bribe or inducement it must be politely refuse and reported immediately to one, or more, of the list below:

- the Parish Clerk
- the Parish Council Chairman, or in his/her absence, the Vice Chairman
- the Police
- If reported to the the Parish Council Chairman or Clerk, the allegation will be immediately discussed with the Monitoring Officer at Harborough District Council.

A Parish Council has a defence under the law if it can show that it has taken reasonable precautions to prevent bribery.

If information is received that an act of bribery has taken place or may take place you must note as many details as possible, especially who is involved, how you found out and where/when it took place, or will take place. Grounds for concern need to be shown and evidence to substantiate the matter.

Reviewed and approved at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026; minute 7