

## RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

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### COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

- 1. Complaints about an employee.** If a member of the public has a complaint about an employee of the Parish Council, they should contact the Chairman of the Parish Council. The matter will be dealt with internally as an employment matter and appropriate action taken as required.
- 2. Complaints against a Councillor.** Councillors are subject to the jurisdiction of the Standards Board, and complainants are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer at Lewes District Council for further information.
- 3. Complaints about the administration or procedures of the Parish Council.**

### Before the meeting:-

- Complaints must be made within 12 months' notice of the matters which are subject to the complaint & should be submitted in writing to the Clerk. If the complainant does not wish to put the complaint to the Clerk, they may be advised to put it to the Chairman of the Council.
- The Clerk shall acknowledge the receipt of the complaint, and advise the complainant when the matter will be considered by the Council.
- The complainant shall be invited to attend the relevant meeting and bring with them such representatives as they wish.
- Seven clear 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: -

- 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.
- The Chairman to introduce everyone and explain the procedure.
- The complainant (or representative) to outline the grounds of the complaint.
- Members to ask any questions of the complainant.

- i. If relevant, the Clerk to explain the Council's position.
- j. Members to ask any questions of the Clerk.
- k. Clerk and complainant to be offered the opportunity of the last word (in this order).
- l. Clerk and complainant to be asked to leave the room while members decide whether or not the grounds for the complaint have been made. If a point of clarification is necessary, both parties to be invited back.
- m. Clerk and complainant return to hear the decision, or be advised when the decision will be made.

**After the meeting: -**

- n. Decision to be confirmed in writing within seven working days together with details of any action to be taken.

September 2017