

Elmstone Hardwicke Parish Council Complaints Procedure

As a Parish Council we are keen to ensure that all we do is open and transparent. If any member of the community feels that we are not operating in this way there is an agreed complaints procedure detailed below. The Council is unable to deal with anonymous complaints.

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS
Approved by ELMSTONE HARDWICKE PARISH COUNCIL

1. Complaints must be submitted in writing to the Clerk and must include the following:
 - The nature of the complaint in detail
 - The subject of the complaint (e.g. Member, Clerk)
 - The remedy sought
2. In all cases the Clerk will send a copy of the complaint to the Chairman (or the Vice-Chair if the complaint is against the Chairman).
3. The Chairman (or Vice Chairman, if the complaint is against the Chairman) in consultation with the Clerk, will contact the parties concerned in an effort to reach an amicable solution to the complaint.
4. A copy of the written complaint will be circulated by the Clerk in the first instance to the Chairman and Vice Chairman and subject to 5 below. If an amicable agreement cannot be reached then the complaint will be circulated to all members of the Parish Council and to the subject of the complaint.
5. In the first instance, a meeting will be arranged between the complainant and the Chairman and Vice Chairman to attempt to reach an amicable agreement. If an amicable solution cannot be reached by the above means, a meeting of the Parish Council will be convened as soon as reasonably practicable
6. A meeting of the Parish Council will take place on a date and time and at a place to be determined by the Chairman, in consultation with the Clerk. The quorum for a meeting will be three members of the Parish Council providing that none of the three are subject to complaint.
7. If possible, the complaint will be dealt with by way of consideration of written representations. If this is not possible, both parties to the complaint will be invited to attend in person and they may be accompanied by an advisor / representative.

Elmstone Hardwicke Parish Council

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8. Where the complaint is heard in person rather than by written representations the following procedure will apply
 - The Chairman will invite the complainant to state in full the details of the complaint.
 - The subject of the complaint will be invited to question the complainant.
 - The members of the Parish Council will be allowed to question the complainant.
 - The subject will be invited to answer the complaint.
 - The complainant will be invited to question the subject.
 - The members of the Parish Council will be allowed to question the subject.
 - The complainant will sum up.
 - The subject of the complaint will sum up.
 - The complainant and the subject will withdraw. Members of the public or press may also be asked to withdraw.
 - The Parish Council will consider the evidence and come to decision in respect of the complaint. Where the complaint is upheld in full or in part the Parish Council will recommend a remedy to the complaint.
 - The complainant and the subject of the complaint will be invited back into the meeting and advised of the decision.
9. The Parish Council shall forward details of any complaint and the manner in which it has been dealt with, via the Clerk, for report to the next meeting of the Parish Council.
10. The Parish Council shall, at its absolute discretion, deal with any matters not specifically covered by the procedure, but relevant to its role.
11. The decision will be confirmed in writing within seven working days together with details of any action to be taken.