

# Complaint Form

## 1. Your details

Title	Mrs
First Name	Eve
Last name	Hale
Address	[REDACTED]
Daytime telephone number	[REDACTED]
Evening telephone number	[REDACTED]
Mobile telephone	[REDACTED]
E-mail address	[REDACTED]

Your address and contact details will not usually be released unless necessary to deal with your complaint.

However, we will tell the following people that you have made this complaint:

- The Member you are complaining about
- The parish or town clerk (if applicable)
- The Independent Persons who advise the City Council on handling standards complaints

We will tell them your name and details of your complaint. If you have serious concerns about your name or details of your complaint being released please discuss those concerns with the Council's Monitoring Officer before submitting your complaint.

## 2. Making your complaint

You should submit your complaint to the Council's Monitoring Officer by e-mail to [monitoringofficer@york.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@york.gov.uk) or by post to:

Janie Berry  
The Monitoring Officer  
City of York Council  
West Offices  
Station Rise  
York  
YO1 6GA

### 3. Councillor details

Please provide the name and address of the Councillors who you believe have breached the code of conduct and the name of their Council:

<b>Title</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>	<b>Name of Council</b>
Mr	Steven	Hardcastle	Deighton Parish Council

### 4. Nature of complaint

Please explain in this section (or on separate sheets) what the Councillor has done that you believe breaches the Code of Conduct. If you are complaining about more than one Councillor you should clearly explain what each individual has done that you believe breaches the code of conduct.

I am writing to place a formal complaint against Deighton and Crockey Hill Parish Council, in particular, the Chairman Mr S Hardcastle.

As a previous councillor with over 20 years experience , 10 years as vice chair, I resigned June 2019, due to the continual harassment to the council from members of the public including Mr Hardcastle.

Mr Hardcastle was elected onto the council in the May 2019 elections and, due to his previous attitude towards the council and his opening words at his first meeting (is this meeting legal, this was a continuation of his belligerence towards the council ) I resigned.

After a period where there remained a vacancy on the council, I decided to re-apply in March 2020, in order to have a councillor representing Crockey Hill. Due to the Covid lockdown a meeting was called in July but my application was not going to be discussed, there was another meeting in September 2020, but the guillotine came down before my co-option could be discussed.

As the only applicant, I expected to be co-opted, unfortunately this application was blocked by Mr Hardcastle and he continued to refuse my application due to his personal animosity towards me (see attached Chairman's report posted on the website after the AGM).

The clerk continued to advise that he did not have the power to make this decision.

After several subsequent meeting the council have failed to co-op me.

On 16 November 2020 a zoom meeting was called and details posted on the website, included on the agenda was my co-option.

This meeting failed to take part when the Chairman opened the meeting and cancelled it immediately, due to the ongoing disciplinary against the Clerk. Why was this meeting not cancelled previously? or other agenda issues discussed by the council?

I feel that any personal animosity between councillors should not affect the running of a Public Body, who are there to serve the Parishioners.

I request that on behalf of myself and the Parish that this issue be investigated.

## ● Deighton Parish Council Chairman's Statement 2020

Once again, it has been a busy and eventful year for the Parish Council:-

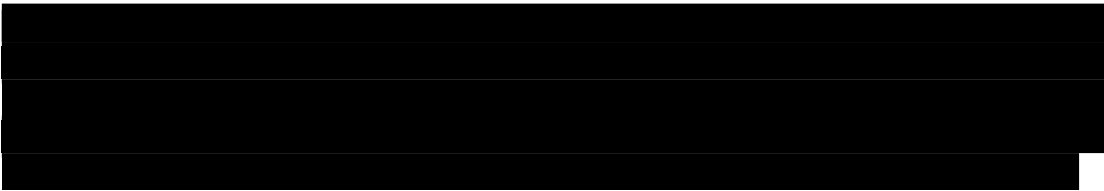
- We started the year with an almost completely new Council and Chairman, with only two of the previous Councillors still sitting. For the majority of the year we didn't have a salaried Clerk leaving myself and Councillor Jeanne Fletcher to cover the duties on an interim basis, although Jeanne had the far greater workload and I would like to record thanks her for her efforts.

This has been my first year as a Councillor and indeed as a Chairman and although I was reluctant to take office, due to the extreme circumstances at the time, I have, however, found the whole experience to be a pleasant and rewarding one. I believe the Council is now in a far better position, both financially and in its standing with the parishioners, than it has been for some time. The good work we have done collectively as a Council is there for all to see and I will come on to highlight some of our achievements later.

Unfortunately, before that, I feel I must make reference to [REDACTED] and certain previous individual Councillors that I will not identify in this Statement. After taking office, myself and another Councillor had an official complaint made against us to City of York by [REDACTED]. Ten months later, at what I can only guess was a considerable cost to the public purse, and, in addition an extremely stressful period to endure, the report and findings resulted in both of us being completely exonerated of any wrongdoing.

After taking office and examining the Parish Council e-mail account, the vile and abusive comments stated on e-mail between [REDACTED] and some individual Councillors at that time about other fellow Councillors and members of the public

was quite frankly appalling and also alarming when one particular e-mail mentions the suggestion of bringing a gun to the next meeting where I was to attend. Rest assured, as long I am Chair, I will resist any attempt for these individuals to re-join the Council, regardless of whatever threats are made against me. After discussions with my fellow Councillors, I know I have their support in this matter.



It is important that you provide all the information which you wish to have taken into account by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Persons in considering whether your complaint requires a detailed investigation. For example:

- You should be as specific as possible as to what you are alleging the Councillors did. For example instead of saying that a Councillor insulted you, you should state what they said or did.
- You should provide dates of the the alleged incidents if possible or a general timeframe if you cannot remember dates.
- You should confirm whether there were any witnesses.
- You should ensure that your complaint is about the code of conduct. The Joint Standards Committee cannot deal with general complaints about decisions made by a Council or actions taken by Councillors in a purely private capacity.

## 5. Additional help

Complaints must be submitted in writing. This includes by e-mail. We can make reasonable adjustments if you have a disability which prevents you making your complaint in writing or provide assistance if you have any other difficulty which prevents you completing this form.