



Starston Parish Council

We, the undersigned,
commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant
and support the Armed Forces Community.

We recognise the value that
Serving Personnel (both Regular and Reservists),
Veterans, and Military Families
contribute to our businesses and our country.

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Signed on behalf of Starston Parish Council:

Signed:

Name: Philip Astor

Position: Chairman

Date: 27 August 2021

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.

Principles of the Armed Forces Covenant

We, **Starston Parish Council**, will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are as follows:

- *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.*

Demonstrating our Commitment

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

- promote the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly Council to members of the community and the wider public;
- celebrate the work of the Armed Forces, and encourage positive interaction between them and members of the public;
- maintain the war memorials in St. Margaret's Church;
- ensure the upkeep of war graves in the churchyard;
- commend the Harleston & District Branch of the Royal British Legion;
- support local Armed Forces events, the Poppy Appeal, and other Remembrance activities;
- acknowledge the importance of the various Armed Forces charities.

**We undertake to record these commitments
on the Parish Council pages of the Starston Village website.**