

# SHIPDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## PENSION POLICY

As required by Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013 and the LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008 set out below is the policy statement on Pensions for Shipdham Parish Council.

A copy of this policy is available from the Parish Clerk

In all references to agreement by Shipdham Parish Council any decisions must be placed before a full meeting of the Council and be subject to an agreed resolution.

<b>Name of Employer</b>	Shipdham Parish Council has adopted the policies shown on the following pages
<b>Signed (authorised signatory)</b>	
<b>Name of authorised signatory</b>	Cllr C Playford (Chair)

### POLICY STATEMENT COMPULSORY ITEMS:

<b>Awarding Additional Pension: Regulation 31</b>
Shipdham Parish Council may increase a member's benefits by awarding additional pension up to a maximum of £6,500 per annum (from April 2014) on agreement of the Council. Shipdham Parish Council will consider exercising this discretion only in cases where it can see a clear financial or administrative advantage.
<b>Funding of Additional Pension: Regulations 16(2e) 16(4d)</b>
Shipdham Parish Council may fund (either wholly or in part) an active member's Additional Pension Contribution (APC) contract. Requests will be assessed on a case by case basis and should be made in writing to the Chair of the Council.  However, where an APC is used to cover a period of unpaid leave, Shipdham Parish Council is required to automatically pay 2/3rds of the cost with the member paying the rest, providing the APC request is made within 30 days of the member returning from leave.
<b>Flexible Retirement: Regulation 30(6)</b>
Shipdham Parish Council may give consent for a member aged 55 or more who reduces their grade or hours of work (or both) to receive all or part of their benefits immediately, even though they have not left the Council's employment on agreement of the Council. Shipdham Parish Council will consider exercising this discretion only in cases where it can see a clear financial or administrative advantage.  If the benefits payable on flexible retirement would normally be reduced for early payment Shipdham Parish Council may agree to waive all or part of the reduction on agreement of Shipdham Parish Council.  Shipdham Parish Council will consider exercising this discretion only in cases where it can see a clear financial or administrative advantage.

**Waiving of Actuarial Reduction: Regulation 30(8)**

In circumstances where it can see a clear financial or administrative advantage, Shipdham Parish Council may give consent for a member aged 55 or more who leaves its employ without an entitlement to immediate NEST Pension benefits to receive them straight away regardless on agreement of Shipdham Parish Council.

If the benefits payable would normally be reduced for early payment, Shipdham Parish Council may agree to waive all or part of the reduction. Any request will be determined on a case by case basis and must be backed by reports from the line manager and therefore in the case of the Clerk, reports will be required from the chairman and vice-chairman.

**Early Payment of Pension: Regulation 30 of the LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 (Two decisions to be made)**

For members who left Shipdham Parish Council before 1 April 2014 and subsequently wish to take their benefits between the ages of 55 and 60, Shipdham Parish Council may consent to immediate payment of NEST Scheme benefits. If the member's benefits payable would normally be reduced Shipdham Parish Council may agree to waive all or part of the reduction on compassionate grounds. Any waiver will be determined on a case by case basis.

**Admission Policy**

All members of staff of Shipdham Parish Council are eligible for the scheme (providing they meet the scheme regulations).

**Appointment of Adjudicator for Member Disagreements: Regulation 74(1)**

There is a three-stage dispute procedure for members who disagree with any NEST Pension Scheme decision made by their employer. The first stage will be handled by Shipdham Parish Council. Shipdham Parish Council will appoint an adjudicator whose job title and address will be made available should an application be made by an employee. This will then follow to due process as described in The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 Regulation 74.