

TARPORLEY PARISH COUNCIL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This procedure applies to all employees of Tarporley Parish Council, hereafter referred to as “the Council”.
- 1.2. The objectives of the procedure are: -
 - To foster good relationships between the Council and its employees by discouraging the harbouring of grievances;
 - To settle grievances as near as possible to their point of origin;
 - To ensure the Council treats grievances seriously and resolves them as quickly as possible; and
 - To ensure that employees are treated fairly and consistently throughout the Council.
- 1.3. Matters excluded from this procedure are as follows: -
 - Appeals against salary or gradings;
 - Appeals against disciplinary actions;
 - Income tax, national insurance matters, rates of pay collectively agreed at the national or local level;
 - Rules of pension schemes; and
 - A grievance about a matter over which the Council has no control.
- 1.4 The Staffing Committee will be made up of Parish Councillors appointed by the Council, and will include the Vice Chairman, but not the Chairman of the Council.

2. INFORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

In the interests of maintaining good working relations the employee is encouraged to first discuss any grievance with Chairman of the Staffing Committee with a view to resolving the matter informally if appropriate. If the employee feels that these actions are not appropriate or they wish to pursue a formal grievance they should follow the procedure detailed below.

3. FORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 3.1. The employee must set out his/her grievance in writing (“Statement of Grievance”) and provide a copy to the Chairman of the Staffing Committee. This grievance will then be considered by the Council’s Staffing Committee.
- 3.2. Once the Committee has had a reasonable opportunity to consider its response to the information provided in the Statement of Grievance the employee will be invited to attend a grievance meeting to discuss the matter.
 - (i) The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting.
 - (ii) Grievance meetings will normally be convened within 10 working days of the Council receiving the Statement of Grievance.
 - (iii) The employee has the right to be accompanied to a grievance meeting by a fellow employee, a Trade Union representative, or a friend.
 - (iv) If the meeting is inconvenient for either the employee or his or her companion, the employee has the right to postpone the meeting by up to 5 working days.
- 3.3. A grievance meeting may be adjourned to allow matters raised during the course of the meeting to be investigated, or to afford the Committee time to consider the decision.
- 3.4. After the meeting the employee will be informed of the Staffing Committee’s decision within 5 working days. The meeting may be reconvened for this purpose. The Staffing Committee’s decision will be confirmed to the employee in writing.
- 3.5. If the employee wishes to appeal against the Committee’s decision, he or she must inform the Chairman of the Staffing Committee within 5 working days of receiving the decision.
- 3.6. If the employee notifies the Chairman of the Staffing Committee that they wish to appeal, the employee will be invited to attend a grievance appeal meeting made up of 3 Councillors not included in the Staffing Committee, to be Chaired by the Council Chairman.

The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend that meeting. The employee has the right to be accompanied to a grievance appeal meeting by a fellow employee, a Trade Union representative or a friend.

- 3.7. A grievance appeal meeting will normally be convened within 10 working days of receiving notice that the employee wishes to appeal pursuant to 3.5. above. If the meeting time is inconvenient for the employee or his or her companion, the employee may ask to postpone the meeting by up to 5 working days.
- 3.8. After the grievance appeal meeting the employee will be informed of the Council's final decision within 5 working days. The meeting may be reconvened for this purpose. The Council's decision will be confirmed to the employee in writing.

4. GENERAL PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

- 4.1 A copy of the Statement of Grievance, a note of the decision taken at the first stage of the procedure, any notice of appeal and appeal decision will be placed on the employee's personnel file, together with any notes or evidence taken or compiled during the course of the procedure.
- 4.2 The Council on adoption of this policy delegates the authority to handle all grievance processes to the Council's Staffing Committee.

Date of Adoption of Policy – June 2017 Council meeting P347 of the Minute Book, Res 17/277
Reviewed Council Meeting 14 May 2018