

HESLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DISCIPLINARY POLICY & PROCEDURE

1. Purpose and scope

The Parish Council's aim is to encourage improvement in individual performance or conduct. This procedure sets out the action which will be taken when disciplinary rules are breached.

2. Principles

a) The procedure is designed to establish the facts quickly and to deal fairly and consistently with disciplinary issues. No disciplinary action will be taken until the matter has been fully investigated.

b) At every stage the employee will be informed in writing of what is alleged and have the opportunity to state their case at a disciplinary meeting and be represented or accompanied, if they wish, by a trade union representative or a work colleague.

c) The employee has the right to appeal against any disciplinary penalty.

3. The Procedure

Stage 1 – first warning

If conduct or performance is unsatisfactory, the employee will be given a written warning or performance note. Such warnings will be recorded, but disregarded after 6 months of satisfactory service.

The employee will also be informed that final written warning may be considered if there is no sustained satisfactory improvement or change. (Where the first offence is sufficiently serious, for example because it is having, or is likely to have, a serious harmful effect on the Parish Council, it may be justifiable to move directly to a final written warning).

Stage 2 – final written warning

If the offence is serious, or there is no improvement in standards, or if a further offence of similar kind occurs, a final written warning will be given which will include the reason for the warning and a note that if no improvement results within 2 months, action at stage 3 will be taken.

Stage 3 – dismissal or action short of dismissal

If the conduct or performance has failed to improve, the employee may be dismissed.

Gross Misconduct

If, after investigation, it is confirmed that employee has committed an offence of the following nature (NB the list is not exhaustive), the normal consequence will be dismissal without notice or payment in lieu of notice:

Theft, damage to property, fraud, incapacity for work due to being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, physical violence, bullying, gross insubordination, unlawful discrimination or harassment or a serious breach of confidence.

While the alleged gross misconduct is being investigated, the employee may be suspended, during which time he or she will be paid their normal pay rate. Any decision to dismiss will be taken by the Parish Council only after full investigation.

Appeals

An employee who wishes to appeal against any disciplinary decision must do so to the named person in the Parish Council within five working days. The Parish Council will hear the appeal and decide the case as impartially as possible.

This policy was adopted.....