

Harberton Parish Council Policy on Treatment of Anonymous Letters

On 10th November 2015, the Parish Council resolved to adopt the following policy on the treatment of anonymous letters:

For reasons of natural justice and practical difficulties the Council will not deal with anonymous correspondence unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Chairman and Clerk will consult on any anonymous correspondence and decide if it should be read out at a meeting.

At the time of passing resolution on the policy the clerk was tasked with ensuring that members of the public could approach the Parish Council if they believed they had a genuine reason for their personal details to remain anonymous. The Clerk prepared the following statement for the website:

If you would like to raise an issue with the Parish Council but would like your personal details to remain confidential (i.e. not read out or referred to at the public meeting) please raise this with the clerk at the time of writing your letter by providing details of why you believe we should withhold your name. You may also verbally take your issue to the clerk, or to a councillor if you wish them to raise a particular issue, in which you would like to personally remain anonymous, on your behalf.