

NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL - VEXATIOUS ISSUES POLICY

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY NEWBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL ON 13th May 2013 – Reviewed March 2015

The Parish Council is accountable for the use of public money and has a duty to ensure that money is spent wisely and achieves good value..

The Parish Council is committed to dealing with all issues fairly and impartially.

In order to optimise the limited budget that the Parish Clerk has at his/her disposal to execute all of the given tasks, the Parish Council has set out a priority system for dealing with ad-hoc issues (i.e. beyond those required to administer the Parish Council's business).

The purpose of this system is to target maximum value for the Parish precept and not to deny any parishioner's right to question or challenge the Parish Council whilst endeavouring to ensure that Parish Council and Parish Clerk resources are not being unnecessarily utilised when any advantage, benefit or value cannot be identified.

In the event that the Parish Clerk is likely to consume more than the allotted hours the Parish Council may consider the use of the following mechanisms:

- i) Issues that bring new or changed circumstance to light will be prioritised
- ii) New issues will be expected to be given in writing at least one week prior to the next Parish Council meeting such that they can be identified as agenda items if deemed necessary by the Parish Council.
- iii) Requests to provide or access material older than 6 months will be deemed low priority except where they evidentially support i) above.

Responses to questions for any low priority issues will be limited, at the discretion of the Parish Council, to twice a month

- iv) If an issue is deemed unresolved the issuer retains the right to issue a formal complaint (See Compliments and Complaint Procedure).

Persistent Issues and Issuers

From time to time issues are re-raised or asked to be reconsidered at such a frequency as to hinder the activities of the Parish Council. Where the Parish Council deems these to be unreasonably persistent (i.e. unlikely to lead to improved resolution or value to the parish) the Parish Council may take action to limit the issuers contact with Councillors and Officers.

In all cases where it is decided that an issuer is to be treated as ‘unreasonably persistent’, the Parish Council will write to the issuer and convey the reason why their action falls into that category, what action is being taken and the duration of that action. The Parish Council will advise them how they may challenge that decision. Where an issuer, with whom contact has been limited, persists in communicating the Parish Council may decide to suspend contact. In such cases all correspondence from the issuer will be read but unless fresh evidence affecting the decision is identified the communication may be acknowledged, or placed on file with no acknowledgement.

New issues from all parties, irrespective if they are already being treated as ‘unreasonably persistent’ for some other issue, will be considered on their merits.

Parish Clerk contact details;

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Document approved at Parish Council meeting on

Signed

B. Waite (Chairman)