

**Clifton Reynes and Newton Blossomville
Joint Parish Council**

Complaints Procedure

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COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Clifton Reynes and Newton Blossomville Joint Parish Council recognises that the Local Government Ombudsman has no jurisdiction over parish and town councils and therefore in the interests of reasonableness, accessibility, and transparency has put in place its own Complaints Procedure based on recommended good practice. At all times the rules of natural justice will apply.

Any complaint should be put in writing to the Chairman of the Joint Parish Council /or Parish Clerk giving the complainants full name, address and contact telephone number together with the nature of the complaint.

Any complaint will be dealt with confidentially.

Receipt of a complaint will be acknowledged within five working days, giving a time scale for response.

If the complaint cannot be addressed satisfactorily by the Chairman/or Parish Clerk, then this will be heard by the Joint Parish Council at the next available meeting. However if the nature of the complaint is complex or urgent, then a specially convened meeting may be necessary. Notification of when this meeting will take place will be given to the complainant. He/she may bring a representative to the meeting if they wish.

Any documents relating to the complaint from the complainant and the Joint Parish Council must be made available to either side within seven clear working days of the convened meeting, in order for these to be read before the meeting.

In the interests of confidentiality, at the meeting, the Joint Parish Council should decide whether to exclude the public and press from such a meeting. However, any decision on a complaint shall be announced at the next Joint Parish Council Meeting.

The complainant (or representative) should outline the grounds for the complaint after which questions may be asked by the Clerk/nominated officer/members of the Joint Parish Council.

The Clerk/nominated officer should explain the Joint Parish Council's position after which they may be asked questions by the complainant/representative.

A summary from both sides would then follow. The Clerk/nominated officer and the complainant should leave the room for discussion by the Joint Parish Council – if necessary, both parties could be invited back if there is a need for clarification.

Both the Clerk and complainant should be given the opportunity to wait for the Joint Parish Council's decision but if this is unlikely to be finalised at the meeting they should be advised of when this is likely to be made and when they should expect details. The Council will aim to confirm the decision in writing within seven working days together with details of any action to be taken.

Complaints about an individual Joint Parish Councillor should be submitted to The Standards Committee via The Monitoring Officer, The Civic Offices, Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes. MK9 3EJ. More information can be found at <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/your-council-and-elections/comments-compliments-and-complaints/complaints-about-the-conduct-of-members-of-the-council>

The Chairman of the Joint Parish Council should be advised of the complaint.

**This Complaints Procedure was Approved at the
Joint Parish Council Meeting of DRAFT**