ARMED FORCES
COVENANT

Holymoorside & Walton Parish Council

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our community and our country.

Signed on behalf of:

Holymoorside & Walton Parish Council

Signed:

Name: M.E. Thacker

Position: Chairman

Date: 6th March 2024

HOLYMOORSIDE & WALTON PARISH COUNCIL
PROMOTING PARISH PRIDE

The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles of the Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We, Holymoorside & Walton Parish Council, will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 We recognise the value of serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families; and will aim to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by seeking to:

- appoint Cllr M Thacker as our **Armed Forces Champion** who will raise awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant and signpost the Armed Forces community when needing advice and guidance.
- promote the fact that we are an **Armed Forces-friendly Council**, to our members and wider public; celebrating the work of the Armed Forces and encouraging positive interaction between them and members of the public. This will be done by the annual armed forces events, the annual placing of silhouettes and the annual Remembrance Service.
- recognise that **military veterans** are a valued part of our community; facilitating and encouraging their participation in civic and community events; providing a link to the Veterans Gateway;

  https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI_8ON3L6A5wIVxLTtCh0zEAahEAAYASAAEgJWoPD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

  Military veterans are also invited and welcomed to our community events related to the armed forces.
- promote **Armed Forces events** such as local Breakfast Clubs, Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities. This will be via our website and noticeboards.
- encourage support for **Armed Forces charities.** This is via donations made from collections held at our events.
- achieve these priorities by working with other community, business and statutory partners to maximise our impact, share best practice and enable our Armed Forces Community to harness the opportunities and services available to them.

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature, on our website and noticeboards, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.