

# COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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2025-26 Item 47c

## Adoption of the Armed Forces Covenant

### Background

The Armed Forces Covenant is a national initiative which enables organisations of all sizes to demonstrate their support for members of the Armed Forces community. Councillors were sent full documentation on the Covenant by email with the agenda and all other papers.

The Covenant is based on the following key principles:

- A promise that those currently serving, those who have served, and their families should be treated fairly.
- Members of the Armed Forces community should not be disadvantaged as a result of their service; in some cases, special provision may be appropriate.
- The Covenant provides a framework for demonstrating and providing support to the Armed Forces community and for encouraging others to do the same.
- Participation is largely voluntary, and although certain aspects will become a legal requirement, these changes will not affect town and parish councils.

### Rationale for Adoption

It is considered important that Colney Heath Parish Council formally demonstrates its support for the Armed Forces. This can be achieved by signing up to the Covenant. Signing is flexible, allowing signatories to commit to the general spirit of the Covenant initially, and to add specific pledges over time.

It is suggested that the Parish Council includes a specific pledge to maintain war memorials within the parish which are not otherwise the responsibility of the District Council or other authority.

### Proposal

That Colney Heath Parish Council signs up to the Armed Forces Covenant, including a specific commitment to the upkeep of local war memorials within the parish (not maintained by another authority or organisation).

### Recommendation

That Council resolves to sign the Armed Forces Covenant and adopt the proposal above.