

## **Constitution: Action for Cuxton Together (ACT)**

*"Taking the Politics out of Local Government"*

### **1. Preamble:**

The purpose of this Constitution is to enable Cuxton residents to be informed about the nature of this independent party and its agreed 'ways of working'. Act for Cuxton Together has been registered as a Minor Party with the Electoral Commission for local elections only. The party name and emblem will appear beside ACT candidates' names on ballot papers for the election that will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.



### **2. Name:**

The name of the party as used on ballot papers is Act for Cuxton Together

It may also be referred to as ACT: People before Party

### **3. Definitions:**

in this constitution, references made to "the party" are to Act for Cuxton Together

References to "the Council" are to Cuxton Parish Council.

### **4. Aims:**

Members of the party will be independent, and each member will therefore have and express her or his own views on matters to be decided by the party or by the Council. However, members of the party are committed to the following common principles:

- 4.1 to attract candidates for election to the Council from a wider age range, background, experience and knowledge than in the past;
- 4.2 to remove party politics from the proceedings of the Council;
- 4.3 to remove from the proceedings of the Council any and all control or influence exercised by political parties, pressure groups or whips;
- 4.4 to use the traditional "committee" and "working party" system to support Council decision making;
- 4.5 to ensure that the party's vision for Cuxton and its future, and its policies and actions in pursuit of it, show a full understanding of and a proper respect for the character and history of the Cuxton, and reflect the needs, wishes and aspirations of the Cuxton residents.

### **5. Ways of Working:**

Members of the party agree to adhere to the Nolan Principles.

They will:

- 5.1 abide wholeheartedly by the spirit and letter of the Seven Principles of Public Life set out by Lord Nolan in 1995: *selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership*
- 1.2 be guided by considered evidence, life/work experience, their consciences and expertise, and the views of residents.
- 1.3 be free from the control of any political party, pressure group or whip
- 1.4 be non-discriminatory, ethical and committed to inclusivity
- 1.5 make decisions transparently and openly at every stage and level of the political process, enabling people to see how decisions are made and the evidence on which they are based

- 1.6 listen and engage with Cuxton residents to inform decisions
- 1.7 treat those with different views with courtesy and respect, challenging them when you believe they are wrong, and agreeing with them when you believe they are right
- 1.8 resist abuses of power and patronage and promote democracy at every level
- 1.9 work with other elected independents as a party with a chosen spokesperson

## **6 Supporters:**

Joining the party is open to:

- 6.1 people on the electoral roll for the Cuxton who pledge themselves to support the aims and adhere to the ways of working, set out in the two preceding sections of this constitution;
- 6.2 prospective candidates for election to Council who meet the criteria in the sub-section above.

## **7. Candidates**

If more than 11 candidates wish to stand as a candidate for the party, a selection committee of 3 supporters, not standing as candidates, will be identified. All eligible candidates will submit an A4 resume identifying the knowledge and skills they can bring to the council. The selection committee will base their decision on those candidates that provide the best skill mix to support to ambitions of the party.

## **8. Meetings**

Decisions on actions to be taken and policies to be adopted by the party in relation to Council business will be taken at Council meetings. Every effort will be made to reach such decisions by consensus, but in the event of a vote those in the minority will be free to express their dissenting views, and the decision of the majority of Council members will be accepted by all.

## **9. Group Officers**

- 9.1 The Officers of the Group shall be the Leader, the Treasurer and the Nominating Officer.
- 9.2 The Treasurer shall keep the records of the party finances and provide a financial report to the annual general meeting of the party.
- 9.3 The Nominating Officer shall keep a register of the Group's supporters. The Register of supporters shall be open to inspection by any member on reasonable notice to the Nominating Officer.

## **10. Finance**

- 10.1 If the Party does not seek re-registration as a minor party any funds remaining shall be transferred to Cuxton Parish Council to be used for the benefit of Cuxton residents.

