

Hellifield Parish Council- Complaints Procedure

The following procedure will be adopted for dealing with complaints regarding the Parish Council other than complaints about the conduct of a member of the Parish Council which are not covered by this procedure.

1. If the complainant prefers not to put the complaint to the Clerk to the Council (because the matter relates to the Clerk, for example,) the complainant should be advised to write to the Chair.
2. The complainant must set out the complaint in writing giving the nature and details of the complaint together with the full name and address and contact details of the complainant. Correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of Hellifield Parish Council at The Old Smithy, Main Street, Hellifield, BD23 4HT or email hellifieldpc@gmail.com. Verbal or telephone complaints will not be accepted.
3. Receipt of the complaint will be acknowledged within 14 days of receipt. The letter will explain who the complaint has been passed to and who within 21 days will contact the complainant.
4. If the complaint has not been resolved by this time the person dealing with the complaint will give an update and the complainant will be told the latest date by which a full response will be given (this should generally not be more than a further 28 days).
5. Should the complainant have any concerns regarding the way the complaint is/has been handled please contact the Chairman Mr. Brian Hugill at Lingber Farm, Hellifield, BD23 4JR or brianhugil@btconnect.com.
6. a) On receipt of a written complaint the person dealing with the complaint will not settle the complaint without first notifying any person complained about of the nature and details of the complaint and giving any person complained about the opportunity to comment on the complaint.
b) Where the Clerk to the Council or a Councillor receives a written complaint about the Clerks actions, he or she shall refer the complaint to the Chair of Council. The Clerk to the Council will be formally advised of the matter and given the opportunity to comment.
7. a) Any written complaints received by the clerk or chair or member of the Council shall be reported to the Council at the next full Council meeting.
b) The Clerk to the Council (or Chair) will report any complaint disposed of by direct action with the complainant to the next meeting of the Council.
8. Matters relating to Grievance or Disciplinary proceedings that are taking, or are likely to take place, should be dealt with in accordance with the Council's grievance and disciplinary procedures.
9. The Council may decide that the circumstances of any complaint warrant the matter being discussed in the absence of the press and public but any decision on the complaint will be announced at the Council meeting in public.
10. Within 14 days of a Council meeting at which a decision has been made on the merit of a complaint, the complainant will be notified in writing of the decision and of any action to be taken.
11. The Council may defer dealing with any complaint if it is of the opinion that issues arise on which further advice is necessary. The advice will be considered and the complaint dealt

with at the next meeting after the advice has been received. [The timescales set out above shall not apply in this situation].

Procedure adopted at the meeting on 16th December 2010
Reviewed and revised at the meeting on 3rd September 2015
Reviewed at the meeting on 3rd November 2016 (no revisions)

Signed Dated.....

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