

Complaint form - members' conduct



This is an interactive PDF that you can fill in electronically. When you have completed the form – please save it and email to accessinformation@herefordshire.gov.uk or print it, sign and post to Information Access Team, Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane, PO Box 4, Hereford HR4 0XH.

Section 1 - Your details

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Address:

Daytime phone:

Evening phone:

Mobile Phone:

Email:

Please tick the capacity in which you are making the complaint:

Member of the public

An elected or co-opted member of an authority

Member of Parliament

Signature: [REDACTED] Date: June 26, 2018

Guidance notes for the complaint form

Are you using the correct form?

Before completing the complaints form, please ensure that:

- your complaint is about conduct that occurred while the member you are complaining about was in office. Conduct of an individual before he or she was elected, co-opted or appointed to a council, or after he or she has resigned or otherwise ceased to be a member, cannot be considered under this procedure;

- your complaint is about one or more named members of:
Herefordshire Council; or a
Parish council or town council in Herefordshire

- your complaint is that the member has, or may have, failed to comply with the council's Code of Conduct. A copy of the Code of Conduct is available on the council's website, or from the monitoring officer.

Complaints about a service provided by the council, or the actions of people employed by the council cannot be dealt with using this procedure. These matters are dealt with by the council's complaints procedure, accessible at www.herefordshire.gov.uk for Herefordshire Council, or by the Local Government Ombudsman at www.lgo.org-uk.

We will tell the member that you are complaining about that we have received a complaint and the name of the person making the complaint. If you have any concerns about this, please contact the monitoring officer.

Additional Help

Complaints must be submitted in writing. This includes fax and electronic submissions. If you have a disability that prevents you from making your complaint in writing, we will make reasonable adjustments to assist you. We can also help if English is not your first language.

If you need help with completing this form, please let us know as soon as possible or contact the Corporate Diversity Team on 01432 260244 or e-mail: diversity@herefordshire.gov.uk

Section 4 - Herefordshire Council Diversity Monitoring Form

The following information is needed to help us ensure that our services are accessible to all. Your answers will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be used to identify you. You do not have to complete this form but it will help us to improve our services if you do. For further information, please refer to the 'Diversity Monitoring' pages on our website.

Further information about complaint:

Councillor Fielding initiated the Lengthsman scheme for Cradley parish council and subsequently managed the Lengthsman and the scheme with little to no input from the parish council.

After the first Lengthsman's contract ended in March 2016 there is no record of the position being advertised to create a competitive tender and the new Lengthsman [REDACTED] was hired at a rate of £28.50 per hour as opposed to £15 per hour for the previous contractor.

Councillor Fielding resigned from the parish council in October 2017 and as no one else knew how the lengthsman scheme operated nothing else was done with the scheme until Councillor Fielding was re-elected to the council in January 2018. During this period the Lengthsman stored his vehicle off road on Councillor Fielding's driveway. Upon re-election Councillor Fielding assumed his role of Scheme Administrator and submitted paperwork with a new salary rate of £30 per hour for [REDACTED]. At this point new councillors questioned the scheme and agreed to put the contract back out to tender, much to Councillor Fielding's opposition.

At the April 2018 parish council meeting during open session I suggested that Councillor Fielding should declare a non-pecuniary interest in the Lengthsman as he had stored [REDACTED] vehicle off road on his driveway for several months. I felt this showed 'a close association to a greater extent than with other inhabitants of the electoral area'. Councillor Fielding scoffed at my suggestion, however, at the May meeting he related how close his relationship was with [REDACTED] and also how he had "spent several thousands of pounds of his own money during the 3 to 4 years he was involved with running the Lengthsman scheme". Surely this constituted a declarable interest?

This shows to me that Councillor Fielding either doesn't understand such fundamental rules or doesn't believe they apply to him. Given that he is currently the Chairman for the parish council it concerns me that all the work done over the last few months to bring the council back on track and operating legally will be undone by his cavalier, self-serving and bullying attitude.