

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Gretton, Corby, Northamptonshire.

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Minutes of the Meeting of Parish Council
Complaints Committee on Wednesday 4 February
2026 at 7.00pm at Gretton Baptist Church

Present: Cllrs Wright, Nicholls Husk and C Watts (Clerk)

In Attendance: Mr Forsey, Complainant

*Cllr Wright (Chair) shared that the meeting is being recorded for Minuting purposes by the Clerk, and once the Minutes have been signed and approved the recording is deleted
Mr Forsey confirmed he would also be recording the meeting.*

C1 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

None.

C2 To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

C3 To further review and seek resolution of complaint considered at EGM dated 3rd November 2025

Cllr Wright (Chair) shared the Committee's desire to bring Mr Forsey's complaint to an amicable resolution. Mr Forsey agreed and all parties recognised burden of time and mental effort the ongoing continuation of this process without resolution was having to all involved.

Mr Forsey shared the following points as his areas of concern for the committee to work through

Each point was discussed with Mr Forsey providing further detail of his views on each, with the Complaint committee also sharing their views with the following conclusions reached.

1. The misapplication of Neighbourhood Plan Policy BE1

The Parish Council acknowledged that there was a failure to apply policy BE1 in relation to application NC/23/00402/DPA (Craxford Road) and therefore upheld the complaint in this regard, with consensus that BE1 should be applied consistently to similar cases going forward.

Mr Forsey emphasized the positive intent behind the Craxford Road development but stressed the need for fair application standards.

2. Concern about the Parish Council's confusion between Listed Building Consent and Change of Use

The committee recognise that difference exists between works completed following approval of a request for Listed Building Consent and a Change of Use request. Such works should not have been described as retrospective in the Context of Change of Use applications making comments on future applications. The committee notes that the relevance of such comments (or lack of relevance) would ultimately be reviewed by the Planning Officer.

to enhance training and develop clear reference materials, like a crib sheet, to clarify these concepts for councillors.

The Committee suggested at least one councillor should complete Local Government Association training on listed buildings and conservation areas.

Better understanding will help councillors provide more accurate comments, improving planning consultation quality.

The Committee recommended that a dedicated Planning Committee be formed with Councillors fully trained

3. The Parish Council's position of not supporting retrospective applications as being unfounded in policy.

The Committee agreed that the Parish Council does not have a written policy with regard to retrospective applications and that applications being retrospective should not be a material consideration in reviewing a planning application. The Committee is of the opinion however that comments made to such effect were reflective of the majority view of councillors at the time. As with the Point concerning Listed Building Consent/Change of Use ultimately the Parish Council is only a consultee on planning applications, and it is for the Planning Officer to decide as to what is appropriate when deciding on an application.

4. Personal and family circumstances introduced inappropriately

The Committee could not reach a common position with Mr Forsey, so it was agreed to move on to considering the remaining points.

5. Concern around the council's consideration of Complaint/FOI request as vexatious

It was discussed and agreed by all parties that internal discussions about whether requests are vexatious are normal procedural considerations and were never escalated or communicated externally.

6. Concern about the Governance & Culture regarding the presentation made on the Parish Council's behalf to the NNC Planning Committee meeting dated 3rd April 2024.

Mr Forsey shared that as part of his FOI request no formal record or minutes relating to the council's representation at that meeting were provided.

The Committee shared their concern that there appears to be no record provided via Minute notes or report

The Committee acknowledged the need for documented governance procedures for external meetings where councillors speak on behalf of the council.

A discussion was had in relation to recording of meetings.

Actions arising from this meeting.

- Cllr Wright to prepare a report to submit to The Complaints Committee and Mr Forsey for Review.
- Once reviewed and confirmed to be shared with the Parish Council for review and vote to accept the recommendations at the Parish Council meeting 9 February 2026
- C Watts (Clerk) to prepare minutes to circulate to the Committee and Mr Forsey

C4

Close. 20.15pm

Signed: **C Watts** Mrs Christina Watts, Clerk to Gretton Parish Council

Email: clerk@grettonparishcouncil.gov.ukl Telephone: 07517886604 Dated: 18 February 2026