YGPC Meeting 7 July 2026. Agenda item 44. Consultation.

Code of Conduct and Local Resolution Protocol.

Elected and co-opted Parish Council members undertake to abide by the Code of Conduct. The Code sets out principles of behaviour in public life. If a person (councillor or member of public) considers these principles are *not* being followed, a Code of Conduct complaint can be made. The Monitoring Officer (MO) at Herefordshire Council has a statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and complaints are directed to the MO.

Local Resolution Protocol.

Herefordshire Council advised in October 2025 that almost 88% of Code of Conduct complaints received in 2024/25 were against members of town/parish councils, of which over 40% were raised by members of the same town/parish council. It appears that the Code of Conduct process is being used to resolve differences of opinion between members.

The Localism Act 2011

Localism Act 2011, section 28(6) states that:

"A relevant authority other than a parish council must have in place —

(a) arrangements under which allegations can be investigated, and
(b) arrangements under which decisions on allegations can be made."

Parish Councils are given an option to implement a Local Resolution Protocol, allowing members to resolve an issue rather than its being referred to the MO. This is not recommended by the Clerk.

Mrs Maggie Brown. Clerk.

1 July 2026.