



Triratna Buddhist Community

Conflict of Interest DRAFT MODEL POLICY

If it is proposed in any item of business that a Council Member should receive a direct financial benefit from the Association, the Council must conduct that item according to the following policy for managing conflicts of interest.

1. If it is proposed in any item of business that a Council Member should receive a direct financial benefit from the Association, the Council Member must:
 - (i) declare an interest before discussion begins on the matter;
 - (ii) withdraw from that part of the meeting unless expressly invited to remain in order to provide information;
 - (iii) not be counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting; and
 - (iv) withdraw during the vote and have no vote on the matter.
2. If the item of business is such that the Council Member stands to receive a benefit from it, those Council Members who do not stand to receive the proposed benefit must be satisfied that it is in the best interests of the Association to contract with or employ that Council Member rather than with someone who is not a Council Member and they must record the reason for their decision in the minutes.
3. In reaching that decision the Council must balance the advantage of contracting with or employing a Council Member against the disadvantage of doing so (especially the loss of the Council Member's services as a result of dealing with their conflict of interest).
4. The Council may only authorise the payment of direct financial benefits to Members of the Council if the Council as a whole comprises a majority of Members who are not in receipt of any such benefit.
5. This policy does not prevent a Council Member from:
 - (i) buying goods or services from the Association upon the same terms as other members or members of the public;
 - (ii) receiving a benefit from the Association in the capacity of a beneficiary of the Association.
6. The purchase of indemnity insurance for all Members of the Council is permitted without reference to the above procedures.
7. In this policy, "Council Member" shall include any person firm or company connected with the Council Member
8. Subject to clause (5) of this policy, all acts done by a Council meeting, or of a committee of Council Members, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a Council Member who:
 - (i) was disqualified from holding office;
 - (ii) had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;
 - (iii) was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interest or otherwise; if, without the vote of that Council Member; and that Council Member being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the Council Members at a quorate meeting.