

Newnham on Severn Parish Council

**5 Fir View road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Glos. GL14 3AL 01594 824818
e-mail nospc@hotmail.co.uk**

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

1. If a complaint about procedures or administration is notified orally to a Councillor or the Clerk to the Council, and it is not possible to satisfy the complainant in full immediately, the complainant shall be asked to put his/her complaint in writing to the Clerk to the Council and receive an assurance on receipt a response will be given within 5 working days from receipt and that full resolution will be pursued with vigour.

Complaints should be forwarded in the first instance to:

**Mr D. Tingle Parish Clerk
Newnham on Severn Parish Council
5 Fir View Road,
Ruspidge,
Cinderford,
Gloucestershire
GL14 3AL**

2. If a complainant indicates that he/she would prefer not to put the complaint to the Clerk to the Council then he/she should be advised to put it to the Chairman of Council.

Newnham on Severn Parish Council Chairman:

**Mr Ian Walker
1 Beechings Cottage
Bullo Pill
Newnham on Severn,
GL14 1EB
01594 516822**

3. On receipt of a written complaint, the Clerk to the Council or the Chairman, as the case may be, shall (except where the complaint is about his own actions) try to settle the complaint directly with the complainant within the existing policy of the Council, but shall not do so in respect of a complaint about the behaviour of the Clerk to the Council or a Councillor without notifying the person complained of and giving him an opportunity to comment on the manner in which it is intended to attempt to settle the complaint. Where the Clerk to the Council or Chairman receives a written complaint about his own actions, he/she shall immediately refer the complaint to the Council.
4. The Clerk to the Council or the Chairman shall report to the next meeting of the Council any written complaint disposed of by direct action with the complainant.

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5. The Clerk to the Council or the Chairman shall bring any written complaint that cannot be settled to the next meeting of the Council, and the Clerk to the Council shall notify the complainant of the date on which the complaint will be considered.

6. The Council shall consider whether the circumstances appertaining to any complaint warrant the matter being discussed in the absence of the press and the public. If the matter is a complaint of the Clerk to the Council such that the Council or the Clerk to the Council believes that the matter may lead to a disciplinary hearing, then the matter must be heard with the press and public excluded. In this event, if the complaint is of any employee, even if the matter is being dealt with initially out of the context of a formal disciplinary hearing, then the employee is entitled to have a representative present to act as set out in the Employment Relations Act 1999 s.10. The matter before the Council in this case will be to establish whether there is a factual basis to the complaint and the action that should then be taken. The proceedings at this stage cannot be a formal disciplinary hearing, which must be convened on a separate occasion in the proper manner.

7. As soon as may be possible following the decision/findings of the Council any action to be taken regarding the complainant shall be communicated in writing to the complainant.

8. In the event of serial facetious, vexatious or malicious complaints from a member of the public the Council will consider taking legal advice before writing any letters to the complainant.

Change History

29th May 2014 – Point 1 amended to include a defined time frame for response (5 working days) as agreed at the APCM on 19th May

This Complaints Procedure adopted by Newnham on Severn Parish

Council on 28th November 2011