

GRASSMOOR, HASLAND & WINSICK PARISH COUNCIL

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Code of Practice

Before the meeting

1. The complainant should be asked to put the complaint about the Council's procedure or administration in writing to the Clerk.
2. If the complainant does not wish to put the complaint in writing to the Clerk, they may be advised to put it to the Chairman and/or the Vice-Chairman of the Council.
3. The Clerk shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint and advise the complainant when the Council will consider the matter.
4. The complainant shall be invited to attend the relevant meeting and bring with them such representative as they wish.
5. 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

6. 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.
7. Chairman to introduce all present
8. Chairman to explain procedure to all present
9. Complainant (or representative) to outline grounds of complaint.
10. Council Members to ask questions of the complainant.
11. If relevant, the Clerk to explain the Council's position on the matter.
12. Complainant to ask questions of the Clerk.
13. Members to ask questions of the Clerk.
14. Clerk and complainant to be offered opportunity to sum up their cases (in this order)

15. The Clerk and the complainant to withdraw from the room while Members decide whether or not the grounds of the complaint have been made. (If clarification is required, both parties to be invited back in the room)

16. Clerk and complainant return to the room to hear the decision, or be advised when a decision will be made.

After the meeting

17. Decision confirmed in writing within seven days together with details of any action taken.