**Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council**

**Equality and Diversity Policy**

1. Introduction
   1. Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council is committed to providing and promoting equal opportunities, eliminating discrimination and encouraging diversity in the Community.
   2. Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council aims to create a culture that respects and values each other’s differences and which promotes dignity, equality and diversity.
   3. An up to date copy of this policy shall be kept on the Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council web site.
2. Purpose
   1. Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council recognises that supporting equality is of primary importance. This policy will help Councillors and any employee or volunteer of the Council to develop sound and effective policies that impact on the local community, whilst ensuring that the Council meets its duty under the Equality Act 2010.
3. Scope
   1. This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, contractors and elected members of Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council.
   2. It is the responsibility of every volunteer, employee and Councillor of Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council to ensure that they do not discriminate in any way. An employee and Councillors have a duty to uphold equal opportunities principles. Any breach of this policy will be dealt with appropriately
4. Equality Act 2010
   1. The Equality Act 2010 applies to pubic bodies and others carrying out public functions. It supports good decision making by ensuring public bodies consider how different people will be affected by the activities, policies and services provided.
   2. The Equality Act 2010 places a Public Sector Duty on Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council to work to:
      1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
      2. Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who don’t share it
      3. Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who don’t share it
   3. No individual will be discriminated against. This includes, but is not limited to the following characteristics (known as protected characteristics under the Act)

* Age
* Disability
* Gender
* Marital status and civil partnerships
* Pregnancy and maternity
* Race
* Religion and beliefs
* Sexual orientation
* Ethnic origin
* Nationality

1. Equality Commitments
   1. Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council supports the principles and practices of the Equality Act 2010 and recognises that it is the duty of all Councillors, volunteers and employees to accept their personal responsibility for fostering a fully integrated community at work by respecting and adhering to the principles of equality for all.
   2. Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council will actively promote equality throughout the organisation through the application of policies which will ensure that individuals receive treatment that is fair and equitable and consistent with their relevant aptitudes, potential, skills experiences and abilities.
   3. Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council is committeed to:

* Promoting equality opportunity for all persons
* Promoting a good and harmonious environment in which all persons are treated with respect and valued
* Preventing occurences of unlawful direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment and victimization
* Fulfilling its legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010

1. Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council will review this policy annually and as necessary and appropriate, and at a minimum on an annual basis.

Chair of Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council. Date: