

BURGH-BY-SANDS PARISH HALL

COMPLAINTS HANDLING PROCEDURE

The Burgh by Sands Parish Hall Management Committee is committed to maintaining its strong partnership with members of the local community and the users of the Hall. We are open to feedback and comments about our work, both positive and negative, as these can provide us with valuable information about our effectiveness and how we can better meet our aims. If any user of the Hall or member of the local community is unhappy about the standard of service provided, the quality of the facilities within the Hall, the safety of users, the handling of a particular situation or issue, or any other matter, the Hall Committee would wish to work to rectify this. The Hall Committee is committed to equal opportunities and we take complaints about discrimination very seriously. The adoption of a clear Complaints Procedure will help the Hall Committee to ensure that most complaints are resolved quickly and smoothly and as close to the source of the misunderstanding or problem as possible.

Our policy is intended to:

- a) Provide a transparent and fair complaints procedure which is clear and easy to use for anyone wishing to make a complaint.
- b) Publicise the existence of our complaints procedure so that people know how to contact us to make a complaint.
- c) Make sure everyone at the Hall Committee knows what to do if a complaint is received.
- d) Make sure all complaints are investigated fairly and in a timely way.
- e) Make sure that complaints are, wherever possible, resolved quickly and that relationships remain healthy, so all our users benefit.
- f) Gather information which helps us to improve what we do.

Complaints. Confidentiality and Responsibility

1. Definition

A complaint is any expression of dissatisfaction, whether justified or not, about any aspect of the Hall. The Committee expects it will hear about a complaint within three months of any incident.

2. Where complaints come from

Complaints may come from members of the public or persons and organisations using the hall, local residents or suppliers or their representative, with your permission. A complaint can be received verbally, face to face or by phone (in which case we will keep a note of your complaint), by email or by complaints will be handled sensitively and confidentially, telling only those who need to know and we will follow any relevant data protection requirements.

The Hall Committee will not discriminate in any way in their dealings with handling complaints.

Whoever you speak to regarding your complaint, they will be respectful, calm and listen to your complaint. We will take notes to record the facts so we can deal with your complaint. We may seek clarification on some details in order to help you more effectively.

Once we have listened to your complaint, we will repeat this back to you to ensure we have understood this correctly. We will also ask what a successful resolution would look like from your point of view.

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3. Responsibility

Overall responsibility for this policy and its implementation lies with the Hall Committee. The Committee aims to acknowledge complaints within five working days and give a full response to complainants within fourteen days. If the complaint is judged to involve complex issues, complainants will be informed within fourteen days - when they can expect a full response. The main aim throughout the process is to resolve the matter as quickly and effectively as possible, to the satisfaction of all.

4. Procedure for Handling Complaints

What to do if something goes wrong:

Step 1 – Informal

Informal complaints should be raised in person with the Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary or Booking Secretary. Complainants who remain dissatisfied at this stage will be informed that they have the opportunity to make a formal complaint.

Step 2 – Formal

Sometimes even prompt action cannot put right something you about with you might be dissatisfied. In these circumstances, please put your concerns in writing via email to nickwaterfield@yahoo.co.uk or via letter to:

Mr N Waterfield, Chairman, The Parish Hall, Burgh-by-Sands, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA5 6AL making clear all the associated facts to your complaint, and also not forgetting to include please:

- Your name, address, telephone number and email address so we may contact you
- Your relationship with the Hall, e.g. hall user, hirer, local resident, etc.

Once we have received your complaint and all the related details, we will at first, acknowledge your complaint within five working days. We will take steps to speak to any other party involved to ensure everyone has an opportunity to put their perspective forward. Where we must gather information which may take time, we will do so and respond to you not later than four weeks after receiving your complaint. If your complaint is complex, we will agree a timescale with you that may be longer than this, sharing the steps required, so everyone understands why this is necessary. It is important that in any correspondence, you quote the reference provided. In responding to your complaint, we will share with you the conclusions we have reached from any investigation and any action resulting from your complaint.

Date Adopted by Committee:

Next Review Due Date:

Signed:

Position: **Chairman**

Position: **Secretary**

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