

BREASTON PARISH COUNCIL

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE – CODE OF PRACTICE

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 to the Clerk, they may be advised to put it to the Chairman of the Council.
3. The Clerk shall acknowledge the 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 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 everyone.
8. Chairman to explain procedure.
9. Complainant (or representative) to outline grounds for complaint.
10. Members to ask any questions of the complainant.
11. If relevant, the Clerk to explain the Council's position.
12. Members to ask any questions of the Clerk.
13. Clerk and complainant to be offered opportunity of last word (in this order).
14. The Clerk and the complainant be asked to leave the room while Members decide whether or not the grounds of the complaint have been made. (If a point of clarification is necessary, both parties be invited back).

After the Meeting

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