

Advice given by the Monitoring Officer in relation to NALC guidance

I am aware that NALC have released the attached guidance which advises that, in NALC's opinion, the setting of the precept by the Parish Council is a matter where the Parish Councillors will need to declare a DPI.

I have reviewed the legislation including the relevant sections of the Localism Act 2011, the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. I have also looked at the NALC advice.

My conclusion is that I do not agree with the NALC advice given. I do not think Parish Councillors considering the setting of the precept in the Parish Council Meeting have a DPI. However, in the light of the NALC advice, Parish Councillors may wish to take a "Safety First" approach and sort out dispensations. These can be granted by the Parish Council itself prior to consideration of the item but on the receipt of a written application by the members concerned. The dispensation can be for up to 4 years. The NALC briefing has usefully enclosed a copy of a form which could be used and signed by the Councillors affected and submitted to the Parish Council as an application.

I would ask that you let me know what you decide to do.