

Keyingham Parish Council

CODE OF PRACTICE HANDLING COMPLAINTS

This procedure is aimed at those situations where a complaint has been made about the administration of Keyingham Parish Council or its procedures.

This procedure is designed for those complaints that cannot be satisfied by less formal measures or explanations provided to the complainant by the Parish Clerk, Chairman or Vice Chairman.

At all times all parties should be treated fairly and the process should be reasonable, accessible and transparent.

Complaints subject to this procedure shall be dealt with by Keyingham Parish Council.

CODE OF PRACTICE

Before the meeting

1. the complainant shall put the complaint about the council's procedures or administration in writing to the Parish Clerk
2. if the complainant does not wish to put the complaint to the Parish Clerk they may be advised to put it to the Chairman of Keyingham Parish Council or Vice Chairman.
3. the Parish Clerk, Chairman or other officer shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint in writing and advise the complainant when the matter will be considered by the Council
4. the complainant shall be invited to attend the relevant meeting and bring with them such representative as they wish
5. 7 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 meeting in public)*
7. the Chairman to introduce everyone present
8. the Chairman to explain the procedure
9. the complainant (or their representative) to outline the grounds for complaint
10. members to ask any questions of the complainant
11. If relevant, the Parish Clerk or other officer to explain the Council's position
12. members to ask any questions of the Parish Clerk or other officer
13. the Parish Clerk or other officer and the complainant to be offered the opportunity of the last word (in this order)
14. The Parish Clerk or other officer and the complainant and their representative (if present) to be asked to leave the room whilst members decide whether or not the grounds for complaint have been made. If a point of clarification is necessary **BOTH** parties are to be invited back.
15. The Parish Clerk or other officer and the complainant and their representative (if present) to return to the meeting to hear the decision

After the meeting

16. The decision made by the Council shall be confirmed in writing to all parties concerned within 7 working days together with details of any action to be taken