

Collingham with Linton Parish Council

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

1. Collingham with Linton Parish Council is committed to providing a quality service for the benefit of the people who live or work in its area or are visitors to the locality. If you are dissatisfied with the standard of service you have received from this council, or are unhappy about an action or lack of action by this council, this Complaints Procedure sets out how you may complain to the council and how we shall try to resolve your complaint.

2. This Complaints Procedure applies to complaints about council administration and procedures and may include complaints about how council employees have dealt with your concerns.

3. This Complaints Procedure does not apply to:

a: Complaints by one council employee against another council employee, or between a council employee and the council as employer.

These matters are dealt with under the council's disciplinary and grievance procedures.

b: Complaints against councillors. Complaints against councillors acting in their official capacity are covered by the Code of Conduct for Members adopted by the Council and, if a complaint against a councillor is received by the council, it will be referred to the Monitoring Officer of Leeds City Council. Further information on the process of dealing with complaints against councillors may be obtained from the Monitoring Officer of Leeds City Council.

4. The appropriate time for influencing Council decision-making is by raising your concerns before the Council debates and votes on a matter. You may do this by writing to the Council in advance of the meeting at which the item is to be discussed. There may also be the opportunity to raise your concerns in the public participation section of Council meetings. If you are unhappy with a Council decision, you may raise your concerns with the Council, but Standing Orders prevent the Council from re-opening issues for six months from the date of the decision, unless there are exceptional grounds to consider this necessary and the special process set out in the Standing Orders is followed.

5. You may make your complaint about the council's procedures or administration to the Clerk. All formal complaints against a local council must be communicated in writing to the

Clerk at the address or email below. Please state in your letter if you wish your complaint to be treated confidentially.

6. Wherever possible, the Clerk will try to resolve your complaint immediately. If this is not possible, the Clerk will normally acknowledge your complaint within seven working days. The Clerk will also confirm if your complaint will be treated confidentially, and confirm the next steps in the complaints procedure.

7. If you do not wish to report your complaint to the Clerk, you may make your complaint directly to the Chair of the Council who will report your complaint to the Council.

8. The Clerk or the Council (as appropriate) will investigate each complaint, obtaining further information as necessary from you and/or from staff or members of the Council.

9. The Clerk or the Chair of the Council will notify you within 20 working days of the outcome of your complaint and of what action (if any) the Council proposes to take as a result of your complaint. (In exceptional cases the twenty working days timescale may have to be extended. If it is, you will be kept informed.)

10. If you are dissatisfied with the response to your complaint, you may ask for your complaint to be referred to the full Parish Council and (usually within eight weeks) you will be notified in writing of the outcome of the review of your original complaint.

11. The Clerk or Chair shall report to the next meeting of the Council any written complaint disposed of by direct action with the complainant.

12. The Clerk or Chair shall bring any written complaint which has not been settled to the next meeting of the Council and the Clerk shall notify the complainant of the date on which the complaint will be considered, and the complainant shall be offered an opportunity to

explain the complaint orally. If you wish to bring a friend with you when you attend for this purpose, you may do so.

13. The Council shall consider whether the circumstances attending any complaint warrant the matter being discussed in the absence of the press and public but any decision on a complaint shall be announced at the Council meeting in public.

Contact details

Clerk Tina Wormley clpcclerk@gmail.com

Chair Mr J C Holmes Holmesj3@aol.com

Adopted on 4th August 2015

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