

Hampsthwaite Parish Council

Complaining to Hampsthwaite Parish Council

It is the intention of Hampsthwaite Parish Council that all parties should be treated fairly and the processes should be reasonable, accessible and transparent.

- **Complaints about an employee**
 - If a member of the public has a complaint about an employee of the Parish Council, they should contact the Chairman of the Parish Council. The matter will be dealt with internally as an employment matter and appropriate action taken as required.
- **Complaints about a Councillor**
 - Councillors are subject to the jurisdiction of the Standards Board, and Complainants are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer at Harrogate Borough Council for further information.

Complaints about the administration or procedures of Hampsthwaite Parish Council.

This Procedure is intended for situations where a complaint has been made about the administration of the Council or about its procedures.

Complaints about a policy decision made by the Council will be referred back to the Council, or relevant Committee, as appropriate, for consideration.

This Procedure is intended for those complaints that cannot be resolved by less formal measures or explanations provided to the Complainant by the Clerk or Chairman who will seek to settle the complaint directly with the Complainant. Efforts should be made to resolve the complaint at this stage.

- **Making the Complaint**
 - The Complainant should be asked to put the complaint in writing to the Clerk. If the Complainant does not wish to put the complaint to the Clerk, they may be advised to put it to the Chairman of the Council.
 - The Council shall acknowledge the receipt of the complaint and advise the Complainant the date of the meeting at which the matter will be considered.
 - The Complainant shall be invited to attend the relevant meeting and bring with them such representative as they wish.
 - Seven clear working days prior to the meeting, the Complainant shall provide the Council with copies of any documentation or other evidence, which they wish to refer to at the meeting. The Council shall similarly provide the Complainant with copies of any documentation upon which they wish to rely at the meeting.
- **At the Meeting.**
 - The Council shall consider whether the circumstances of the meeting warrant the exclusion of the public and the press. Any decision on a complaint shall be announced at the Council meeting in public.
 - The Chairman to introduce everyone and explain the procedure.
 - The Complainant (*or representative*) to outline the grounds for the complaint.
 - Members to ask any question of the Complainant.
 - If relevant, the Clerk to explain the Council's position.
 - Members to ask any question of the Clerk.
 - Clerk and Complainant to be offered the opportunity of the last word (*in this order*).
 - The Complainant to be asked to leave the meeting while members decide whether or not the grounds for the complaint have been made. If a point of clarification is necessary, the Complainant may be invited back.
 - The Complainant may return to hear the decision, or will be advised when the decision will be made.
- **After the Meeting.**
 - Decision to be confirmed in writing within seven working days together with details of any action to be taken.