



Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee

Date: Monday, 17 August 2026
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum 3)

Ray Bryan, Beryl Ezzard and Andy Todd

Chief Executive: Catherine Howe, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact 01305 252209 / lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda. If you would like to attend this meeting and have any specific requirements please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

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Agenda

Item	Pages
1. ELECTION OF CHAIR	
To elect a Chair for the meeting.	
2. APOLOGIES	
To receive any apologies for absence.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interest as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their disclosure councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.	

If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

4. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

To consider passing the following recommendation:

Recommendation

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in item 5 and 6 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) 1 and 2 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered. (Any live streaming will end at this juncture).

Reason for taking the item in private

Paragraph 1 – Information relating to any individual.

Paragraph 2 – Information which is likely to reveal identity of an individual.

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| 5. | Code of Conduct Complaint 1
<i>Para 1, 2</i>
To consider the report. | 3 - 88 |
| a) | Code of Conduct Complaint 1 - Redacted report published post meeting
To consider the report. | 89 - 174 |
| 6. | Code of Conduct Complaint 2
<i>Para 1, 2</i>
To consider the report. | 175 -
232 |
| a) | Code of Conduct Complaint 2 - Redacted report published post meeting
To consider the report. | 233 -
290 |

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Dorset Council – Complaint Nos. COM 8299 & COM 8319

Investigation in respect of alleged breaches of the Shaftesbury Town Council Code of Conduct

Investigation undertaken by Mary Dolley Legal Services Dorset Council

Background

Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) requires relevant authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of the authority and, under section 28 of the Act, to have mechanisms in place to investigate allegations that a member has not complied with the Code of Conduct.

Following an initial review by the Complaints Team and having been reviewed by the Monitoring Officer and Dorset Council's Independent Person, complaint numbers COM 8299 and COM 8319 were referred for investigation on 4 February 2025 and 25 April 2025 respectively.

Introduction

In order to be able to carry out an investigation of the complaints raised I viewed and listened to the following:

- The Councillor Code of Conduct ('the Code') adopted by Shaftesbury Town Council ('the Town Council') on 14 May 2024 (Appendix B.1)
- The Standing Orders of the Town Council ('the Standing Orders') adopted by it on 14 May 2024 (Appendix B.2)
- The agenda for the Full Council meeting of the Town Council held on 17 December 2024 (the 17 December meeting) and the minutes of that meeting (Appendix B.3)
- The agenda for the Extraordinary Full Council meeting of the Town Council held on 11 March 2025 (the 11 March meeting) and the minutes of that meeting. (Appendix B.4)
- Audio/video recordings of the 17 December meeting and the 11 March meeting obtained from the Town Council
- The notice given by Cllr Peter Yeo to Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer pursuant to s.30 of the Localism Act 2011 on 4 June 2024. (Appendix B.5)
- Various emails as listed in the table in Appendix B.6

To supplement the information provided to me and available in the public domain on the Town Council's website, I also met virtually with the following people in order to seek their comments on a number of issues:

- Cllr Andy Hollingshead (the complainant) – 19 August 2025 (virtual meeting on Teams) (record of interview at Appendix C)

- Cllr Peter Yeo (the subject member) – 11 September 2025 (virtual meeting on Teams) (record of interview at Appendix D)

Cllr Hollingshead has agreed the record of my interview with him. Cllr Yeo has not agreed the record of my interview with him. He has submitted a written statement which is at Appendix E. I remain of the view that the interview record at Appendix D is an accurate record of the interview. I have read Cllr Yeo's statement and to the extent that its contents are relevant to the investigation this report is concerned with I have applied paragraph numbers to its text and commented on it in the section of this report headed 'Further Findings'.

Complaint No. COM 8299

A complaint was received from Cllr Andy Hollingshead a member of the Town Council alleging that Cllr Yeo has a disclosable pecuniary interest in a project being promoted by The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO for the development of a community centre as an alternative to and in competition with the development project being promoted by the Town Council and that Cllr Yeo did not obtain a dispensation in accordance with Shaftesbury Town Council's Standing Orders, to speak to and vote on the matter at the meeting on 17 December 2024. The complaint alleges breaches of paragraphs 5 (Disrepute), 6 (Use of position) and 9 (registration and declaration of interests) of the Code

The complaint is set out verbatim at Appendix A.1.

Complaint No. COM 8319

A further complaint was received from Cllr Hollingshead alleging that at an Extraordinary Full Council meeting of the Town Council held on 11 March 2025 Councillor Yeo failed to declare a pecuniary interest in the Mampitts Lane community centre project referred to in the above complaint and did not seek a dispensation to speak to the agenda item relating to it notwithstanding having been acquainted by the Town Clerk with advice received from Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer. The complaint alleges breaches of the same provisions of the Code mentioned above.

The complaint is set out verbatim at Appendix A.2.

Additional possible breach

Following an initial perusal of the Code, the Standing Orders and the agendas and minutes of the meetings mentioned in the complaints and in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person in accordance with section 6.G of the Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against Councillors [Councillor Code of Conduct complaint process February 2025.pdf](#), the scope of the investigation I have carried out has been amended and the subject matter of the part of this report that relates to Paragraph 9 of the Code is an alleged failure to declare and seek a dispensation in relation to a registerable other interest. In light of s.34 of

the Localism Act 2011 the allegation of a failure to declare a pecuniary interest is not being investigated by Dorset Council.

Undisputed facts

The undisputed facts relating to the complaints are:

1. On 4 June 2024 and in accordance with s.30 of the Localism Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) Cllr Yeo gave notice to Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer of:-
 - 1.1. disclosable pecuniary interests that existed (1) by reason of his employment, office, trade, profession or vocation as a Consultant Project Manager and Business Analyst and (2) by reason of his interest in 24 Mampitts Lane Shaftesbury SP7 8GR which is his home; and
 - 1.2. an other registerable interest that existed by reason of his being a trustee of The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO ('the CIO') and such interests were duly recorded in the register maintained by the Monitoring Officer pursuant to s.29(1) of the 2011 Act. (Appendix B.5)
2. Paragraph 9 and Appendix B of the Code contain provisions for the registration of interests (disclosable pecuniary interests and other registerable interests), the declaration of interests at meetings and the obtaining of dispensations to enable councillors in certain circumstances to participate in the discussion of and to vote on matters in which they have an interest.
3. Paragraph 13 of the Standing Orders sets out detailed provisions relating to the seeking and granting of dispensations.
4. A Full Council meeting of the Town Council was held on 17 December 2024. Notice of the meeting was circulated in advance in accordance with SO3 of the Standing Orders (Appendix B.3) and:-
 - 4.1. item no 2 on the agenda (notice) was 'to receive any Declarations of Interests and Requests for Dispensation'; and
 - 4.2. item no 7 on the agenda was 'to receive an update on the Mampitts Hub Architect Tender process'.
5. The minutes of the 17 December meeting were duly adopted at the meeting of the Town Council held on 21 January 2025 (Appendix B.3). Minute no FC93 (Declarations of Interest) recorded that Cllr Yeo declared an interest in agenda item no 7 as 'Chairman of the Mampitts CIO'. The minutes show that Cllr Yeo had not sought a dispensation in accordance with the section of the Code headed 'Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority' (paragraph 9 and Appendix B), to enable him to take part in the discussion of agenda item no 7 or vote on it and to remain in the room.
6. An Extraordinary Full Council meeting of the Town Council was held on 11 March 2025. Notice of the meeting was circulated in advance in accordance with SO3 of the Standing Orders (see Appendix B.4) and:-
 - 6.1. item no 2 on the agenda (notice) was 'to receive any Declarations of Interests and Requests for Dispensation'; and

6.2.item no 4 on the agenda was 'to consider the appointment of the Mampitts Architect'.

7. The minutes of the 11 March meeting were duly adopted at the meeting of the Town Council held on 18 March 2025. Minute no FC132 (Declarations of Interest) states that 'Cllr Yeo declared that he is an unpaid Trustee of the Mampitts Community Land Trust and a Director of Mampitts CLT, however does not have an interest to declare'. The minutes show that Cllr Yeo had not sought a dispensation in accordance with the section of the Code headed 'Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority' (paragraph 9 and Appendix B), to enable him to take part in the discussion of agenda item no 4 or vote on it and to remain in the room.

Facts/statements not agreed

Cllr Yeo denies that he has acted in breach of the Code.

Findings

1. The underlying situation that gave rise to the complaints is the proposed development of a parcel of land at Mampitts Lane Shaftesbury for community purposes. The land is owned by a third-party developer and is the subject of an agreement under s.106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Discussions about the proposed development ('the Mampitts Hub project') have been ongoing for some years and:
 - 1.1. The Town Council and the CIO are both promoting proposals for the Mampitts Hub project. Their proposals are different and are referred to in this report as 'the Town Council proposal' and 'the CIO proposal' respectively.
 - 1.2. Cllr Yeo is a trustee of the CIO, which is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission with registration number 1201203. The CIO came into existence on 1 December 2022, having converted its status from that of a community interest company registered under the Companies Act 2006 on 1 July 2020 as a private company limited by guarantee and then known as The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIC. Cllr Yeo was a director of that company and its registered office was at his home address (24 Mampitts Lane Shaftesbury). The register at the Charity Commission indicates that there are five trustees of the CIO and that Cllr Yeo is the Chair of the trustees, and that its contact address is 24 Mampitts Lane Shaftesbury.
 - 1.3. Planning permission has been obtained for both sets of proposals. Planning permission was granted to the CIO on 8 March 2024 under reference P/FUL/2023/05314, for 'the erection of a community centre with associated parking and landscaping' and planning permission was granted to the Town Council on 2 October 2024 under reference P/FUL/2024/01856, for 'the erection of a community hub/café building with offices over, associated car parking and associated public amenity park'.
 - 1.4. At its Cabinet meeting on 15 October 2024 Dorset Council as planning authority awarded the developer contribution funding (the money committed under the s.106 Agreement) to the Town Council for the Town Council

proposal. The next steps to take forward work on the Town Council proposal included putting out to tender the design work with a view to appointing a firm of architects and setting up an advisory committee in accordance with the Town Council's Scheme of Delegation.

2. The paragraphs of the Code referred to in the complaints are those numbered 5 (Disrepute) and 6 (Use of Position) in the section headed 'General Conduct' and 9 (Interests) in the section headed 'Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority'.
3. Paragraph 5 of the Code requires councillors not to bring their role or local authority into disrepute and explains that councillors are trusted to make decisions on behalf of their community and their actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than those of ordinary members of the public. The paragraph states that councillors should be aware that their actions might have an adverse impact on themselves, other councillors and/or their local authority and may lower the public's confidence in councillors' and/or their local authority's ability to discharge its functions, and that whilst councillors may hold their local authority and fellow councillors to account and may constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes, they must continue to adhere to other aspects of the Code.
4. Paragraph 6 of the Code requires councillors not to use or attempt to use their position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of themselves or anyone else. It explains that councillors' position as members of a local authority provide them with certain opportunities etc., such opportunities must not be taken advantage of to further councillors' own private interests or those of others.
5. Paragraph 9 of the Code is headed 'Interests' and requires councillors both to register and to declare their interests. It explains that interests must be registered so that the public, local authority employees and fellow councillors know which of a councillor's interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. It states also that a councillor is personally responsible for deciding whether to declare an interest at a meeting but that it can be helpful for that councillor to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. The paragraph states that Appendix B of the Code sets out the detailed provisions on registering and declaring interests and suggests that if a councillor is in doubt they should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer.
6. The Code was adopted by the Town Council on 14 May 2024. Amongst other things, under S.28(2) of the 2011 Act the Town Council is required to ensure that the Code includes appropriate provision for the registration in its register and disclosure of:
 - 6.1. pecuniary interests, and
 - 6.2. interests other than pecuniary interests.
7. In accordance with s.29(1) and s.29(4) of the 2011 Act the register referred to in paragraph 6 above has been established and is maintained by Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer. S.29 (2) of the Act allows the local authority to determine what is to be entered in the register of interests, subject to the specific requirement under

s.30 of the Act and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/1464) relating to the registration of disclosable pecuniary interests.

8. Appendix B of the Code and the Tables in it set out in detail the provisions relating to registering and declaring interests. In accordance with s.28(2) of the Act registerable interests are stated to fall into two categories – disclosable pecuniary interests and other registerable interests. Paragraphs 1 to 4 of Appendix B of the Code set out the requirements for registration of interests.
9. Under s.30 of the 2011 Act Cllr Yeo was required on taking office to notify the Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests and duly did so on 4 June 2024 (see para.1 in the section above headed 'Undisputed facts' and Appendix B.5). The disclosable pecuniary interests so notified and with which this investigation is not concerned, were ones that exist (1) by reason of his employment, office, trade, profession or vocation as a Consultant Project Manager and Business Analyst and (2) by reason of his interest in 24 Mampitts Lane Shaftesbury SP7 8GR which is his home. On that date and in accordance with the Code he also notified the Monitoring Officer of an other registerable interest namely that which existed by reason of his being a trustee of the CIO.
10. Paragraphs 5 to 9 of Appendix B of the Code speak to the declaration of interests where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to a relevant interest. Paragraph 6 states that in the case of a matter which directly relates to an other registerable interest the councillor must declare the interest, speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting, but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless a dispensation has been granted.
11. Paragraph 3(u) of the Standing Orders states that a councillor who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or an other interest as described in the Code in a matter being considered at a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or restrictions under the Code, on their right to participate and vote on that matter.
12. Paragraph 13 of the Standing Orders sets out in detail the limitations and restrictions including the obligation to withdraw from a meeting in the circumstances described in paragraph 10 above. Paragraph 13(c) states that unless they have been granted a dispensation a councillor shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which they have an other interest, if so required by the Code. Sub-paragraphs (d) to (h) of Paragraph 13 describe the process that enables a councillor to make a request for a dispensation to enable them to participate in discussion and/or vote. Requests must be in writing and submitted to the Proper Officer (the Town Clerk) as soon as possible before the meeting in question, or at the start of the meeting. A request must identify and describe the nature of the disclosable interest for which the dispensation is sought and explain why it is being sought. The decision as to whether a dispensation is to be granted is made by the Proper Officer and SO13(h) states that a dispensation may be granted if having regard to all relevant circumstances any of the three criteria described in that sub-paragraph apply. The criteria include consideration of whether without the dispensation the number of councillors prohibited from participating would be so large as to impede transaction of the business in

question, consideration of whether granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the area, or whether it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation. The system for declaring interests and seeking dispensations is born of the Nolan Principles of Public Life that speak to integrity and openness. The principle of integrity requires holders of public office to declare and resolve any interests and relationships, and the principle of openness requires them to act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner.

13. Cllr Hollingshead's complaints relate to the conduct of Cllr Yeo at the two Town Council meetings referred to above namely the 17 December meeting and the 11 March meeting and in order to investigate the complaints and as well as meeting with Cllrs Hollingshead and Yeo as described above and reading the agendas and minutes of the meetings (Appendices B.3 and B.4), I listened to the recordings of the meetings. I also obtained from the Clerk to the Town Council and the Monitoring Officer the items of email correspondence particularised in Appendix B.6.

14. As to the 17 December meeting:-

14.1. Agenda Item no. 2 consisted of a reminder to councillors and officers, of their obligations to declare interests in accordance with the Code. It stated also that the Clerk would report any dispensation requests received, and reminded councillors that where a matter arises at a meeting that relates to a councillor's interest it is their responsibility to declare that interest in accordance with the Code.

14.2. The minutes of the 17 December meeting show that whilst Cllr Yeo as chairman of the CIO declared an interest in agenda item no.7 which related to the Mampitts Hub project, he had not prior to the meeting sought a dispensation to permit him to take part in any discussion of it, vote on it or remain in the room, nor did he do so during the course of the meeting.

14.3. During the discussion of the previous item (agenda item no 6 – to approve payments and receive financial reports) Cllr Yeo had objected vociferously to payment being made to the firm of architects instructed by the Town Council to deal with certain preliminary aspects of the Mampitts Hub project.

14.4. There was extensive and detailed discussion about agenda item no 7, including the suggestion that an advisory committee be set up to oversee aspects of the Mampitts Hub project. Cllr Yeo requested permission to speak. He stated that the planning application made by the Town Council was wrongfully made because it hadn't been approved by the Full Council. Cllr Chase, who was in the chair, corrected him and stated that it had been properly approved and that the Town Clerk had been authorised to sign the application form. Cllr Yeo voiced his opposition to the establishment of an advisory committee notwithstanding that both Cllr Chase and the Town Clerk stated that the committee would have an advisory role only and would not take decisions. Cllr Yeo referred to the existence of the CIO proposal for the Mampitts Hub project. He made accusations of a personal nature about councillors who had sat on the previous Mampitts advisory committee and said that they had set out to frustrate the CIO proposal. Cllr Yeo continued to interrupt Cllr Chase who was endeavouring to progress the discussion of agenda item no 7 and stated that he did not have the integrity to be Mayor. Cllr Chase warned Cllr

Yeo that if he did not moderate his behaviour, he would move to have him excluded from the meeting. The discussion continued in a fractious and ill-humoured way as Cllr Yeo continued to interrupt, making accusations of a lack of integrity on the part of some of his fellow councillors and saying that they had turned the Town Council into a joke. He described the procedure by which the advisory committee was to be constituted as shocking and a disgrace.

- 14.5. The discussion of agenda item no. 7 lasted for approximately 35 minutes, and I find that by reason of Cllr Yeo's conduct parts of it were conducted in a manner that did not maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government. I noted also that throughout the discussion although Cllr Yeo repeatedly interrupted the Chair and other councillors who were speaking with the Chair's permission, he complained vociferously when he considered that others were interrupting him.

15. As to the 11 March meeting:-

- 15.1. The meeting was convened with one main agenda item namely to consider the appointment of an architect for the Mampitts Hub project.
- 15.2. A number of members of the public were in attendance and the period for public speaking at the beginning of the meeting was extended by the direction of Cllr Edwyn-Jones who was chairing the meeting, beyond the period allowed by SO3(f) and lasted for approximately 37 minutes. At points during the public participation the discussion became fractious and when Cllr Edwyn-Jones brought the period to a close Cllr Yeo attempted to prevent her from moving to the formal part of the meeting.
- 15.3. Agenda Item no. 2 for the meeting consisted of a reminder to councillors and officers, of their obligations to declare interests in accordance with the Code. It stated also that the Clerk would report any dispensation requests received, and reminded councillors that where a matter arises at a meeting that relates to a councillor's interest it is their responsibility to declare that interest in accordance with the Code.
- 15.4. The minutes of the 11 March meeting state that 'Cllr Yeo declared that he is an unpaid Trustee of the Mampitts Community Land Trust and a Director of Mampitts CLT, however does not have an interest to declare'. The minutes also state that the Town Clerk read out the extract from an email sent by Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer referred to in paragraph 15.6 below. The minutes show that Cllr Yeo had not sought a dispensation to permit him to take part in any discussion of it, vote on it or remain in the room.
- 15.5. When Cllr Edwyn-Jones enquired whether any of the councillors wished to declare an interest or seek a dispensation Cllr Yeo said that he was a resident of Mampitts Lane and a director of the CIO but he did not seek a dispensation in accordance with the Standing Orders and stated that he did not need to do so.
- 15.6. With Cllr Edwyn-Jones' permission the Clerk read out information and advice that had been given previously to Cllr Yeo by Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer about the circumstances in which it is necessary for interests to be declared and dispensations obtained. Cllr Yeo interrupted the Town Clerk and stated that the advice was not relevant and talked over Cllr Edwyn-Jones when she tried to move on to the next agenda item.
- 15.7. Agenda item no. 3 sought approval of the minutes of the Mampitts Advisory Committee that had been held on 3 March 2025. Cllr Yeo said that

minutes were not correct; one of the corrections he sought related to the inclusion as an attendee of a child under the age of 18. The corrections he requested were duly made.

- 15.8. Cllr Yeo remained standing as Cllr Edwyn-Jones introduced agenda item no. 4 headed 'To consider the appointment of the Mampitts Architect' and tried to take forward discussion of it. Cllr Williams gave a report on the work done by the advisory committee and other councillors spoke to the matter. Cllr Yeo remained standing throughout and when it was his turn to speak he said that other councillors were seeking to frustrate a scheme that the residents wanted and that it was a disgrace. He continued to urge the adoption of the CIO proposal.
- 15.9. During the 11 March meeting Cllr Yeo repeatedly interrupted Cllr Edwyn-Jones and other councillors while they were speaking, and he refused to sit down when asked to do so. The tone in which he spoke was confrontational and aggressive and his manner was disrespectful and belligerent. I find that by reason of Cllr Yeo's conduct the meeting became fractious and degenerated to the point where it could not be said that its business was being conducted in a manner such as to maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.
16. I have read the Standing Orders and I find that they do not bear an interpretation that gives a person (whether a councillor or a member of the public), an absolute right to speak for three minutes. SO1(o) states that unless permitted by the chairman of the meeting a councillor may (subject to limited exceptions), speak once in the debate on a motion and SO1(p) provides that during the debate on a motion a councillor may interrupt only on a point of order or a personal explanation. SO1(t) states that contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed three minutes without the consent of the chairman of the meeting. Nor do the Standing Orders confer on a councillor the right to speak for three minutes if they are doing so in a manner that obstructs the transaction of business or is offensive or improper and thus contravenes SO2.
17. One of the matters complained of by Cllr Yeo during the 11 March meeting was that minutes of previous Town Council meetings did not contain a verbatim record of everything that was said by those who spoke to the agenda items that were being debated. Having read SO3(t) of the Standing Orders, which sets out in detail the matters that must be accurately recorded, I find that there is no provision for the minutes to contain a transcript or summary of discussion and debate at meetings.
18. I have made enquiries to ascertain whether Cllr Yeo has undertaken the training he is required to undertake pursuant to paragraph 8.1 of the Code and I have been advised that the Town Council's records show that he has not.
19. I have considered the Guidance issued by the Charity Commission to persons who are considering setting up a charity [The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do) Section 6 of the Guidance states that a charity trustee must avoid putting themselves in a position where their duty to the charity conflicts with their personal interests or loyalty to any other person or body. The Guidance goes on to state that acting in the charity's best interests means always

doing what the trustees decide will best enable the charity to carry out its purposes. The Charity Overview page for the CIO on the Charity Commission website states that 'The charity is acting to become the nominated body to deliver, own, manage and operate a Community Hall and Nature Park on the s106 land at Mampitts Lane Shaftesbury, activities will be anything that complies with our charitable objects that benefit the residents of Shaftesbury and the nearby areas with regards to social, educational, health and wellbeing.' I therefore find that at all material times there was a potential conflict between Cllr Yeo's duties as a trustee of the CIO and as a councillor.

20. Cllr Yeo has previously received detailed and comprehensive advice from the Town Clerk and Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer about the declaration of interests:

20.1. At 10.04 on 19 June 2024 the Town Clerk emailed Cllr Yeo (Appendix B.6.1) reminding him of an email she had sent the previous December and reminding him of the need to observe the provisions relating to the declaration of interests and advising him also of the desirability of undertaking training about the Code (Standards in Public Life). Cllr Yeo replied little more than an hour later on the same day (Appendix B.6.1) and his email criticised the conduct of the Town Clerk and made veiled allegations of improper conduct on the part of some of his fellow councillors but did not address what the Town Clerk had said about the need for him to declare interests. The Town Clerk sent a further email to Cllr Yeo at 12.50 on 19 June, rejecting the allegations he had made about her conduct, referring him to his obligations under the Code and suggesting that he might wish to meet with her to discuss how productive ways of working might be established. There having subsequently been some doubt as to whether Cllr Yeo had received that email, the Town Clerk re-sent it on 3 July 2024.

20.2. The Monitoring Officer also emailed Cllr Yeo on 19 June 2024 (Appendix B.6.2) and reminded him of paragraphs 5 and 6 in Appendix B of the Code, which relate to the disclosure of pecuniary and other interests at meetings and the need for a dispensation to be obtained if the councillor who has a relevant interest wishes to take part in a discussion or vote or to remain in the room while matter in question is being debated. The email also advised Cllr Yeo that a change of circumstances might mean that the nature of his interest would change and become a disclosable pecuniary interest rather than an other interest, and the consequences of this. On 10 July the Town Clerk emailed Cllr Yeo again (Appendix B.6.2) and (1) acquainted him with advice she had received from the National Association of Local Councils in relation to pecuniary and other registerable interests and the provisions of s.31 of the Localism Act 2011 and (2) reminded him of the provisions relating to the seeking of dispensations.

20.3. On 18 December 2024 the Town Clerk emailed all councillors on the Town Council including Cllr Yeo (Appendix B.6.3) in response to an email she had received from one of the other councillors who had enquired about the provisions of the Code relating to the disclosure of interests. The Town Clerk's email attached the LGA Guidance referred to throughout this report and urged all councillors to familiarise themselves with the provisions relating to the declaration of interests and reminded them of their individual personal responsibilities. The Town Clerk explained that the rules governing the

declaration of interests exist to give the public confidence in the Town Council's decision making.

- 20.4. On 19 December 2024 Cllr Yeo emailed the Town Clerk at 10.41 (Appendix B.6.4) in response to the email that had been sent to all councillors in connection with the formation of the Mampitts Advisory Committee in accordance with the decision taken at the 17 December meeting. Cllr Yeo's email, which he copied to all Town Council councillors, contained allegations of impropriety on the part of the Town Clerk and some of his fellow councillors and was belligerent and offensive in tone. The Town Clerk responded by email sent at 13.55 the same day (Appendix B.6.4) to all councillors in which she set out again the provisions relating to the declaration of interests.
- 20.5. On 31 December 2024 the Monitoring Officer emailed Cllr Yeo (Appendix B.6.5), having been given the email referred to in paragraph 20.4 and having reminded himself of the registerable interest Cllr Yeo had disclosed to him relating to his position as a trustee of the CIO. The email reminded Cllr Yeo that mere disclosure of his interest was not sufficient, that his first duty was to the CIO, and reiterated the provisions contained in paragraph 6 of Appendix B of the Code. The Monitoring Officer stated that he supported as reasonable the Town Clerk's advice to Cllr Yeo in relation to the conflict of interest.

Further Findings

21. To the extent that they are relevant to the complaints I have investigated I comment below on the first part of Cllr Yeo's statement (Appendix E); the paragraphs numbered 31 to 46 are dealt with in the report relating to the complaint numbered COM 8830.
22. I do not accept Cllr Yeo's contention set out in paragraphs 1 to 7 and 10 of his statement, that because the agenda items numbered 7 and 4 on the agendas for the 17 December meeting and the 11 March meeting respectively related to an aspect of the process for progressing the Town Council proposal for the Mampitts Hub project and did not mention the CIO proposal, he was absolved from the obligation to comply with the provisions of the Code relating to disrepute (Paragraph 5 of the Code) and the declaration of interests and related requirement to seek a dispensation if he wished to remain in the room, speak and vote (Paragraph 9 of the Code).
23. As explained in paragraph 1 above, the Town Council proposal and the CIO proposal are in opposition to one another; there is only one site for the Mampitts Hub project and one developer contribution funding payment – if one proposal goes ahead the other will not. Having listened to the recordings of the meetings and read Cllr Yeo's statement it is clear to me that he expects that if the Town Council proposal was to fall by the wayside the CIO proposal would be brought forward and awarded the developer contribution funding payment, and that this outcome was being actively pursued by him. On more than one of the occasions during the 17 December meeting and the 11 March meeting when Cllr Yeo was seeking to discredit the Town Council proposal, he referred to the CIO proposal and his desire to see it progressed. Even when he did not refer specifically to it but mentioned

the existence of another proposal it was clear that he was referring to the CIO proposal; no other person or body has obtained planning permission for development of the land. Moreover it is clear from the language used by Cllr Yeo in his statement, that he is opposed to the Town Council proposal. The extent of his dislike of the Town Council proposal is clear from the use of the word 'unpopular' in paragraph 8 and his reference in paragraph 11 to local residents being 'strongly against' it, it being 'poorly designed' and the car parking arrangement being 'dangerous'. I therefore find that the matters relating to the Mampitts Hub project that arose at the 17 December meeting and the 11 March meeting did directly relate to the interest that Cllr Yeo had registered as an other interest within the meaning of paragraph 6 of Appendix B of the Code, that he was not correct in his assertion that he did not have to declare it, and that if he had wished to remain in the room and participate in the discussion and vote he ought to have obtained a dispensation in accordance with the Code.

24. Having listened to the recordings of the 17 December and 11 March meetings and interviewed the complainant Cllr Hollingshead I have found no evidence to support Cllr Yeo's assertions that the Town Clerk sought to mislead and negatively influence councillors (paragraphs 8, 28 and 29 of his statement). Nor have I found any evidence to support his assertion that the complainant's action in seeking to raise a point of order in relation to SO13 was malicious, or that the complainant's intention was to mislead and misinform his fellow councillors, or that the complainant's actions amount to harassment of Cllr Yeo, or that the Town Council proposal has been unlawfully progressed (paragraphs 9, 11, 15 to 17, 25 and 30 of his statement).

25. As regards paragraphs 12 to 14 of the statement, the complaints were assessed by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with paragraph 6.B of Dorset Council's Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against Councillors [Councillor Code of Conduct complaint process February 2025.pdf](#) and the views of the Independent Person were sought in accordance with s.28(7) of the Localism Act 2011, before they were referred to me for investigation.

Conclusion

On concluding my investigation, I am of the view that Cllr Yeo is in breach of the Code as follows:

1. As regards the allegation that Cllr Yeo's conduct breached paragraph 5 of the Code:

Conclusion: In my opinion Councillor Yeo's conduct breached this provision of the Code.

The preamble to the General Principles of councillor conduct (page 4 of the Code) states that everyone in public office should uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles) and sets out how councillors should act on all occasions. One of the Principles is a requirement to lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor. Paragraph 5 of the Code requires councillors not to bring their role or local authority into disrepute. The accompanying

text explains that councillors are trusted to make decisions on behalf of their communities and that their actions and behaviours are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public, and that they should be aware that their actions might have an adverse impact on them, other councillors and/or their local authority and may lower the public's confidence in their or their local authority's ability to discharge their or its functions.

The LGA Guidance about its Model Councillor Code of Conduct (the Code is in the LGA form and the Guidance is here [Guidance on Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct | Local Government Association](#)) reminds councillors that although Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights protects their right to freedom of expression and political speech made as a councillor is given enhanced protection, this right is not unrestricted. The LGA Guidance defines disrepute as a lack of good reputation or respectability, and explains that in the context of the Code a councillor's behaviour in office will bring their role into disrepute if the conduct could reasonably be regarded as either reducing the public's confidence in them being able to fulfil their role or adversely affecting the reputation of their authority's councillors in being able to fulfil their role. The LGA Guidance goes on to state that conduct by a councillor which could reasonably be regarded as reducing public confidence in their local authority being able to fulfil its functions and duties will bring the authority into disrepute. An example offered by the LGA Guidance of conduct that could bring the role of councillor into disrepute, is the use of abusive and threatening behaviour, and an example of behaviour that might be regarded as bring the local authority into disrepute, is the making of grossly unfair or patently untrue or unreasonable criticism of the local authority in a public arena.

From watching and listening to the video/audio recordings of the 17 December and 11 March meetings it is clear to me that whilst the proposals for the Mampitts Hub project have been a matter of discussion for some few years and arguably for longer than necessary or desirable in the circumstances, the decision to proceed with the Town Council proposal was lawful and the steps needed to progress it that were to be discussed as the relevant agenda items were necessary ones. By persisting with his attempts to thwart progress of the Town Council proposal and doing so in a manner that involved behaviour of the nature described in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the section of this report headed 'Findings' I conclude that Cllr Yeo's conduct went beyond holding the Town Council and his fellow councillors to account, that the way in which he expressed his concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the Town Council did not adhere to the provisions of the Code that required him to treat his fellow councillors and employees of the Town Council (specifically the Town Clerk) with respect and that his conduct thus breached Paragraph 5 of the Code.

2. As regards the allegation that Cllr Yeo's conduct breached paragraph 6 of the Code:

Conclusion: In my opinion Cllr Yeo's conduct did not breach this provision of the Code.

Paragraph 6 of the Code provides that a councillor must not use their position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of themselves or anyone else. The supplemental text reminds councillors that their position as a member of the local authority provides them with opportunities, responsibilities and privileges, that they will

be making choices that impact others, and that they should not take advantage of opportunities to further their own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

The supplemental text is based on the LGA Guidance, which goes on to state that guidance for councillors on how to conduct themselves when they have an interest and how to balance their rights as an individual and their responsibilities as a public decision maker is offered in the chapter on the registration of interests.

Although Cllr Yeo has vociferously and repeatedly urged his opinion that the Town Council proposal is not appropriate and that the CIO proposal would better serve the needs of the residents of Shaftesbury, and has seemingly failed to consider how his obligations as a trustee of the CIO may conflict with his responsibilities as a councillor, I have found no evidence that he did so in order to further his own private interests and I have therefore concluded that Cllr Yeo's conduct did not breach Paragraph 6 of the Code.

3. As regards the allegation that Cllr Yeo's conduct breached paragraph 9 of the Code:

Conclusion: In my opinion Cllr Yeo's conduct breached this provision of the Code.

The preamble referred to in paragraph 1 above refers to the Nolan Principle that requires councillors to avoid conflicts of interest. Paragraph 9 of the Code is headed 'Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority' and requires councillors to register and declare their interests. The explanatory text states that it is necessary for councillors to register their interests so that the public, local authority employees and fellow councillors know which of a councillor's interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The text goes on to explain that councillors are personally responsible for deciding whether or not to declare an interest at a meeting but that it can be helpful for them to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise, and points out that it is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be declared during the decision taking process so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. Appendix B of the Code sets out the detailed provisions for registering and declaring interests and reminds councillors that if in doubt they should always seek advice from the Monitoring Officer.

The LGA Guidance referred to above explains that a councillor who has an other registerable interest should not participate in relevant business in two circumstances, namely when a matter directly relates to the finances or wellbeing of that interest or when a matter affects the finances or wellbeing of that interest to a greater extent than it affects the majority of inhabitants, and a reasonable member of the public would thereby believe that the councillor's view of the public interest would be affected. The Code and the LGA Guidance refer to the procedure for obtaining a dispensation to enable councillors to participate in the discussion of a matter in respect of which they have an interest that they have disclosed. SO13 sets out the steps required for a dispensation to be obtained. Amongst other things a councillor who makes a request for a dispensation must explain why the dispensation is being sought. It is in the interests both of the councillor requesting the dispensation and the other councillors that the existence of the conflict of interest is openly acknowledged and understood.

Paragraph 9 of the section of this report headed 'Findings' confirms that Cllr Yeo duly registered his interest as a trustee of the CIO, in accordance with paragraph 1 in Appendix B of the Code and declared that interest at or in advance of the 17 December meeting and the 11 March meeting. Paragraph 10 of that section refers to the provisions that apply where a councillor wishes to speak on a matter which directly relates to an other registerable interest that they have declared. For the reasons given in paragraph 23 of the 'Findings' section of this report I do not consider that the fact that agenda items 7 at the December meeting and 4 at the 11 March meeting related to aspects of the Town Council proposal, rendered it unnecessary for Cllr Yeo to consider how his duty as a trustee of the CIO might conflict with his role as a councillor and to be aware of the potential for a perception that he had a conflict of interest. Every decision taken by the Town Council to progress the Town Council proposal will inevitably relate to Cllr Yeo's other registerable interest (his being a trustee of the CIO) within the meaning of paragraph 6 of Appendix B of the Code, because constructing the community facility in accordance with the Town Council proposal will mean that the CIO proposal will not be brought to fruition.

Cllr Yeo was at liberty to vote against the Town Council proposal if he believed that the CIO proposal would better meet the needs of the residents of Shaftesbury, and to vote against motions relating to its progress. It is however essential that his fellow councillors are given the information about his role as a trustee of the CIO and his legal obligations as such, so that they are fully aware of his conflict of interest and its implications. This should be achieved by Cllr Yeo both disclosing the interest and seeking a dispensation in accordance with the Code and the Standing Orders to enable him to remain in the room, participate in the discussion about the Mampitts Hub project and vote.

I therefore conclude that as Cllr Yeo had not obtained a dispensation in accordance with SO13, by remaining in the room during the relevant periods at the 17 December and 11 March meetings, participating in the discussion of agenda items 7 and 4 respectively and voting on them, he was in breach of Paragraph 9 of the Code.

In reaching my conclusion I have also noted that the matter of Cllr Yeo's position as a trustee of the CIO and its predecessor organisation and the potential conflict with his role as a member of the Town Council has been aired on a number of occasions. The email correspondence referred to in paragraph 20 of the section of this report headed 'Findings' speaks to the extent to which the matter of a potential breach of the Code and conflict with the Nolan Principles, has been identified to Cllr Yeo and advice offered to him over a not inconsiderable period by both the Town Clerk and Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer.

I have also noted that when reminded of his need to comply with the Code and the Standing Orders (the Town Clerk's email of 19 June 2024 – Appendix B.6.1), the second, third, fourth and fifth paragraphs of Cllr Yeo's response of the same date indicated a clear desire on his part to advance the CIO proposal in preference to the Town Council proposal. Likewise, I conclude that the comments made in Cllr Yeo's email of 19 December 2024 (Appendix B.6.4) go beyond expressing his dislike of the Town Council proposal and demonstrate his desire to promote the CIO proposal. Having considered the contents of the emails listed in Appendix B.6 and his statement (Appendix E) as well as what he said and the manner in which he spoke at the 17 December meeting and the 11 March meeting, I have concluded that Cllr Yeo has not

demonstrated an understanding and acceptance of the need to be seen to be acting in an open and transparent manner and in a way that ensures that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained, as required by paragraph 9 of the Code.

Further conclusions

1. It is a matter for regret that dissent about the way forward for the Mampitts Hub project has seemingly hindered its progress, and it would be all the more unfortunate if continuing disagreement and attempts to thwart the Town Council proposal were further to delay the provision of the facilities needed by the residents of Shaftesbury.
2. Watching and listening to aspects of the conduct of the 17 December and 11 March meetings as part of my investigation was a sometimes unedifying experience. It was clear to me that it was at times an unnecessarily difficult and unpleasant task for the chair of the meetings to manage their orderly and dignified progress in a manner that ensured public confidence in the Town Council, and indeed on occasions even to retain control of them. I have observed that many of the councillors and the previous Town Clerk have shown considerable fortitude and resilience in accommodating the conduct of the minority, balancing the need for all councillors to be allowed to 'have their say' even when doing so more frequently than most other councillors and in an aggressive and intemperate manner and in a way that breaches provisions of the Code and the Standing Orders, with the need to progress Town Council business in a timely and lawful way for the benefit of the residents of Shaftesbury. The patience of some councillors, who have listened to personally offensive remarks being made about them and in some instances their integrity being impugned but without responding in kind, is in my view commendable. It must also be a matter of some concern that the unpleasant atmosphere at the Town Council meetings may have an adverse effect on the staff who carry not inconsiderable responsibility for the effective day-to-day running of the Town Council, to the extent that its ability to attract and retain suitable staff and in particular a Town Clerk with the necessary skills and commitment, may be in jeopardy.
3. When listening to the recording of the 17 December meeting it was also a source of some concern to me that at the beginning of the meeting the chairman had to report that material had been posted on social media that contained libellous accusations and falsehoods relating to the conduct of officers of the Town Council, and had to remind those present of the Nolan principles and the need to observe the civility and respect principles in particular. Although not within the scope of my investigation I am aware of other instances where meetings of the Town Council have descended to a level that did not secure public confidence in the role of councillor and local government in accordance with the stated fundamental aim of the Code.

Mary Dolley
Legal Services

Appendix A

A.1 - COMPLAINT No. CCF671466018

Cllr Yeo is the Chair of the Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO. In one form or another this organisation has been seeking to secure s106 money (£880k) to develop a community centre in competition with Shaftesbury Town Council. Funding has now been awarded to STC. However Cllr Yeo continues to advocate in public and in writing for his scheme and, although he declares his membership of the CIO, continues to speak and vote against STC on matters relating to the Community Centre. This was last evidenced at Full Council 17/12/24 and, when challenged, claimed not to have a disclosable pecuniary interest. This is clearly incorrect. Furthermore, he has not applied to the Clerk for dispensation.

A.2 - COMPLAINT No. CCF697750919

At an EFC on the 11th March 2025 which was called to resolve on the choice of an architect for the next stage of the Mampitts Hub project Cllr Yeo failed to declare a pecuniary interest or to seek a dispensation despite the Clerk reading out the legal requirements and Cllr Hollingshead raising a Point of Order breach of SO 13 (Code of Conduct and Dispensations). Cllr Yeo continued to speak in support of the Mampitts Lane CIO of which he is Chair. In the end the resolution was changed by Members to include discussions with the architect who had designed the Mampitts Lane CIO's building plan even though that architect had not met the tendering selection criteria. This is a clear disclosable pecuniary interest and, taken together with previous failures to declare a pecuniary interest and the outcome of the meeting and the resolutions voted through, is sufficiently serious that there may be prima facie evidence of a criminal offence under S34 of the Localism Act, 2011

Appendix B

1. The Town Council's Code of Conduct [Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020](#)
2. The Town Council's Standing Orders [Standing-Orders-2025-05-20.pdf](#)
3. The Agenda and Minutes of the Full Council meeting of the Town Council held on 17 December 2024 [2024-12-17-Full-Council-Agenda-1.pdf](#) and [2024-12-17-Full-Council-Minutes-Approved.pdf](#)
4. The Agenda and Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 11 March 2025 [2025-03-11-EFC-Agenda.pdf](#) and [2025-03-11-EFC-Minutes-Approved.pdf](#)
5. The notice given by Cllr Yeo pursuant to s.30 of the Localism Act 2011 as it appears in the register of interests maintained by Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer

pursuant to s.29 of the 2011 Act in relation to his interests [Councillor Peter Yeo, Shaftesbury Town Council - Dorset Council](#)

6. Email correspondence between Cllr Yeo, the Town Clerk and others as per the table below:

B.6.1	Chain of emails dated 8 December 2023, 19 June 2024 and 3 July 2024 – the Town Clerk and Cllr Yeo
B.6.2	Further chain of emails incorporating B.6.1 above and including email dated 19 June 2024 from Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer (J Mair) to Cllr Yeo and email dated 10 July 2024 from the Town Clerk to Cllr Yeo
B.6.3	Chain of emails culminating in that dated 18 December 2024 from the Town Clerk to all members of the Town Council
B.6.4	Chain of emails including that dated 19 December 2024 from Cllr Yeo to the Town Clerk and the Town Clerk's reply (sent to all councillors) of the same date
B.6.5	Email dated 31 December 2024 from Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer (J Mair) to Cllr Yeo

Appendix C

Interview with Cllr Andy Hollingshead (Complainant)

1. I explained to Cllr Hollingshead that the purpose of the interview was to gather information to enable me fully to understand the background to the complaints I had been asked to investigate, so that I could formulate my report and any conclusions for consideration by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person and if necessary, by the Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee. I explained that the investigation is being undertaken in accordance with Dorset Council's Arrangements for dealing with Councillor Code of Conduct complaints and I advised him that the Arrangements could be accessed on Dorset Council's website. I advised Cllr Hollingshead that our interview was to remain confidential.
2. I reminded Cllr Hollingshead that as explained in my email of 30 July my investigation is now proceeding on the basis that there may have been failures to disclose and seek dispensations in relation to other registerable interests rather than disclosable pecuniary interests.
3. At the Full Council meeting on 17 December 2024 and during the discussion of Agenda item no 7 (to receive an update on the Mampitts Hub Architect Tender process) Cllr Hollingshead asked Cllr Yeo whether he was still the Chairman of the Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO and he confirmed that he is. The ensuing discussion about the nature of Cllr Yeo's interest in agenda item no 7 became fractious.
4. At the Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 11 March 2025 and during the discussion of Agenda item no 2 (To receive and Declarations of Interests and Requests for Dispensation) the Town Clerk read out an extract from an email sent by the Monitoring Officer to Cllr Yeo on 31 December 2024. The Monitoring Officer's email reminded Cllr Yeo that as a trustee of Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO his first duty was towards that body and that if a matter relating to

it arises at a Council meeting he must consider whether it relates directly to the financial interest or wellbeing of the CIO, and if it does he must disclose the interest at the meeting, speak only to the same extent as a member of the public is allowed to speak but must not otherwise take part in any discussion or vote and must not remain in the room without a dispensation. Cllr Yeo stated that the fact that he is a trustee of the Mampitts Community Land Trust CIO was not relevant and that he did not have a disclosable other interest such as to prevent him from participating in the discussion.

5. Cllr Hollingshead felt that the members of the public who were in attendance and asked questions during the public participation session at the beginning of the meeting had been encouraged to do so by Cllr Yeo. Cllr Yeo repeatedly interrupted the Chairman when she was trying to answer questions from members of the public. The discussion about what was a straightforward matter, namely the appointment of an architect to take forward work on the Mampitts community hub project for which the Town Council had obtained s.106 funding from Dorset Council, became fractious and indeed disorderly to the point where Cllr Hollingshead felt that by reason of Cllr Yeo's behaviour it was difficult for the Chairman to retain effective control of the meeting.

Appendix D

Interview with Cllr Peter Yeo (Subject member)

1. I introduced myself to Cllr Yeo and explained to him that the purpose of the interview was to gather information to enable me fully to understand the background to the complaints I had been asked to investigate, so that I could formulate my reports and any conclusions for consideration by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person and if necessary, by the Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee. I reminded him that the investigation is being undertaken in accordance with Dorset Council's Arrangements for dealing with Councillor Code of Conduct complaints details of which had been notified to him previously. I advised Cllr Yeo that our interview was to remain confidential.
2. I explained to Cllr Yeo that my request that he permit me to record the interview had been made in order to assist in the preparation of a written summary of it and that the recording would be destroyed as soon as the summary had been agreed by both of us as an accurate record of what was said, in accordance with guidance issued by the Local Government Association. I confirmed that the recording would not be shared with any third party. Cllr Yeo remained unwilling for a recording to be made, and I confirmed that I would not make one. I also confirmed that he did not have my permission to make a recording either.
3. Cllr Yeo expressed concern that the required procedure for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints had not been followed. He said that he understood that the procedure had been altered earlier in the year and I confirmed that it had, and that he had been given details of the updated procedure. He said that he had not been provided with details of the Independent Person. I reminded him that he had received correspondence from me and others, most recently my email to him of 28

August 2025, advising him of the identity of the Independent Person and telling him that he was at liberty to contact them. I said that I would arrange for him to be sent Mr Powell's contact details, which I subsequently did by email dated 11 September 2025.

4. I advised Cllr Yeo that I had looked at his training record posted on Shaftesbury Town Council's website and noted that it indicated that he had not undertaken the Code of Conduct (Standards) training, and that I had obtained confirmation from the Town Clerk that according to her records this information is correct. I asked Cllr Yeo why he had not undertaken the training, and he said that he was not aware that he was required to do so. I reminded him that by signing the declaration of acceptance of office in the aftermath of having been elected to Shaftesbury Town Council, he became bound by Shaftesbury Town Council's Code of Conduct, and I directed him to the opening sentence in the section of it headed 'Application of the Code of Conduct'. Cllr Yeo asked me whether training about the Code of Conduct is compulsory, and I stated that it is; I directed him to paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2 of the section of the Code headed 'Complying with the Code of Conduct' and I advised him that I had seen emails sent to him by the Town Clerk reminding him of his obligations under the Code. Cllr Yeo said that he is a single parent and works full time, that he was unaware that he is obliged to undertake training about the Code and that he considers that his conduct has been entirely proper.
5. As a preliminary point I referred Cllr Yeo to the letter dated 23 July 2025 that he had received from [REDACTED] and my email of 9 September 2025. I confirmed that to the extent that the complaints referenced a breach of the Code in relation to non-declaration of a disclosable pecuniary interest, that aspect of the matter had been referred to the Police and no longer forms part of the scope of my investigation. I said that he is aware from the letter and the email that the investigation is now proceeding on the basis of a possible breach of the Code provisions relating to the disclosure of an other registerable interest and the seeking of dispensations in relation to that interest.
6. I referred Cllr Yeo to the paragraph of the Code of Conduct numbered 9 and headed 'Interests' and the provisions of Appendix B, and to paragraph 13 (headed Code of Conduct and Dispensations) of Shaftesbury Town Council's Standing Orders. I reminded him that he had received correspondence from the Town Clerk and Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer about his obligations under the Code of Conduct in relation to the disclosure of other registerable interests and the seeking of dispensations.
7. I advised Cllr Yeo that I had noted that the minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 17 December 2024 and 11 March 2025 stated that he had declared an interest in the agenda items relating to the Mampitts Lane project, as Chairman of the Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO. I asked him why he had not sought a dispensation to enable him to remain in the room, take part in the discussion and vote on the items numbered 7 on the agenda for the Town Council meeting held on 17 December 2024 and 4 on the agenda for the Town Council meeting held on 11 March 2025. Cllr Yeo stated that he did not need a dispensation, and I asked him why he considered this to be the case. He said that the basis for his belief is that neither agenda item related to The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO, but rather to the process for procuring the services of an architect to advise in

connection with the development scheme that the Town Council is promoting – the discussion did not focus on the CIO or any application or proposals made by it. The CIO is not involved with and has no contractual or financial relationship with the Town Council in relation to the Mampitts Lane site. Neither Cllr Yeo nor the CIO stands to benefit financially or otherwise from the architect selection process mentioned in the agenda items and Cllr Yeo considers that his participation in the discussion is not related to the other registerable interest (his position as a trustee of the CIO) that he has notified under the Code. He has received advice to this effect and he will forward a written summary of that advice to me on 15 September.

8. Cllr Yeo stated that he regards the complaints as malicious and vexatious and said that he could talk all day about Shaftesbury Town Council's unlawful actions in relation to the proposed development of the Mampitts Lane site and the improper actions of the Town Clerk in relation to the submission of the planning application for the Town Council's preferred development scheme. Cllr Yeo stated that he has every right to speak out and that the complainant's action in making the complaints is vexatious and born of malice as the complainant is one of those behind the making of the rival bid for the funds for the development of the Mampitts Lane site, that bid having been submitted in competition with the bid made by the CIO.
9. I asked Cllr Yeo whether there was anything he wanted to add before the interview was concluded. He reiterated that he believed that the complainant's motive in making the complaints was malicious and that he had an axe to grind, going back to events at a committee meeting in 2020 that he (Cllr Yeo) considered was being held unlawfully.
10. I explained that the next step is for me to prepare a note of the interview, which I will aim to forward to him by the end of the coming week (19 September). I stated that I will aim to complete work on my draft report within the next four weeks after which it will go initially to the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person, then to Cllr Yeo and the complainant before being finalised and submitted to the Monitoring Officer for a decision to be made, in accordance with paragraphs 6.H and 6.I of the Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against Councillors.

Appendix E

Written Statement submitted by Cllr Peter Yeo attached

Appendix F

**Comments on draft report submitted on behalf of Cllr Peter Yeo with
comments on them made by Investigating Officer in red ink**

CONFIDENTIAL

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Mary Dolley

From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 July 2024 15:27
To: pyeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk
Cc: Jonathan Mair
Subject: RE: Declaration of Interest

Dear Peter

Following my email to you and your subsequent response on 19th June, I sent a further response to you later that day, as shown below.

Following yesterday's email from Jonathan Mair, I reviewed my sent items last night and it would appear that my response to you and other councillors never reached you. For some reason, unbeknown to me, on checking the distribution list last night, your name was not listed as a recipient. Please accept my sincere apologies for this admin/ IT error and any inconvenience this may have caused.

I trust that you will now be able to provide your response to Jonathan as set out in your email dated 19th June.

Kind regards

Brie

From: Brie Logan
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 12:50 PM
Subject: RE: Declaration of Interest

Dear Peter (and other councillors for information)

The councillors you reference do not have a declaration to make as the agenda item in question was a STC proposal and therefore members are entitled to make comment and vote accordingly.

To clarify, it is not for me to call out members during a public meeting who do not declare their interest in the respective agenda item. Councillors, as individuals, have a duty to follow the [STC Code of Conduct](#) relating to Councillor interests as set out in the [Good Councillor Guide](#) (page 54 to 58).

The accusations you make about me and my conduct to your fellow councillors is unacceptable. To be clear, my role is to follow the instruction as set by STC. All actions listed below are as approved by resolution of STC. If you have a complaint about my conduct then the process that needs to be followed is set out in section 12.2 of the [Comments, Complaints and Complaints Policy](#).

I further remind you that good working relationships between officers and councillors, mutual respect and an understanding of their distinct roles are vital. Conflicts between these key players, especially during meetings in front of the press or public, are damaging to the council's credibility. The [Civility and Respect Officer and Member protocol](#) explains how a strong, constructive, and trusting relationship between councillors and officers is essential to the effective and efficient working of the council.

I extend a further offer to meet up and discuss how we find ways of working together effectively for the greater good of STC and the town.

Kind regards

Brie

From: Peter Yeo <PYeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 11:15 AM

To: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>

Cc: Lester Dibben <LDibben@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Elaine Barratt <EBarratt@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Greg Williams <GWilliams@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Nigel Heritage <NHeritage@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Jade Salkeld <JSalkeld@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Virginia Edwyn-Jones <VEdwyn-Jones@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Conor Smith <CSmith@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Jeanne Loader <JLoader@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Justine Elmendorff <JElmendorff@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Annie Philpott <APhilpott@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Piers Brown <PBrown@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Lorah Wild <LWild@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Alex Chase <AChase@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Sybille Maddock <Assistanttownclerk@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Declaration of Interest

Mrs Logan ,

Have you sent these same emails regarding declaration/conflict of interest to Cllr Brown, Cllr Hollingshead, Cllr Chase, Cllr Wild and Cllr Edwyn Jones and Cllr Loader?

By your logic these Cllrs should also have received your emails and left the room seeing as they have all voted for the STC proposal to rival the Community Land Trust's proposal that they all knew about and voted against and went on to support STC's poor imitation.

In STC Full Council on 19 March 2024 Cllrs Brown, Hollingshead, Edwyn-Jones and Loader (and former Cllrs Lewer and Cook) voted to squander yet more tax payers money on the town council's failed and unsupported (in fact opposed) by the residents Planning Application.

If you think there's an issue with me speaking out or being in the room you should say so in the meeting and you should say it to all the other councillor (as named above) that, according to your logic, have a conflict of interest.

If you think that I am not going to speak out against the town Council's appalling planning applications that are not supported by the residents and would destroy and urbanise Mampitts green, you are sadly mistaken and don't seem to understand the role of a councillor. It is my job as an East Ward councillor to represent what the residents want. They do not want the STC s106 proposal or the STC planning application.

It is highly improper that you submitted an updated design and an updated planning application to DC at the end of March 2024 . As you know, you did not show this updated design to all councillors before submission, only to your favoured ones.

This updated design should have been put on a full council agenda and voted upon by the new Cllrs. It was clearly raced through in a highly improper manner so that the new council would not be involved.

Your delegated authority does not enable you to submit a planning application on behalf of STC for an updated design without it having been seen by all Cllrs and voted upon as a subsequent full council agenda item and yet you did.

The resolution that you allowed to be made in March 2024 was highly improper and the planning application should be null and void and withdrawn from Dorset Council as correct process was not followed.

This is a breach of conduct on your part, as it also was when you submitting an s106 application to Dorset Council in March 2022 for the Mampitts S106 land and associated s106 funds to rival the Community Land Trusts s106 application.

That s106 application was never on a full council agenda, only on the General Management Committee's Agenda, which of course was chaired by Cllr Piers Brown, who has a huge conflict of interests in this STC Planning Application being a close personal friend of property developer (and Town Cllr until May 2024) Mr Anthony Philip Proctor who has so far twice tried to get planning permission to build 20 houses on the adjacent fields of Langdale Farm. Cllr Brown is also the lead Cllr of the so called 'Mampitts Advisory Committee' (himself plus his 4 personal friends and Cllr Wild). So even more conflicts of interests for him and Cllr Wild.

You by passed full council in March 2024 and the proper democratic process and also in March 2022 when you submitted that s106 application to Dorset Council without it ever having been briefed or shown to full council or voted upon by full council for submission.

Have you done the standards in Public Life Training?

Regards,

Councillor Peter Yeo
East Ward
Shaftesbury Town Council
Tel 07879490893

On 19 Jun 2024, at 10:04, Brie Logan <brielogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Peter

Last year you were advised about the need to adhere to the protocol in relation to declaring your interests in connection with the Mampitts CIC/ CIO. It is therefore my responsibility to provide you, once again, with the facts so that I can guide you to operate within the STC Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

Please take some time to read again the email below that I sent to you on 8th December 2023. The information clearly lists out the *Conflicts of interest in decision making as a councillor, and what in public law is known as 'apparent bias', are an established part of the local government legal landscape*. To clarify; If an agenda item relates to one of your interests, such as the one last night, you must not participate in the discussion or vote. The declaration of interests at meetings is intended to give the public confidence in the council's decision making. You participated in the debate and voted on this matter which was improper and a breach of the Code of Conduct hence this email to remind you of the rules of the council.

I further advise you to book on to the DAPTC Standards in Public Life training which can be accessed via this [link](#). This training will further endorse the need to regulate the conduct expected of you as a holder of a public office and to protect the reputation of the council.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

B61

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
Main 01747 852420
Direct 01747 859342
Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

<image001.png>

<image002.png>

<image003.png>

♣ Consider the environment before you print this email.

From: Brie Logan
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 5:44 PM
To: Peter Yeo <PYeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Planning and Highways - ROI

Dear Peter

As a follow up to the Planning and Highways committee meeting you appear to misunderstand the protocol in relation to declaring your interests in connection with the Mampitts CIC/ CIO. It is therefore my responsibility to provide you with the facts so that I can guide you to operate within the STC Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

As referenced at the Planning and Highways committee meeting you declared that you are the chair of the newly formed Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO. I note from the [Charity Commission website](#) that you formed this organisation in December 2022. I note that your interests have **not** been updated on the DC portal since October 2021 and therefore your ROI is not up to date.

It is the responsibility of each councillor to update their ROI. As the Clerk, once I have received a councillor request to update their ROI, I then submit an online request to DC and a unique link is then sent out to the councillor. Please advise me by return if you would like me to arrange for a unique link to be sent to you in order for you to update your ROI.

If an agenda item relates to one of your interests, such as the one on Tuesday, as shown below, you **must not participate in the discussion or vote**. The declaration of interests at meetings is intended to **give the public confidence in your council's decision making**. You participated in the debate and voted on this matter which was improper and a breach of the Code of Conduct hence this email to remind you of the rules of the council.

Conflicts of interest in decision making as a councillor, and what in public law is known as 'apparent bias', are an established part of the local government legal landscape. The Seven Principles of Public

B 61

Life and the Model Code require councillors to act impartially (i.e. not be biased) when carrying out their duties.

<image006.jpg>

Remember, the rules are designed to regulate the conduct expected of you as a holder of a public office and to protect the reputation of your council.

I hope this provides you with clarity on the importance of following the council's protocol and the need to operate within the rules and regulations which includes the need to comply with the Code of Conduct.

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
Main 01747 852420
Direct 01747 859342
Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

<image001.png>

<image002.png>

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Mary Dolley

From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 July 2024 12:10
To: pyeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk
Cc: Jonathan Mair
Subject: RE: Declaration of Interest

Dear Peter

I emailed you on 3rd July at 15:27 to explain further about the email response I sent to you on 19th June in relation to your questions.

Since then, I have subsequently sought advice from NALC (the National Association of Local Councils) and councillor interests (Pecuniary and Other Registerable Interests). The NALC response is as follows:

Section 31 (4) of the Localism Act 2011 provides:

The member or co-opted member may not—

(a) participate, or participate further, in any discussion of the matter at the meeting, or

(b) participate in any vote, or further vote, taken on the matter at the meeting, but this is subject to section 33 (dispensations).

Section 31 (10) says that standing orders of a relevant authority may provide for the exclusion of a member or co-opted member of the authority from a meeting while any discussion or vote takes place in which, as a result of the operation of subsection (4), the member or co-opted member may not participate.

Section 31 (10) enables councils to have standing orders that go further than the requirement for councillors with DPLs to not participate in discussions or vote.

The declaring of a DPL is a matter for an individual councillor. A councillor not doing so when required to is subject to the penalties in the 2011 Act and any code of conduct complaints. There is no concept of the chair/ clerk not counting a vote from a councillor they believe is taking part unlawfully as the onus is on the councillor.

As a reminder the STC Standing Orders, Appx B section 6 (page 12) states:

*Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your **Other Registerable Interests**, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', again you do not have to declare the nature of the interest.*

Kind regards

Brie

From: Peter Yeo <PYeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 10:03 AM
To: Jonathan Mair <Jonathan.Mair@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>
Cc: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Declaration of Interest

Dear Mr Mair,

B 6 2

No, I never received a response to my email to Mr Logan.

I emailed her various questions and copied in the other STC councillors. There was no reply.

Mrs Logan claims she did reply but has not sent as an attachment (as is the correct procedure in such situations) the email she claims to have sent.

I am still waiting for that email proof sent as an attachment.

Regards,

Peter Yeo

Councillor Peter Yeo
East Ward
Shaftesbury Town Council
Tel 07879490893

On 2 Jul 2024, at 18:58, Jonathan Mair <Jonathan.Mair@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Cllr Yeo

In your email below you explained that you would reply to me once you had received a response from the Town Clerk. I understand that she has responded. I have not though heard from you.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Mair
Director of Legal & Democratic (Monitoring Officer)
Senior Leadership Team
Dorset Council

01305 838074
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

<[image001.jpg](#)>

<[image002.png](#)> <[image003.png](#)> <[image004.png](#)>

From: Peter Yeo <PYeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 2:11 PM
To: Jonathan Mair <Jonathan.Mair@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>
Cc: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Declaration of Interest

Dear Mr Mair,

I will reply to your email once I have had the responses from Mrs Logan to my reply to her email of this morning.

Regards,

Councillor Peter Yeo
East Ward
Shaftesbury Town Council
Tel 07879490893

On 19 Jun 2024, at 12:36, Jonathan Mair
<Jonathan.Mair@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Cllr Yeo

If I may reinforce what Brie has written, in addition to the Localism Act requirement to disclose your pecuniary interests to me the Code of Conduct adopted by Shaftesbury Town Council requires you to disclose your “other registerable interests”.

The other registerable interests that you are required to disclose include your membership of or position of general control or management of any body directed to charitable purposes. Accordingly you disclosed to me on 4 June 2024 your trusteeship of the Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO. The consequence of this is set out in the Town Council’s Code of Conduct:

5. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates one of your Disclosable

Pecuniary Interests, you must declare the interest, not participate in any discussion

or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a ‘sensitive interest’, you do not have to declare the

nature of the interest, just that you have an interest.

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter

only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not

remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a ‘sensitive

interest’, again you do not have to declare the nature of the interest.

Participation in the meeting in the way that Brie has set out amounts to a breach of the Town Council’s Code of Conduct.

In addition, when your architect Mr Jordaan wrote to Dorset Council about the non payment of his fees he referred to you having given him an “assurance as trustee & town councillor that both my and his expenses would be covered once the project goes ahead.” If you are to be paid arising from your work as a trustee then from that point the nature of your interest may change from an other registerable interest to a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI). A failure to

B 6 2

disclose a pecuniary interest would amount to an offence, as would participation in any council business in relation to which you have a DPI. It would then become a matter for the police rather than one for Dorset Council. Therefore, in addition to the points that Brie has made I urge caution. If the CIO scheme was to go ahead and if you were to be paid then you should take advice about whether this would amount to a DPI and the steps you should take in order to avoid committing an offence.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Mair
Director of Legal & Democratic (Monitoring Officer)
Senior Leadership Team
Dorset Council

01305 838074
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

<image004.jpg>

<image005.png> <image007.png> <image008.png>

From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 10:04 AM
To: Peter Yeo <PYeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Declaration of Interest

Dear Peter

Last year you were advised about the need to adhere to the protocol in relation to declaring your interests in connection with the Mampitts CIC/ CIO. It is therefore my responsibility to provide you, once again, with the facts so that I can guide you to operate within the STC Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

Please take some time to read again the email below that I sent to you on 8th December 2023. The information clearly lists out the *Conflicts of interest in decision making as a councillor, and what in public law is known as 'apparent bias', are an established part of the local government legal landscape*. To clarify; If an agenda item relates to one of your interests, such as the one last night, you must not participate in the discussion or vote. The declaration of interests at meetings is intended to give the public confidence in the council's decision making. You participated in the debate and voted on this matter which was improper and a breach of the Code of Conduct hence this email to remind you of the rules of the council.

I further advise you to book on to the DAPTC Standards in Public Life training which can be accessed via this [link](#). This training will further endorse the need to regulate the conduct expected of you as a holder of a public office and to protect the reputation of the council.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
Main 01747 852420
Direct 01747 859342
Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

<image009.png>

<image010.png>

<image011.png>

♻️ Consider the environment before you print this email.

From: Brie Logan
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 5:44 PM
To: Peter Yeo <PYeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Planning and Highways - ROI

Dear Peter

As a follow up to the Planning and Highways committee meeting you appear to misunderstand the protocol in relation to declaring your interests in connection with the Mampitts CIC/ CIO. It is therefore my responsibility to provide you with the facts so that I can guide you to operate within the STC Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

As referenced at the Planning and Highways committee meeting you declared that you are the chair of the newly formed Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO. I note from the [Charity Commission website](#) that you formed this organisation in December 2022. I note that your interests have **not** been updated on the DC portal since October 2021 and therefore your ROI is not up to date.

It is the responsibility of each councillor to update their ROI. As the Clerk, once I have received a councillor request to update their ROI, I then submit an online request to DC and a unique link is then sent out to the councillor. Please advise me by return if you would like me to arrange for a unique link to be sent to you in order for you to update your ROI.

If an agenda item relates to one of your interests, such as the one on Tuesday, as shown below, you **must not participate in the discussion or vote**. The declaration of interests at meetings is intended to **give the public confidence in your council's decision making**. You participated in the debate and voted on this matter which was improper and a breach of the Code of Conduct hence this email to remind you of the rules of the council.

Conflicts of interest in decision making as a councillor, and what in public law is known as 'apparent bias', are an established part of the local government legal

B 6 2

landscape. The Seven Principles of Public Life and the Model Code require councillors to act impartially (i.e. not be biased) when carrying out their duties.

<image012.jpg>

Remember, the rules are designed to regulate the conduct expected of you as a holder of a public office and to protect the reputation of your council.

I hope this provides you with clarity on the importance of following the council's protocol and the need to operate within the rules and regulations which includes the need to comply with the Code of Conduct.

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
Main 01747 852420
Direct 01747 859342
Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

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Mary Dolley

From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 December 2024 13:13
To: STC Councillors
Cc: Cllr. Jack Jeanes; Cllr. Derek Beer
Subject: RE: Council Tax - external auditor report - STC non compliance - PFK
Attachments: Guidance-on-the-Local-Government-Association-Model-Councillor-Code-of-Conduct-2020-for-parish-and-town-councils.pdf

Good afternoon Lester (and other councillors for information)

The Local Government Association (LGA) MODEL Code of Conduct is as adopted by STC in May 2024.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) states: *The code is a template for parish and town councils to adopt as a whole or with amendments to consider local circumstances. The code and guidance have been designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct, and safeguard the public's trust and confidence in the role of councillor in local government.*

While it sets out the minimum standards of behaviour expected, together with the guidance, it is designed to encourage councillors to model the high standards expected, to be mutually respectful even if they have personal or political differences, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to complaints being made of behaviour falling below the standards expected of councillors and in breach of the code. It is also to protect councillors, the public, local authority officers and the reputation of the local government.

The LGA guidance on Model Councillor Code of Conduct is as attached. In terms of Councillors and their interests, this information is detailed on pages 36 to 45. It is for each councillor to follow and comply with the rules as laid out in the Code of Conduct. Here is an extract, in blue text below, from one of many emails that were sent to a STC councillor (name redacted) during 2024.

Please take some time to read again the email below that I sent to you on 8th December 2023. The information clearly lists out the *Conflicts of interest in decision making as a councillor, and what in public law is known as 'apparent bias', are an established part of the local government legal landscape.* To clarify; If an agenda item relates to one of your interests, such as the one last night, you must not participate in the discussion or vote. The declaration of interests at meetings is intended to give the public confidence in the council's decision making. You participated in the debate and voted on this matter which was improper and a breach of the Code of Conduct hence this email to remind you of the rules of the council.

It is not for the clerk or individual councillors to challenge whether or not a fellow councillor has a pecuniary interest. It is for each councillor to follow and comply with the rules as laid out in the Code of Conduct. I can confirm that failure to disclose a pecuniary interest would amount to an offence. As you will be aware, the process for submitting a Code of Conduct complaint is referenced on the DC website.

Kind regards

Brie

From: Lester Dibben <LDibben@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 December 2024 11:24
To: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Cc: STC Councillors <STCCouncillorsNEW@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; cllrjack.jeanes@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk;

Cllr. Derek Beer <cllrderek.beer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Council Tax - external auditor report - STC non compliance - PFK

B 6 3

Madam Clerk,

I have raised the need for a re-write of the STC code of conduct which will enable us to better manage poor conduct and vexatious conduct, Ref: the code of conduct authority letter of April the 30th 2021 which advises STC should improve this code in order for the authority to better deal with poor conduct, they could not deal with a racist act because our code was not good enough.

I assume STC received this advice.

I note NOLAN and Respect & Civility, but these should be enshrined together with tougher conduct rules which are automatically signed up to on 'acceptance of office'.

I am concerned that a breach of what is called, 'material interests' in declarations, publicly claimed to be criminal, has not been dealt with, i note the claim was made to cause hurt rather than properly being put to the police, 'If True'.

Please provide the evidence to all members if it exists, and advise what action needs to be taken for both the act and the failure to report a known crime.

Regards Cllr L Dibben

Sent from Outlook for iOS

From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 10:34:41 AM

To [REDACTED]

Cc: STC Councillors <STCCouncillorsNEW@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; cllrjack.jeanes@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <cllrjack.jeanes@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Derek Beer <cllrderek.beer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Council Tax - external auditor report - STC non compliance - PFK

Dea [REDACTED]

Your screenshot below relates to the External Auditor findings from 2020.

The External Audit report from 2023/2024 was only closed off last week by BDO (due to the volume of elector queries). This information will be reported in to STC in January. There were **NO** findings in relation to governance breaches however there is one recommendation which is as follows:

Mary Dolley

From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 December 2024 13:55
To: STC Councillors
Cc: Shaftesbury Town Council Office
Subject: RE: Mampitts Advisory Committee - Member Selection

Dear Peter and other councillors for information

As you have copied in all councillors to the email you sent this morning, in the spirit of transparency I have included all members of STC in my response.

I have emailed you consistently since July 2022 in relation to either your unacceptable conduct, which is breach of the Civility and Respect Pledge, and your ongoing breach of the Code of Conduct in relation to your Register of Interests. I have summarised these excerpts from the regular communication with you in the table below.

To reiterate once again, the information clearly lists out the *Conflicts of interest in decision making as a councillor, and what in public law is known as 'apparent bias', are an established part of the local government legal landscape.* To clarify; If an agenda item relates to one of your interests, you must **not** participate in the discussion or vote. The declaration of interests at meetings is intended to give the public confidence in the council's decision making. Your ongoing participation in Mampitts related debates and voting is improper and is a breach of the Code of Conduct hence this further email to remind you once again of the rules of the council.

20/7/2022 excerpt	The general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards As a reminder, where councillors, clerk and chairman work together as a team they combine knowledge and skills to deliver real benefits to the community they serve. Good working relationships, mutual respect and an understanding of their different roles are vital. Conflict between these key players, especially during meetings in front of the press or public can damage the council.
28/09/2022 excerpt 1	In August 2022 Shaftesbury Town Council RESOLVED to adopt the Civility and Respect pledge thus demonstrating commitment to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role. Intimidation, abuse, bullying and harassment of councillors, clerks and council staff, in person or online, is unacceptable, whether by councillors, clerks, council staff, or public members. This can prevent councils from functioning effectively, councillors from representing local people, discourage people from getting involved, including standing for election, and undermine public confidence and trust in local democracy.
28/09/2022 excerpt	Finally, following my email in July, I was hopeful that 2022 would give STC the opportunity to press the re-set button, put the past behind us and work towards being a council that can proactively deliver for the people of Shaftesbury. In my view we should not allow an experience like last night to reoccur and stall the progress we have been making.
20/10/2022 excerpt	Condescending comments, disrupting meetings and a disrespectful attitude towards the chair, clerk and your fellow colleagues is having a detrimental effect on the efficiency of the meetings and the reputation of STC. Whether you agree, support, or disagree, not support items of business being discussed then it is unacceptable to engage in personal attacks on your fellow councillors

29/ 10/2022 excerpt	<i>Conflicts of interest in decision making as a councillor, and what in public law is known as 'apparent bias', are an established part of the local government legal landscape. The Seven Principles of Public Life and the Model Code require councillors to act impartially (i.e. not be biased) when carrying out their duties.</i>
8/12/23 excerpt	Register of Interest and declaration of interest <i>As a follow up to the Planning and Highways committee meeting you appear to misunderstand the protocol in relation to declaring your interests in connection with the Mampitts CIC/ CIO. It is therefore my responsibility to provide you with the facts so that I can guide you to operate within the STC Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.</i> <i>As referenced at the Planning and Highways committee meeting you declared that you are the chair of the newly formed Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO. I note from the Charity Commission website that you formed this organisation in December 2022. I note that your interests have not been updated on the DC portal since October 2021 and therefore your ROI is not up to date.</i> <i>If an agenda item relates to one of your interests, such as the one on Tuesday, as shown below, you must not participate in the discussion or vote. The declaration of interests at meetings is intended to give the public confidence in your council's decision making. You participated in the debate and voted on this matter which was improper and a breach of the Code of Conduct hence this email to remind you of the rules of the council.</i> Remember, the rules are designed to regulate the conduct expected of you as a holder of a public office and to protect the reputation of your council. I hope this provides you with clarity on the importance of following the council's protocol and the need to operate within the rules and regulations which includes the need to comply with the Code of Conduct.
10/5/ 2024 excerpt	I am hugely disappointed that you chose to continually reference the past and display behaviour that was aggressive, very confrontational and intimidating. You chose to personally verbally attack me and others in this professional setting which is utterly unacceptable. This was a hugely unpleasant experience for our new councillors to witness and certainly not the best way to start a five-year professional working relationship. I will be advising STC, as the corporate body, that it has a duty to promote and abide by the Code of Conduct and the Dignity at Work Policy. In summary, your behaviour continues to be unacceptable and must stop immediately. I will be advising STC that as the clerk the only way forward is for all members, as the corporate body, to be fully compliant with the Code of Conduct and Dignity at Work Policy. STC must sign up to a culture where there will be zero tolerance of behaviour that breaches these policies. I urge you to commit to attending the Code of Conduct training so that you fully understand the importance of maintaining standards in public life. Like it or not you have a responsibility to maintain respectful behaviour that aligns to the expected councillor code of conduct standard. Your reputation as a councillor is at risk and I have a responsibility to help and guide you to perform in your role.
19/6/2024	Last year you were advised about the need to adhere to the protocol in relation to declaring your interests in connection with the Mampitts CIC/ CIO. It is therefore my responsibility to provide you, once again, with the facts so that I can guide you to operate within the STC Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

	Please take some time to read again the email below that I sent to you on 8th December 2023. The information clearly lists out the <i>Conflicts of interest in decision making as a councillor, and what in public law is known as 'apparent bias', are an established part of the local government legal landscape.</i> To clarify; If an agenda item relates to one of your interests, such as the one last night, you must not participate in the discussion or vote. The declaration of interests at meetings is intended to give the public confidence in the council's decision making. You participated in the debate and voted on this matter which was improper and a breach of the Code of Conduct hence this email to remind you of the rules of the council.
3/7/2024 and 10/7/2024	To clarify, it is not for me to call out members during a public meeting who do not declare their interest in the respective agenda item. Councillors, as individuals, have a duty to follow the <u>STC Code of Conduct</u> relating to Councillor interests as set out in the <u>Good Councillor Guide</u> (page 54 to 58). The accusations you make about me and my conduct to your fellow councillors is unacceptable. To be clear, my role is to follow the instruction as set by STC. 10th July 2024 - I emailed you on 3rd July at 15:27 to explain further about the email response I sent to you on 19th June in relation to your questions. Since then, I have subsequently sought further advice from NALC (the National Association of Local Councils) and councillor interests (Pecuniary and Other Registerable Interests). The NALC response is as follows: <u>Section 31 (4)</u> of the Localism Act 2011 provides: <i>The member or co-opted member may not—</i> <i>(a) participate, or participate further, in any discussion of the matter at the meeting, or</i> <i>(b) participate in any vote, or further vote, taken on the matter at the meeting, but this is subject to <u>section 33 (dispensations).</u></i> <i>Section 31 (10) says that standing orders of a relevant authority may provide for the exclusion of a member or co-opted member of the authority from a meeting while any discussion or vote takes place in which, as a result of the operation of subsection (4), the member or co-opted member may not participate.</i> <i>Section 31 (10) enables councils to have standing orders that go further than the requirement for councillors with DPIs to not participate in discussions or vote.</i> <i>The declaring of a DPI is a matter for an individual councillor. A councillor not doing so when required to is subject to the penalties in the 2011 Act and any code of conduct complaints. There is no concept of the chair/ clerk not counting a vote from a councillor they believe is taking part unlawfully as the onus is on the councillor.</i> As a reminder the <u>STC Standing Orders</u>, Appx B section 6 (page 12) states: <i>Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', again you do not have to declare the nature of the interest.</i>

To further clarify, you are Chair of Trustees of the Mampitts Lane CLT. You have formally declared this interest and it is on the Dorset Council register. To confirm you are the ONLY councillor that has a registerable interest in Mampitts.

On Tuesday evening this week STC resolved the following:

FC99a It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Invitation to Tender documentation for publication on to the Contract Finder portal.

With an amendment to give any tenderer the opportunity, until 13th January, to request an extension of time due to the Christmas period, if required.

Proposed by Cllr Williams		
Seconded by Cllr Elmendorff		
In Favour	12	Cllrs Chase, Edwyn-Jones, Barratt, Elmendorff, Heritage, Hollingshead, Loader, Philpott, Salkeld, Smith, Wild and Williams
Against	2	Cllrs Dibben and Yeo
Abstentions	0	
MOTION CARRIED		

FC99b It was **RESOLVED** to set up an online poll with the members that have been put forward for the Mampitts Advisory Committee, to determine who should be on the committee.

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Seconded by Cllr Wild		
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Abstentions	0	
MOTION CARRIED		

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Proposed by Cllr Wild		
Seconded by Cllr Dibben		
In Favour	13	Cllrs Chase, Edwyn-Jones, Barratt, Dibben, Elmendorff, Heritage, Hollingshead, Loader, Philpott, Salkeld, Smith, Wild and Williams
Against	1	Cllr Yeo
Abstentions	0	
MOTION CARRIED		

To clarify, these are NOT my decisions. These are decisions as resolved by the corporate body.

Since taking on the role of Town Clerk in 2022, I have tried to support, advise and guide you as shown in the table of emails above. Despite many opportunities you have opted to never take that advice and you have never participated in any relevant training hence it is your lack of understanding of the rules that continues to bring STC in to disrepute.

Kind regards

Brie

From: Peter Yeo <PYeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>

Sent: 19 December 2024 10:41

To: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>

Cc: STC Councillors <STCCouncillorsNEW@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Shaftesbury Town Council Office <office@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Mampitts Advisory Committee - Member Selection

Mrs Logan,

Once again, you are misleading the Council and biased.

I have declared that I am a trustee of The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO.

This is not declaring an interesting in relation to the town council's unwanted scheme that was launched to sabotage the scheme that a excellent team of residents put together because STC did not want a community hall at Mampitts Lane.

This is declaring that I am a trustee of the residents' charity, as one has to.

A charity which residents set up to get the neighbourhood hall facility that they were promised when they bought their houses on the Eastern Development and that I, as their elected STC representative, have been fighting to ensure they get since May 2019 - when you informed me that STC do not want a community hall at Mampitts Lane and wanted to spend the S106 money elsewhere in Shaftesbury !

It is thanks to me and the residents in the ML CLT that a community facility is due to happen at Mampitts Lane at all. Not STC.

Left to STC we'd have a BMX track and a road through the community land to the adjacent fields that Cllr Proctor (mates of Cllrs Brown, Chase, Hollingshead, Edwyn-Jones) secretly bought in 2018 / 19 along with Langdale Farm and failed to declare, and on which he wants to build 20 luxury houses but needs an access road.

The fact that STC cobbled together an ill thought out and unwanted design in 2022 that destroys the Eastern Development's green space / village green in front of the trees and blocks the views of the countryside, is down to STC and certain councillors who set out to sabotage the CLT's excellent design proposal (supported by a petition of 720 local adults and children to Dorset council) is disgusting and has contributed greatly to the total lack of respect residents have for STC.

Why are you not informing all the councillors of the numerous Councillors who are predetermined and have major conflicts of interests and should not be involved at all ?

Chase, Brown, Hollingshead, Edwyn-Jones, Wild, Loader? All of who either voted not to support the residents excellent scheme and s106 application then in 2021 (cllr Wild was not on the council then) or have been part of the Mampitts Advisory/Sabotage Committee that ignored the residents wishes and came up with a unwanted and ill-thought-out scheme that destroys their village green with a car park and 2 story hall of poor design that blocks the views of the countryside and all of which has no petitioned support and ignored all objections?

Why are you not pointing out that limiting the number of councillors and setting up a ridiculous online vote to enable pre-determined councillors to fix which councillors can be on a working group continues to make STC a laughing stock and an is highly improper and exclusive?

As everyone will have notice, anything said in June 2024 about it being a new council with a new ethos and new profession ways of working simply is not true. It's the same old highly improper and dysfunctional STC.

Regards,

Councillor Peter Yeo
East Ward
Shaftesbury Town Council
Tel 07879490893

On 19 Dec 2024, at 09:34, Brie Logan <brielogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk> wrote:

B 6 4

Good morning all

The email below, sent last night was recalled due to an accessibility issue. Therefore the system has been updated and a [new link](#) is provided so that the survey can be accessed by all.

Before completing the survey, please read through the following statement.

Councillor Yeo has officially declared an interest in relation to the Mampitts project and this is shown on the Dorset Council register of interests. As such, when selecting the committee membership, it is important for all councillors to consider this conflict of interest. While the advisory committee does not make decisions, the concept of 'apparent bias' in public law is well-established within the local government legal framework. This ensures transparency and maintains public trust in our processes.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
Main 01747 852420
Direct 01747 859342
Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

<image004.png>

<image002.png>

<image003.png>

♣ Consider the environment before you print this email.

From: Sybille Maddock
Sent: 18 December 2024 17:01
To: STC Councillors <STCCouncillorsNEW@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Mampitts Advisory Committee - Member Selection

Dear All,

Following the resolution at Full Council last night, please follow the link below to select the four members you wish to see as part of the Mampitts Advisory Committee.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ahkJHv4cNA>

Deadline for responses is 2nd January 2025 at 12noon.

Many Thanks
Kind regards

B G 4

Billy

Sybille Maddock
Assistant Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
Main 01747 852420
Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

<image001.jpg>

<image002.png>

<image003.png>

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♻️ Consider the environment before you print this email.

365

Mary Dolley

From: Jonathan Mair
Sent: 05 September 2025 14:23
To: Mary Dolley
Subject: Fw: Mampitts Advisory Committee - Member Selection

Jonathan Mair
**Director Legal &
Democratic - Monitoring
Officer**
Senior Leadership Team
Dorset Council

01305 838074

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



From: Jonathan Mair
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 17:10
To: Peter Yeo <pyeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Cc: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Mampitts Advisory Committee - Member Selection

Dear Cllr Yeo

The Town Clerk has helpfully sent me a copy of your exchange of emails below.

I have reminded myself of exactly what you have disclosed to me and this is that you have another registerable interest as a Trustee of The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO.

The code of conduct adopted by the Town Council requires that *where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in Table 2), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.*

You seem to believe that it is enough for you to have disclosed your interest as a trustee to me but that is not enough. As a trustee of the Community Land Trust your first duty is towards the trust. If a matter relating to the Trust arises at a meeting of the Council or one of its committees then you must consider whether the matter relates directly to the financial interest or wellbeing of the Trust. If it does then you must disclose the interest at the meeting, speak only to the same extent as a member

B 6 5

of the public is allowed to speak but you must not otherwise take part in any discussion or vote and you must not remain in the room without a dispensation.

Given your legal duties as a trustee and the requirement on you not to take part in discussion, not to vote and not to remain in the room I support as entirely reasonable the Town Clerk's advice to councillors that when selecting the membership of the Mampitts Advisory Committee they should consider your conflict of interest. Appointing you to the committee would put you in a position where you risked breaching the code of conduct by taking part in discussions that you must not take part in or might mean that you had to leave the room so often that your membership of the committee served no purpose.

I have not copied this email to other town councillors.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Mair
Director Legal & Democratic - Monitoring Officer
Senior Leadership Team
Dorset Council

01305 838074
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



Dorset
Council



From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 December 2024 13:55
To: STC Councillors <STCCouncillorsNEW@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Cc: Shaftesbury Town Council Office <office@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Mampitts Advisory Committee - Member Selection

Caution - Attachments:

Do not open attachments in this email unless you are sure the email is genuine (please see the [intranet](#) for more guidance).

Caution - External links:

Do not click on links in this email unless you are sure the email is genuine (please see the [intranet](#) for more guidance).

Dear Peter and other councillors for information

As you have copied in all councillors to the email you sent this morning, in the spirit of transparency I have included all members of STC in my response.

I have emailed you consistently since July 2022 in relation to either your unacceptable conduct, which is breach of the Civility and Respect Pledge, and your ongoing breach of the Code of Conduct in relation to your Register of Interests. I have summarised these excerpts from the regular communication with you in the table below.

To reiterate once again, the information clearly lists out the *Conflicts of interest in decision making as a councillor, and what in public law is known as 'apparent bias', are an established part of the local government legal landscape.* To clarify; If an agenda item relates to one of your interests, you must **not** participate in the discussion or vote. The declaration of interests at meetings is intended to give the public confidence in the council's decision making. Your ongoing participation in Mampitts related debates and voting is improper and is a breach of the Code of Conduct hence this further email to remind you once again of the rules of the council.

20/7/2022 excerpt	The general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards As a reminder, where councillors, clerk and chairman work together as a team they combine knowledge and skills to deliver real benefits to the community they serve. Good working relationships, mutual respect and an understanding of their different roles are vital. Conflict between these key players, especially during meetings in front of the press or public can damage the council.
28/09/2022 excerpt 1	In August 2022 Shaftesbury Town Council RESOLVED to adopt the Civility and Respect pledge thus demonstrating commitment to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role. Intimidation, abuse, bullying and harassment of councillors, clerks and council staff, in person or online, is unacceptable, whether by councillors, clerks, council staff, or public members. This can prevent councils from functioning effectively, councillors from representing local people, discourage people from getting involved, including standing for election, and undermine public confidence and trust in local democracy.
28/09/2022 excerpt	Finally, following my email in July, I was hopeful that 2022 would give STC the opportunity to press the re-set button, put the past behind us and work towards being a council that can proactively deliver for the people of Shaftesbury. In my view we should not allow an experience like last night to reoccur and stall the progress we have been making.
20/10/2022 excerpt	Condescending comments, disrupting meetings and a disrespectful attitude towards the chair, clerk and your fellow colleagues is having a detrimental effect on the efficiency of the meetings and the reputation of STC. Whether you agree, support, or disagree, not support items of business being discussed then it is unacceptable to engage in personal attacks on your fellow councillors
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	If an agenda item relates to one of your interests, such as the one on Tuesday, as shown below, you must not participate in the discussion or vote. The declaration of interests at meetings is intended to give the public confidence in your council's decision making. You participated in the debate and voted on this matter which was improper and a breach of the Code of Conduct hence this email to remind you of the rules of the council. Remember, the rules are designed to regulate the conduct expected of you as a holder of a public office and to protect the reputation of your council. I hope this provides you with clarity on the importance of following the council's protocol and the need to operate within the rules and regulations which includes the need to comply with the Code of Conduct.
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Since then, I have subsequently sought further advice from NALC (the National Association of Local Councils) and councillor interests (Pecuniary and Other Registerable Interests). The NALC response is as follows:

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Brie

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Sent: 19 December 2024 10:41

To: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>

Cc: STC Councillors <STCCouncillorsNEW@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>; Shaftesbury Town Council Office <office@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Mampitts Advisory Committee - Member Selection

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It is thanks to me and the residents in the ML CLT that a community facility is due to happen at Mampitts Lane at all. Not STC.

Left to STC we'd have a BMX track and a road through the community land to the adjacent fields that Cllr Proctor (mates of Cllrs Brown, Chase, Hollingshead, Edwyn-Jones) secretly bought in 2018 / 19 along with Langdale Farm and failed to declare, and on which he wants to build 20 luxury houses but needs an access road.

The fact that STC cobbled together an ill thought out and unwanted design in 2022 that destroys the Eastern Development's green space / village green in front of the trees and blocks the views of the countryside, is down to STC and certain councillors who set out to sabotage the CLT's excellent design proposal (supported by a petition of 720 local adults and children to Dorset council) is disgusting and has contributed greatly to the total lack of respect residents have for STC.

Why are you not informing all the councillors of the numerous Councillors who are predetermined and have major conflicts of interests and should not be involved at all ?

Chase, Brown, Hollingshead, Edwyn-Jones, Wild, Loader? All of who either voted not to support the residents excellent scheme and s106 application then in 2021 (cllr Wild was not on the council then) or have been part of the Mampitts Advisory/Sabotage Committee that ignored the residents wishes and came up with a unwanted and ill-thought-out scheme that destroys their village green with a car park and 2 story hall of poor design that blocks the views of the countryside and all of which has no petitioned support and ignored all objections?

Why are you not pointing out that limiting the number of councillors and setting up a ridiculous online vote to enable pre-determined councillors to fix which councillors can be on a working group continues to make STC a laughing stock and an is highly improper and exclusive?

As everyone will have notice, anything said in June 2024 about it being a new council with a new ethos and new profession ways of working simply is not true. It's the same old highly improper and dysfunctional STC.

Regards,

Councillor Peter Yeo
East Ward
Shaftesbury Town Council
Tel 07879490893

On 19 Dec 2024, at 09:34, Brie Logan <brielogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk> wrote:

Good morning all

865

The email below, sent last night was recalled due to an accessibility issue. Therefore the system has been updated and a [new link](#) is provided so that the survey can be accessed by all.

Before completing the survey, please read through the following statement.

Councillor Yeo has officially declared an interest in relation to the Mampitts project and this is shown on the Dorset Council register of interests. As such, when selecting the committee membership, it is important for all councillors to consider this conflict of interest. While the advisory committee does not make decisions, the concept of 'apparent bias' in public law is well-established within the local government legal framework. This ensures transparency and maintains public trust in our processes.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
Main 01747 852420
Direct 01747 859342
Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

<image004.png>

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♣ Consider the environment before you print this email.

From: Sybille Maddock
Sent: 18 December 2024 17:01
To: STC Councillors <STCCouncillorsNEW@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Mampitts Advisory Committee - Member Selection

Dear All,

Following the resolution at Full Council last night, please follow the link below to select the four members you wish to see as part of the Mampitts Advisory Committee.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ahkJHv4cNA>

Deadline for responses is 2nd January 2025 at 12noon.

Many Thanks
Kind regards

Billy

B 6 5

Sybilie Maddock
Assistant Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
Main 01747 852420
Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

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APPENDIX E

From Cllr Peter Yeo

Shaftesbury Town Council

Thursday 25 Sept 2025

Dear Ms Dolley,

Further to our meeting on Thursday 11th Sept 25, as promised here is the statement I referred to in the meeting which you will need to incorporate in to your report:

Written Statement – Councillor Peter Yeo

Code of Conduct Complaints COM/8299, COM/8319, COM/8380

- 1 For clarity, the Shaftesbury Town Council (STC) agendas cited in these complaints (17 December 2024 and 11 March 2025) did not involve the Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO in any way.
- 2 Both items were solely about **Shaftesbury Town Council's own procurement process** for the Mampitts Hub project—specifically, **selecting an architect**. The discussion and debate focused on the **bids and responses from architects**, and **not** on the CIO's role or any application from the Trust (because there was not any).
- 3 The **CIO was not a party** to those Town Council decisions, had **no contract** or financial relationship with the Town Council in this matter, and did **not stand to benefit pecuniarily or otherwise** from the architect selection.
- 4 My participation in these STC Full Council meetings was therefore not related to a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** or any **Other Registerable Interest** under the Code. I declared my trusteeship of the CIO on the Register of Interests and acted in good faith, representing residents' concerns about the Town Council's process. I remain committed to following clear guidance and ensuring public confidence in Shaftesbury Town Council decision-making.
- 5 The attached 18 October 2024 Letter from Dorset Council to STC explains that STC have been awarded all the S106 funding (and not The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO). Town Clerk Brie Logan and all Cllr Hollingshead knew this to be the case on 17 December 2024 and on 11 March 2025, so both knew that what they were stating in those Full Council meetings regarding me allegedly having a conflict of interest was false and was unfounded.
- 6 The other attached letter from Mr Mike Garrity (Head of Planning at Dorset Council) from 26 August 2025 shows that there has been no change to the Dorset Council October 2024

decision that the s106 funding allocation is to Shaftesbury Town Council (STC) and that he is recommending that there will not be any change of that decision.

7 As you will see from the STC agendas (and minutes) and be able to acknowledge for both the 17 December 2024 and the 11 March 2025 STC Full Council meetings, there were no agenda item relating to The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO nor to the possibility of the CIO being awarded anything.

8 Town Clerk Brie Logan read out a December 2024 email from Jonathan Mair (Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer) which confirmed that my involvement as an unpaid trustee of The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO (MLCLT CIO) was an 'Other Registerable Interest' (and not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest). Mrs Logan failed to explain to councillors and the public that as the agenda item did not relate to anything being awarded to the MLCLT CIO and was instead to do with architect selection, that I had every right to speak and to fully take part in the meeting and represent the electorate that elected me. Instead, it seems that Mrs Logan intention of reading out the monitoring Officers confirmation of 'Other Registerable Interest' was to mislead and negatively influenced councillors and the public to think I should not take part in that agenda item despite it not relating to the MLCLT CIO. Mrs Logan had every reason to try and silence me on this agenda item as she had unlawfully submitted to Dorset Council the s106 application (that has resulted in Dorset Council awarding the £876,000 of s106 money to STC for their unpopular 'Mampitts Hub' project) without her ever telling STC councillors that DC had asked her if STC wanted to submit an s106 application and without its design or the contents of her s106 application being shown, debated, agreed to be submitted, or ratified by councillors, as it was never put on a Full Council agenda by her.

9 Cllr Hollingshead (who has no legal qualification or remit to give a legal opinion whatsoever) also read out a totally inapplicable text which falsely and maliciously claimed it would be criminal for me to take part in the meeting. Town Clerk Mrs Brie Logan should have immediately cautioned him that he was not legally qualified and had no right to state his incorrect view.

10 The 17 December 2024 STC Full Council agenda item related to tendering for architectural services and 11 March 2025 STC Full Council agenda item was to select an architect for STC, **not** to award anything to the MLCLT CIO.

11 Cllr Hollingshead's clear intent was to mislead and mis-inform STC Cllrs and the public to discredit and undermine me so that I could not represent the residents who elected me to represent them, residents who are strongly against the STC scheme to destroy *their* Mampitts Green open space (which is still owned by Persimmon Homes and will be transferred to Dorset Council) by building STC's poorly designed Proctor Watt Cole Rutter architects (PWCR) two story 'Hub' and dangerous car parking all over it, despite the residents' strong protests.

- 12 Both I and my legal team are therefore extremely surprised that no one in your team at Dorset Council vetted Cllr Andrew Hollingshead's malicious and vexatious Code of Conduct complaints upon receipt and established all of the above undisputable facts.
- 13 Had they done so, they would have ascertained that that these Code of Conduct complaints were unfounded, vexatious, and malicious submitted with malintent as they did not involve the Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO nor any s106 funds being allocated to this CIO (of which I am a trustee). A Charity trustee is an unpaid role by its very nature and Hollingshead know this being a trustee of another charity.
- 14 Consequently, these two Code of Conduct Complaints should have been dismissed at the initial vetting point (as should Councillor Hollingshead's third Code of Conduct Complaint)
- 15 It is very concerning that no one at Dorset Council seems to have yet noted the fact that all three Code of Conduct Complaints are made by Cllr Andrew Hollingshead and that no one else anywhere in the entire universe thought fit to make any Code of Conduct complaints against me. The residents who re-elected me at the ballot box obviously have no complaints regard my conduct or me representing them.
- 16 Cllr Hollinshead has a long-standing record of harassing both myself and Cllr Karen Tippins (who served as an STC Cllr from Dec 2019 to May 2024 but did not stand for re-election in 2024). Cllr Hollinshead's motives for making these Code of Conduct complaints are politically and maliciously motivated and are part of his long history of harassing any councillor who wants Shaftesbury Town Council to be operated in a professional, open, and transparent manner in accordance with the Nolan Principles.
- 17 It is severely disappointing that Dorset Council have so far allowed Cllr Hollinghead to continue this campaign of harassment against me (and previously against Cllr Karen Tippins when she was a Cllr) totally unchecked. He is deliberately abusing the Code of Conduct process for his own malicious and vengeful purposes.
- 18 Cllr Hollingshead has a personal vendetta against myself as I have repeatedly stood up to his bullying of myself and that of Cllr Karen Tippins during the last six years and he obviously does not like that.
- 19 Cllr Hollinghead held and chaired an unlawful STC 'Human Resources' meeting on Monday 10 Feb 2020. It was unlawful because the committee met to discuss Cllr Karen Tippins in her absence with the then Town Clerk. The 'Harvey Versus Ledbury Town Council' case (won by Cllr Harvey) demonstrated that this to be unlawful at great cost to the Ledbury tax payer.
- 20 Cllr Tippins and I attended this mysterious meeting of the STC HR committee convened at short notice to be on a Monday morning at 0800hrs.
- 21 Cllr Hollingshead attempted to intimidate us and bully us to leave the town hall and then phoned 999 and lied to the Police claiming we were causing a 'breach of the peace', when we were not, we were quietly sitting there as Councillors to observe the unlawful proceedings. I

had publicised that I was recording the meeting and the recording proves that Hollinshead lied to the police (you may have a copy if you wish). This mis-use of the Police 999 service and wasting of Police time by Cllr Hollingshead caused the police to be 'crashed out' with two Police cars to arrest Cllr Tippins and I at the Town Hall. Cllr Tippins and I wanted to greet the Police and tell them about the unlawful proceedings that morning, however after waiting 35 minutes for them to turn up we had to go to other engagements and we didn't get the chance. We phoned up the officer who had attended the town hall and requested to be interviewed but he refused. Cllr Hollingshead's appalling conduct that day was reported to the BBC. When the BBC telephoned Cllr Hollingshead he also lied to the BBC reporter about the events and claimed he had "called 101" but Police records showed the BBC reporter that it was a '999' call and that Hollingshead lied to the BBC about that too. Dorset Police reference 10 Feb 2020 '10-061' in case you wish to confirm this.

- 22 Hollingshead was reported by me to Dorset Police on '101' on 14 Feb 2020 to the Police for harassing me as a citizen and in my duties as a Councillor, one of which is to ensure proper lawful governance occurs in STC.
- 23 Cllr Tippins made a Code of Conduct complaint to Dorset Council about Cllr Hollingshead's severely harassing and blatantly unlawful use of the 999 service to harass myself and Cllr Tippins and yet incredibly Jonathan Mair, Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer, dismissed Cllr Tippin's Code of Conduct Complaint claiming it was 'tit for tat' when it was no such thing, thus giving Hollingshead a licence to continue his harassment of any councillor who, like myself in these three Full Council meetings, stands up for wanting proper governance in STC.
- 24 Cllr Hollingshead was also instrumental in launching the unpopular STC 'Mampitts Hub' Scheme to rival the residents' existing, highly developed and well-liked scheme for Mampitts Green, despite him not living anywhere near it and him knowing that the local residents do not want the STC Scheme.
- 25 Cllr Hollingshead also knows full well that the STC rival scheme for Mampitts Green has been unlawfully progressed on three counts by STC.
- 26 Because of the unlawful progression of the STC scheme by STC, Dorset Council should never have selected STC for the allocation of s106 funding and this should now immediately be withdrawn by Dorset Council.
- 27 The first reason that this scheme has been unlawfully progressed by STC is the fact that the nomination of and contracting of Architects 'Proctor, Watt, Cole and Rutter' (PWCR) as the architects to design the STC proposal and submit the STC Planning Application was not advertising on the Government Contracts tendering website as was required due to its high cost. Instead, the contract was unlawfully awarded to Proctor, Watt, Cole, Rutter (PWCR) Architects without competition and whilst PWCR founder, Cllr Anthony Philip Proctor (a friend of Hollingshead's) was an STC councillor. (Cllr Proctor did not stand for re-election in

May 2024, but remains friends with Cllr Hollingshead and the other problem STC councillors).

28 Secondly, the Planning Application submitted to DC by former STC Town Clerk Brie Logan in late March 2024 was unlawfully submitted by her as the design was never shown to all councillors and was never put on an STC Full Council Agenda for debate, was never voted upon so was never ratified by STC Full Council. Mrs Brie Logan submitted the Planning Application with no lawful authority to do so, but did so knowing that certain Cllrs, including her friend Cllr Hollingshead, wanted her to.

29 Thirdly, the s106 Application that application submitted to Dorset Council by former STC Town Clerk Brie Logan in summer 2024 was also unlawfully submitted by her. In Summer 2024 she never even told the Full Council that DC had enquired as to whether STC wanted to submit an s106 application or not. She by-passed all democratic process, did not inform councillors, failed to put the Dorset Council request on an STC Full Council Agenda and then, with no authority whatsoever to do so, she submitted an s106 application that no Cllrs or the public had a say in as it was never on a Full Council Agenda. It was never debated and never voted for. STC Full Council Agendas and minutes prove this, the agenda and items and resolutions simply do not exist. Dorset Council awarded s106 funds to STC based upon this invalid and unlawfully submitted STC s106 application. Again, Cllr Hollingshead is perfectly happy with this unlawful course of action and is annoyed that I keep publicly stating it - another one of his malicious motives for submitting these vexatious Code of Conduct complaints against me.

30 Hollingshead was one of the only three people in The World, all West Ward STC Councillors (who no one voted for), who attended the Dorset Council Northern Area Planning Committee on 01 Oct 2024 to support this very poor and unwanted STC scheme's Planning Application for East Shaftesbury. No one from East Shaftesbury, nor anyone else, supported this planning application at this meeting, there were numerous objectors present and three (the maximum allowed) spoke against it.

31 As for the third Code of Conduct Complaint, as I stated in our 'MS Teams' meeting interview on Thursday 11th Sept 2025, it should be *me* making Code of Conduct Complaints against all those fourteen STC Cllrs involved as it was *they* who brought Shaftesbury Town Council in to disrepute in the 18 March 2024 Full Council meeting. Cllr Andrew Hollingshead (who made this Code of Conduct complaint against me) is one of the councillors who voted to unlawfully use against me a Standing Order that exists only to be used against unruly members of the public who are disrupting a council meeting, an Order which is blatantly not to be used against an elected representative of the electorate that other councillors wish to cancel and silence. (As explained to STC by my specialist solicitor in 2020).

32 Hollinshead was one of the gang of Cllrs on 18 March 2024 who deliberately talked over me when it was my turn and right to speak unopposed for three minutes on the procedure for

selecting a new Town Clerk. I did not gang up and talk over them in the same manner when they spoke. I obviously could not, I am just one councillor. They did so with the deliberate intent of stopping the public from hearing the truth of the highly improper procedure used to make Brie Logan town clerk and why this process must not be repeated (it was repeated and the new clerk they selected lasted just 56 days in post).

33 Cllr Greg Williams had no right to propose that Standing Order 2a was used against me, it is an order that is only for use against disruptive members of the public in a meeting. I was an elected councillor who was behaving entirely within his rights as an elected representative of the electorate.

34 The meeting Chairman, Cllr Alexander Chase, should have informed Cllr Greg Williams that this would be an unlawful use of a standing order against a Councillors that is only for use against unruly members of the public, but no, Chase then unlawfully proposed and voted to use Standing Orders 2B against me again. His close friend, Cllr Piers Brown, then unlawfully Seconded the proposal. (Both Brown and Chase are close friends with Cllr Andrew Hollingshead and they all took parts in the previous unlawfully uses Standing Order 2B against myself and Cllr Karen Tippins in 2020).

Extract from the minutes of the STC Full Council meeting of 18th March 2024:

FC142 To consider the recruitment process for the role of Town Clerk

Officer report 0325FC7 was received and noted.

Cllr Williams called SO 2a against Cllr Yeo.

Cllr Dibben left the meeting at 8.26pm.

Cllr Chase called SO 2b and a vote was taken to exclude Cllr Yeo from the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Chase		
Seconded by Cllr Brown		
In Favour	14	Cllrs Chase, Edwyn-Jones, Barratt, Brown, Dibben, Elmendorff, Heritage, Hollingshead, Loader, Philpott, Salkeld, Smith, Williams and Wild
Against	1	Cllr Yeo
Abstentions	0	
MOTION CARRIED		

Cllr Yeo refused to leave the meeting and therefore, at 8.27pm the meeting was adjourned for 10mins.

Cllr Edwyn-Jones left the meeting at 8.27pm.

The meeting recommenced at 8.39pm.

Cllr Yeo was asked to confirm the moderation of his behaviour.

35 The minutes fail to state that Cllr Lester Dibben talked over me as he left the meeting to go to another meeting. They also fail to state that neither the chairman nor the councillors have any right to exclude me from the meeting or request me to leave a Full Council meeting. Neither do they state that Cllr Williams has no right to propose that Standing Order 2a, an

order that is only for use against disruptive member of the public in the meeting is used against an elected councillor who is behaving entirely within his rights as an elected representative of the electorate.

(Standing Order 2a: DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT MEETINGS. No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If this standing order is ignored, the chairman of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct).

36

Standing Order 2B

DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT MEETINGS: No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If this standing order is ignored, the chairman of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct. 6 b If person(s) disregard the request of the chairman of the meeting to moderate or improve their conduct, any councillor or the chairman of the meeting may move that the person be no longer heard or be excluded from the meeting. The motion, if seconded, shall be put to the vote without discussion. c If a resolution made under standing order 2(b) is ignored, the chairman of the meeting may take further reasonable steps to restore order or to progress the meeting. This may include temporarily suspending or closing the meeting.

The use of this standing order against a councillor is unlawful and is a very serious perversion of democracy. It is an Order that was created solely for use against members of the public.

37

These fourteen STC councillors totally failed to comply with the council's Code of Conduct:

Particularly – *"Importantly, we should be able to undertake our role as a councillor without being intimidated, abused, bullied, or threatened by anyone, including the general public.*

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions: • I act with integrity and honesty • I act lawfully • I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and • I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

And:

General Conduct 1. Respect As a councillor: 1.1. 1.2. I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

38

As you will see from the attached 08 Dec 2020 legal letter to STC Town Clerk Claire Commons, my specialist solicitor explained the unlawfulness of STC using Standing Orders 2A and 2B against a councillor (it is a Standing order for use against members of the Public

disrupting a meeting) and that it is unlawful to suspend or eject a Councillor from a Full Council Meeting. The actions of Cllr Chase on 18 March 2025 using standing Order 2B against me when I was being improperly interrupted during my three minutes to speak was unlawful and perverse. He, the other councillors and the Town Clerk Brie Logan (who failed to ensure lawful governance) brought Shaftesbury Town Council in to disrepute, not me. Cllr Williams first proposed the unlawful use of Standing Order 2A. Then integrity-less STC Councillors then went along with the highly improper use of standing order 2B to prevent my free speech and prevent the public hearing the highly improper selection procedure conducted for the selection of Brie Logan as town clerk in 2022 and what had gone on within STC then or that this highly improper procedure must not be repeated in the then imminent recruitment of a new Town Clerk.

39 This unlawful misuse of Standing Orders against me is however standard practice by a certain group of Councillors in Shaftesbury Town Council, and of course Town Clerk Brie Logan never intervened to stop it and thus once again left Shaftesbury Town Council open to being sued by me as this unlawful conduct of council business, by the misuse of standing orders to exclude a Councillors, has already been proven as being totally unlawful by the 'Harvey versus Ledbury Town Council' case and which is case law.

40 The Chairman of this 18 March 2025 meeting was Councillor Alexander Chase who is a close friend of Cllr Hollingshead and also Cllr Proctor (Proctor was still a Cllr then). Cllr Chase was having extension work done on his house at this time which was designed by Proctor Watt Cole Rutter architects. Cllr Alex Chase mis-used his position of Mayor and meeting Chairman to unlawfully mis-use standing orders against me and to allow the councillors in the cabal to talk over me without reprimanding any of them.

41 Instead of disciplining those councillors for deliberately talking over me to try and make sure I was not heard, The Chairman, Cllr Alexander Chase (a member of the cabal and therefore totally biased and well versed in this disgusting course of action as they have repeatedly used it against me and Cllr Tippins when she was a councillor) totally failed to reprimand the problem councillors (his friends) and instead mis-used standing orders to try and make out that I had done something wrong and got the council to vote that I was not heard and suspended the meeting for ten minutes.

42 I was proved to be totally correct for stating my concerns of improper recruitment procedure as the same HR Advisor was used in 2025 as in 2022 and Cllr Edwyn-Jones was again on a Town Clerk selection panel of only three councillors. Incredibly this team selected a total unqualified candidate over a fully qualified and highly experienced town clerk and this has already ended in disaster with the 'new' Town Clerk leaving after 56 days in post.

43 Cllr Hollingshead is one of the cabal of Cllrs who are responsible for making STC a dysfunctional, toxic Council, which is disrespected by many Shaftesbury residents. Their conduct is what caused this meeting to be a minor 'news' story on the total unregulated

'This is Alfred' (Shaftesbury 'news') Facebook page and STC subsidised 'Alfred' local radio station.

44 Despite it being against the law to do so, STC gave £2,000 to Mr Keri Jones towards operating his radio station and Town Clerk Brie Logan also used Council Tax to pay for leafleting all of Shaftesbury to promote the 'This is Alfred' Facebook site, which again is not a lawful use of STC Council Tax and was all voted through by Cllr Hollingshead and other councillors in the cabal during the previous council's tenure.

45 My acceptance of Office is attached. Nowhere on this does it state that I have to do Code of Conduct Training. I note from the STC website that out of 15 STC councillors only two have done this training. If it was compulsory, DC or STC would surely have laid on a course for all councillors to attend and sent invites stating it was compulsory. As I stated in your interview of Thursday 11 September 2025, I fully understand the requirements of the Code of Conduct guidance and I have not broken it in relation to these three code of conduct complaints.

46 It should be clear to you from this statement that Cllr Andrew Hollingshead, the only person to make any code of conduct complaints against me regarding these meetings, made these complaints vexatiously, maliciously, vengefully and with malintent towards me and that he has an abusive behaviour that has so far been totally unchecked by Dorset Council.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Yeo

Cllr Peter Yeo

Shaftesbury Town Council, East Ward

Brie Logan – Town Clerk
Shaftesbury Town Council
The Town Hall
High Street
Shaftesbury
SP7 8LY

Date: 18th October 2024

Ref: Mampitts Green s106

Officer: Andrew Galpin



RE: Allocation of S106 developer contribution funding – Mampitts Green, Shaftesbury

Dear Brie

As you will be aware, on Tuesday 15th October 2024, Dorset Council Cabinet supported a recommendation to conditionally award £876,278 of section 106 developer contribution funding to Shaftesbury Town Council for the purposes of building, operating, and eventually owning a Community Hub and associated facilities on the area of land known as Mampitts Green, Shaftesbury. The award relates to the application for funding you submitted on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council on the 14th August 2024.

As set out in the officer report to Cabinet, the award is conditional, and I detail these below:

- **Timescale Conditions** – (1) to provide all the additional information required though condition within 6 months of the Cabinet decision. (2) To commence work on-site no later than 12 months from the date of Cabinet decision, subject to land transfer. Failure to meet this condition would require the funding offer to be revisited by Dorset Council.
- **Operating Plan Condition** - a detailed long term operating plan must be submitted and accepted by Dorset Council.
- **Project Costings and Project Delivery Plan Condition** - final project costings and a copy of contract(s) with builders/contractors must be submitted to Dorset Council before they are signed. In addition, a updated project delivery plan with realistic and achievable timeframes is submitted.
- **Ringfenced Bank Account for Community Hall Condition** - evidence must be provided to Dorset Council to demonstrate that a dedicated bank account for all community hall related financial activity has been set up to manage the project. In addition, copies of annual financial updates and auditors reports will be required where undertaken. This is to ensure that funds received are managed and monitored appropriately.
- **External Funding Grant Applications Condition** - evidence of grant applications for external funding and/or evidence of research and contact with potential grant funding organisations must be submitted to Dorset Council.
- **Evidence of Engagement with Community Groups** – evidence that the awarded party has engaged with local community groups to find out the level of interest in using the community hall on a regular basis. For example, a list of groups who have been contacted with copies of responses.
- **Contingency Budget Condition** - the contingency budget element of the S106 funds will remain with Dorset Council and will only be transferred if required and only

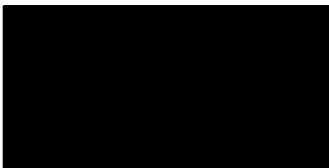
the amount required at the time. Evidence of the increase in costs above the initial estimate will also be required before additional funds will be transferred.

- **Land ownership condition** – Dorset Council will own the land while the proposal is built and will continue to own the land for a period of 3 years following the date of project completion in order to monitor operational performance. Should the operational performance reach a level to be agreed by Dorset Council, ownership of the land will be transferred to the awarded party.

These conditions will form part of a bespoke deed or equivalent agreement between Dorset Council and Shaftesbury Town Council, to be agreed prior to the release of funding. The deed will be consistent with the requirements of the approved s106 protocol for planning obligation funding allocations. This will ensure further safeguards and necessary assurances are put in place for stages involving the release of land or funding, adding confidence to the successful achievability of the project.

Given the timeframe set out in the timescale condition, I will seek to arrange an initial meeting with yourself and colleagues as appropriate to discuss the assessment, associated conditions, protocol requirements, and joint working arrangements on this project. I will pick these arrangements up separately over email.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Galpin
Infrastructure and Delivery Planning Manager

Sarah Smith – Town Clerk
Shaftesbury Town Council
The Town Hall, High Street
Shaftesbury, Dorset
SP7 8LY

Date: 26/08/2025**Ref:** Mampitts Lane**Officer:** Michael Garrity

VIA EMAIL

Email: sarahsmith@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

Dear Sarah,

RE: Mampitts Hub, Shaftesbury

As you will be aware, the decision by Dorset Council on 15th October 2024 to award s106 funding for the Mampitts Hub project was subject to conditions. The report recommendation provided me with delegation to appraise further information required by the conditions in consultation with the Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Planning.

Colleagues have appraised the information submitted to Dorset Council on 18th July and I have been briefed on the findings and the subsequent meeting which took place between DC Officers, the Cabinet Member [and Portfolio Holder] for Planning, and STC representatives, on 11th August. I write to inform you of my position, having sought legal advice on the parameters of the Cabinet decision.

Timescale condition (para 6.7) required: (1) to provide all the additional information required though condition within 6 months of the Cabinet decision; and (2) To commence work on-site no later than 12 months from the date of Cabinet decision, subject to land transfer. Failure to meet this condition would require the funding offer to be revisited by Dorset Council.

It is clear from the appraisal that despite progress across all conditions, most are only partially met. I understand that the meeting held on 11th August provided an opportunity to explain progress and receive feedback from DC officers on the risks associated with key conditions, e.g. the budget position and contingency/fall back. I understand that the Town Council expressed a wish for DC to consider extending the commencement of work milestone by approximately 1 month to allow more time to prepare necessary information.

Given the current position on progress with several key conditions, and the implication this has on project progress and commencement, I have sought advice from Legal Services on the interpretation of the Cabinet decision and associated conditions. That advice confirms that, whilst delegation exists to consider the material submitted to meet the condition, it does not enable any authorisation to change to the actual conditions, milestones, or funding amount (except for any interest added to the funding amount, that would be standard practice in s106 award).

Therefore, I have been advised that the matter should be returned to Cabinet with a report updating Cabinet Members on progress with the project, seeking a decision to extend the timescale condition milestone. Given the risks associated with the budget position, it has been recommended that the Cabinet report clarifies the position around early financial drawdown, in order to provide an agreed position on this. Importantly, the report would not re-open the principle of choosing the funding award recipient.

The next opportunity to take a report to Cabinet will be its meeting on 9th October. In the light of this resulting in a delay to confirming Dorset Council's position and any associated cash flow/draw down decision, both myself and Cllr. Shane Bartlett recognise the importance of continued dialogue to progress this project in a timely and successful manner, subject to any decision by Dorset Council's Cabinet.

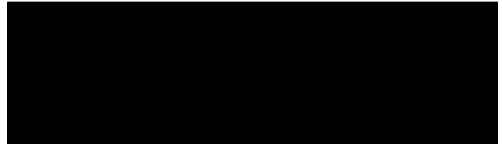
Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Michael Garrity.

Michael Garrity
Corporate Director for Planning
Place

FREETHS

Mrs Commons
Town Clerk & RFO
Shaftesbury Town Council
Town Hall
Shaftesbury
Dorset
SP7 8LY



8 December 2020

Our Ref: 

By Email

Dear Mrs Commons

Having previously written to you on the 22 July 2020 and 31 July 2020, this is now the third time I am having to write to you on behalf of my client, Councillor Peter Yeo, regarding the improper and ultra vires manner in which you as Town Clerk and Proper Officer are allowing Shaftesbury Town Council to operate towards him (and also towards Cllr Karen Tippins).

In spite of previous correspondence, nothing seems to have been done to stop the unfair, improper and unlawful treatment that Cllr Yeo (and also Cllr Tippins) are subjected to by Shaftesbury Town Council.

My instructions are that you have now ejected and barred Cllr Yeo, three times from official Full Council 'Video Telephone Conferencing' meetings, ie:

1. Firstly from the 7th July 2020 Full Council meeting (and its 13th July 2020 continuation meeting by means of informing him that all resolutions made in the initial meeting still stood)
2. From the 29th Sept 2020 meeting (where you also ejected Cllr Tippins after she asked you a question).
3. Most recently from the 2nd November 2020 Full Council meeting.

In addition to those 'ejections', as the meeting video shows on 2nd June 2020, you, following the Chair's instructions, muted Cllr Yeo's microphone and switched off his camera during this Full Council 'Zoom' meeting which was the improper and malicious 'Vote of No Confidence in Cllr Karen Tippins' meeting. On this occasion, due to you following Cllr Cook's instruction to mute and hide him from view, Cllr Yeo was prevented from making correct 'Points of Order'. This resulted in a large number of unfounded, defamatory and slanderous remarks being made about Cllr Tippins, which went unchallenged and uncorrected by Cllr Yeo, thus preventing him from carrying out his democratic rights and duties in this meeting.

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That you did this on 2nd June 2020 (and the other occasions of 'ejection') is somewhat illogical as you personally sent an email on 9th April 2020 to all councillors informing them of the legal requisites of operating Town Council meetings via Video Telephone Conferencing under the new Regulations (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, along with two NALC documents - [a legal briefing note](#) on NALC's interpretation of the regulations and practical guidance for local councils on [how to hold effective remote council meetings](#), which clearly states that Councillors must be able to be seen and heard by the public at all times, and yet you as Proper Officer have not ensured adherence to the law whatsoever.

In addition to the three Full Council "Zoom" meetings you have ejected Cllr Yeo from against his will, you have also ejected him from a sub-committee meeting where he was pointing out that an item of Full Council business that he had requested to be put on to a Full Council agenda had been put on to this sub-committee's agenda by yourself and was being resolved by this sub-committee (that he was not even part of), thus excluding four of the elected councillors from the decision making process of the Council!

It has been clearly explained to you in my two previous letters that these ejections and the barring of Councillors from Full Council Meetings, in a seemingly routine fashion because a group of Councillors express views that the majority does not approve of, is unlawful and is a totally improper use of a standing order (2B). This is intended for use against unruly members of the public only. Councillor Yeo has done nothing more than to request for a meeting or council business to be conducted in a correct and proper manner and for his rights of attendance to be respected.

Having now also viewed the recent Shaftesbury Town Council Full Council Meetings of 29 Sept 2020 and 03 November 2020 it is clear that the Town Council have still not taken notice of the requirements of British and European Law explained to you in my previous two legal letters, in particular the obligations of Free Expression contained within the European Convention on Human Rights. Instead it seems that you bizarrely think that this law and case law, such as the 'Harvey v Ledbury' case law, does not apply to Shaftesbury Town Council.

It is appalling to see in the video evidence I have viewed, that instead of you stepping in to ensure that Shaftesbury Town Council is operated within the law and within the basic principles of democracy i.e. an elected member cannot be deprived of their democratic right to vote and represent the people – that you stand by silently and allow these appalling instances of bullying and improper procedure and ejection to occur.

This does not occur in the Houses of Parliament but yet you seem to think it acceptable in Shaftesbury Town Council. The way that Shaftesbury Town Council misuses a "scheme of delegation" in order to by-pass the scrutiny and the democratic vote of the Full Council is yet another example of the "intentions of Parliament" being wilfully ignored by you and your Council.

Instead of intervening and conducting your role and duties of 'Proper Officer' to ensure that Shaftesbury Town Council operates lawfully, you are allowing councillors who are merely chairing these meetings (Cllr Hollingshead, Cllr Chase and Cllr Cook) to hold improper and unlawful votes in these meetings to eject fellow Councillors (Cllr Yeo and Cllr Tippins) because they do not like that Cllr Yeo (or Cllr Tippins) have highlighted improper council procedures, such as the minutes of meetings being fabricated, filibustering to prevent agenda points being debated and resolved, or Full Council business being resolved by sub-committees that have no right to do this.

When, at the last Full Council meeting on 2nd Nov 2020 Cllr Yeo was highlighting that the minutes of the previous meeting (that were up for adoption) were not a true and lawful record of that meeting, (they misleadingly state that Cllr Tippins and then Cllr Yeo merely “left the meeting” rather than ‘were ejected from the meeting against their wills by means of unlawful misuse of standing order 2B), that firstly you as Proper Officer did not even respond to Cllr Yeo’s questions to you on this subject and then you did nothing to stop Cllr Hollingshead interjecting with his threats to sanction Cllr Yeo which was soon followed up by Cllr Hollingshead putting his threat in to action and enabling another vote improperly using Standing Order 2B to eject Cllr Yeo from the Full Council meeting. This is not “democracy in action” as Cllr Hollingshead perversely announced in the meeting and in the local press. This is unlawful.

Cllr Hollingshead, we are instructed, seems to think he is the legally responsible person within Shaftesbury Town Council, (when he is not), and that ‘what he says goes’, when it absolutely does not. You will understand that any Councillor is only “primus inter pares”, even when sitting as chair. He has no right to intimidate, threaten, bully or sanction other councillors. He has no special powers to decree what is a breach of the ‘code of conduct’ and he has no remit to justify ejection of a fellow councillor from any meeting.

We believe that these issues should have been pointed out to Cllr Hollingshead in this public meeting, for his benefit and for that of the other councillors and the public and for the benefit of raising the reputation of Shaftesbury Town Council. Cllr Yeo even reminded you of my two legal letters explaining the law to you, highlighting again that it was unlawful to vote to eject him and asked you to intervene, but alas, you did not.

Cllr Yeo and Cllr Tippins are elected councillors and it is their right and duty to be in Council meetings and to ask questions and scrutinise Town Council proceedings and to request proper governance and most importantly, to be able to vote.

As you have so far not acted to moderate or bring the council’s conduct within its jurisdiction, I must point out yet again that, under Localism Act 2011 requirements, Shaftesbury Town Council does not have any right or remit to sanction councillors or to deprive and councillors of their legal right to vote, as has repeatedly occurred here.

Due to the fact that you have ejected Cllr Yeo (and Cllr Tippins) from numerous Full Council meetings, every subsequent vote and resolution made in every one of those meetings can be regarded as unsound and unlawful and in our view should be re-taken in a Future Full Council meeting that you do not eject them from, in order that democracy can take place and so that these votes can become legally binding.

You are currently operating a council where the constitution of every Sub-committee can be regarded as legally unsound because firstly Cllr Tippins and then Cllr Yeo were ejected from the Annual Meeting (29 Sept 2020) where their composition was voted on. Incredibly Cllr Yeo and Cllr Tippins are now excluded from all four of Shaftesbury Town Council’s sub-committees while some other councillors are on up to four of them.

In order to address some of these serious failings and breaches of proper governance, can you please urgently confirm that you will take the extensive and urgent remedial action that is required and facilitate a re-vote upon the composition of each individual sub-committee and to re-vote upon every other improperly made Full Council resolution, in a future Full

Council meeting that Cllr Yeo and Cllr Tippins are not ejected from such that they can properly carry out their role?

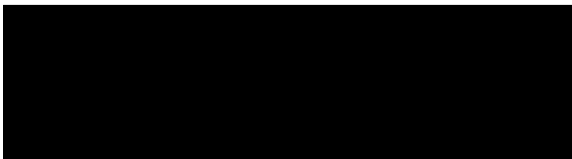
Can you please also write and inform me of what other urgent steps you will be taking to bring Shaftesbury Town Council (perhaps with guidance from the County association or external legal advice) within correct and proper governance;

- (a) To reconsider advising the Council how it should represent political balance in committee representation
- (b) Not to eject or mute Councillors who may express views that others disagree with in an unlawful manner

You will understand that there are further steps that could be considered and my client's rights are reserved. Equally if you are willing to propose an alternative way forward then this would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

This letter is approved but unsigned as it is sent electronically.



Appendix F

Comments on draft report submitted on behalf of Cllr Peter Yeo with comments on them made by Investigating Officer in red ink

Paragraph 5: Disrepute

Councillor Yeo disagrees with the Investigators' finding at page 12 of the report that he is in breach of paragraph 5 of the Code.

The Local Government Association Guidance on the Model Code of Conduct (LGA Guidance) is clear that a councillor's right to freedom of expression must be considered when making findings of disrepute. The draft report fails to appropriately address this as it does not engage with any of the authorities which map out how Article 10 should be considered.

1. Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) states:

"1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.

2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

2. Freedom of expression is protected more strongly in the context of political speech. A wide degree of tolerance is accorded, and this enhanced protection applies to all levels of politics, including local government.

Jerusalem v Austria (2003) 37 EHHR 25

"In this respect the court recalls that while freedom of expression is important for everybody, it is especially so for an elected representative of the people. He or she represents the electorate, draws attention to its pre-occupations and defends its interests. Accordingly, interference with the freedom of expression of an opposition member of parliament, like the applicant, call for the closest scrutiny on the part of the court."

3. Political expression is a broad concept.

Heesom v Public Services Ombudsman for Wales [2014] EWHC 1504

"Article 10 protects not only the substance of what is said, but also the form in which it is conveyed. Therefore, in the political context, a degree of the immoderate, offensive, shocking, disturbing, exaggerated, provocative, polemical, colourful,

emotive, non-rational and aggressive, that would not be acceptable outside that context, is tolerated.

...

The protection goes to 'political expression'; but that is a broad concept in this context. It is not limited to expressions of or critiques of political views, but rather extends to all matters of public administration and public concern including comments about the adequacy or inadequacy of performance of public duties by others. The cases are careful not unduly to restrict the concept; although gratuitous personal comments do not fall within it."

4. There are three questions which should be considered when dealing with Article 10.

Sanders v Kingston (No.1) [2005] EWHC 1145 (Admin)

"1. Was the Case Tribunal entitled as a matter of fact to conclude that Councillor Sanders conduct was in breach of paragraph 2(b) [respect] and/or paragraph 4 [disrepute] of the Code of Conduct?

2. If so, was the finding in itself or the imposition of a sanction prima facie a breach of Article 10?

3. If so, was the restriction involved one which was justified by reason of the requirements of Article 10(2)?"

Councillor Yeo's comments on the Town Council proposals are political and therefore, they attract the higher protection afforded to political expression.

A finding of a breach of the Code of Conduct is an interference with Article 10 rights. Where an interference is not proportionate, it is a violation of Article 10. In *R (Robinson) v Buckinghamshire Council* [2021] EWHC 2014 (Admin), Councillor Robinson made comments at a public meeting *"which called into question and misrepresented the motivation, intentions and integrity of other parish councillors regarding development of Green Belt land in the parish"* which resulted in public backlash and the integrity of the Chair and Clerk being questioned. The Deputy Monitoring Officer concluded that he had brought the Parish Council and the role of Councillor into disrepute. However, the Court held that this finding was a breach of Councillor Robinson's Article 10 rights:

R (Robinson) v Buckinghamshire Council [2021] EWHC 2014 (Admin)

"In re-making the decision under Article 10(2), I conclude that the interference did not fulfil a pressing social need, and nor was it proportionate to the aim of protecting the reputation of the other councillors. As an elected councillor, taking part in a public meeting called by the PC to discuss the Green Belt, the Claimant was entitled to the enhanced protection afforded to the expression of political opinions on matters of public interest, and the benefits of freedom of expression in a political context outweighed the need to protect the reputation of the other councillors against public criticism, notwithstanding that the criticism was found to be a misrepresentation, untruthful, and offensive. Although no further action was pursued against the Claimant, beyond recommending that he apologise, it was a violation of Article 10 to subject the Claimant to the complaints procedure, and to find him guilty of a breach of the PC Code."

There are clear parallels between Councillor Robinson's case, and Councillor Yeo's. Councillor Yeo is entitled to scrutinise and express disagreement with the Town Council's proposals; it is fundamental to his role as an elected representative. The content of his comments is not a breach of the Code of Conduct on a proper application of his Article 10 rights.

We refer also to the former Adjudication Panel for England decision APE 0399 – Capon, which we consider to be analogous. The Councillor made comments about the Town Clerk at a Parish meeting, saying that an Officer found her *"difficult to get on with"*. The Councillor added that *"this is also the view of many town's people who say that when they try to contact the town clerk, she is downright rude to them"*. The Panel considered that the threshold for a failure to treat another with respect has to be set at a level that allows for the passion and frustration that often accompanies political debate and the discussion of the efficient running of a Council. It should also be set within the context of who was involved in the exchange. In this case, the comments were opinions of other individuals which the Councillor honestly believed to be true. The Councillor's conduct was not unfair, unreasonable or demeaning to the Town Clerk, and the comments were not made in a malicious or bullying manner. The Town Clerk was very experienced in her dealings with Councillors and given her seniority, was entirely able to defend her position. The Panel decided that the threshold was not met.

With regards to the fact that Councillor Yeo allegedly engaged in conduct disruptive to the meeting separate to the content of his comments (i.e. interrupting other Councillors), the LGA Guidance is clear that *"the misconduct will need to be sufficient to damage the reputation of the councillor's role or local authority, as opposed simply to damaging the reputation of the individual concerned."* Councillor Yeo interrupting other Councillors and not sitting down cannot reasonably be said to have brought his role or the Town Council into disrepute. It does not have any bearing on the ability of Councillor Yeo, nor the Town Council, to fulfil their respective roles. It is conduct that can only reasonably be regarded as having a potential impact on Councillor Yeo's reputation as an individual, and it is clear that this is not sufficient for a finding of disrepute.

In formulating my conclusion in relation to the allegation that Cllr Yeo's conduct breached paragraph 5 of the Code I considered the impact of Article 10 of the ECHR and I read various source materials including the LGA Guidance on the Model Code of Conduct referred to above and the relevant case law. The Guidance acknowledges that councillors are given enhanced protection but also states that the right to freedom of expression is not unrestricted, and states that the rights of the individual must be balanced against the interests of society. I did not consider it necessary for the report to contain detailed analysis of the various cases, all of which as well as mentioning the applicable principles were decided on their specific facts, and it is noted too that the comments above do not refer to cases that were decided differently. Based on the matters set out in the section of the report headed 'Findings' I concluded that Cllr Yeo's behaviour went beyond conduct that could reasonably be afforded the enhanced protection of Article 10 and brought both his and his authority's roles into disrepute, and that remains my view. I am of the opinion that by speaking in the manner and making the allegations described in paragraphs 14.4 and 15.8 and 15.9 above,

including that some of his fellow councillors lacked integrity and that the Town Clerk had acted improperly (effectively allegations of misconduct in public office), the conduct both adversely affected the reputation of the Town Council's councillors and reduced public confidence in it being able to fulfil its functions and duties.

Paragraph 9: Declaration of Interests

Councillor Yeo disagrees with the Investigators' finding at page 14 of the report that he is in breach of paragraph 9 of the Code.

Appendix B of Shaftsbury Town Council's Code of Conduct states the following about declaring an other registrable interest (ORI):

"6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation." (Our emphasis).

For a matter to be directly related to an ORI, it must be specifically and immediately *about the interest itself*. This is distinct from the situation where a matter *affects* an ORI, and the LGA Guidance is clear on this point:

*"What is the difference between 'relates to' and 'affects'?
Something relates to your interest if it is directly about it.
'Affects' means the matter is not directly about that interest but nevertheless the matter has clear implications for the interest."*

The meaning of directly related is further demonstrated by the examples given in the LGA Guidance of situations in which an ORI would be directly related to a matter:

- Awarding/withdrawing grant funding to a body of which you are a member
- Granting planning permission to a body of which you are a member

In drawing the conclusion that Councillor Yeo has breached paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct, the draft report demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of this important distinction, stating:

"the Town Council proposal and the CIO proposal are in opposition to one another; there is only one site for the Mampitts Hub project and one developer contribution funding payment – if one proposal goes ahead the other will not."

"Every decision taken by the Town Council to progress the Town Council proposal will inevitably relate to Cllr Yeo's other registerable interest (his being a trustee of the CIO) within the meaning of paragraph 6 of Appendix B of the Code, because constructing the community facility in accordance with the Town Council proposal will mean that the CIO proposal will not be brought to fruition."

Councillor Yeo's ORI is that he is a trustee of the Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO. The matters discussed at the meetings were:

1. *"to receive an update on the Mampitts Hub Architect Tender process"*
2. *"to consider the appointment of the Mampitts Architect"*.

It is clear that neither matter was about the proposals of the CIO.

Whilst it is true that the Town Council's proposal and the CIO's proposal are in opposition to one another, the fact that progression of the Town Council's proposal prevents the fruition of the CIO's proposal and that Councillor Yeo has objections to the Town Council's proposals does not mean the matters discussed are directly related to the ORI on a proper construction of the phrase. Clearly Councillor Yeo's ORI is not *directly* related to the matters discussed at the two meetings; they merely *affect* it.

The provisions in the Code of Conduct which deal with the disclosure and declaration of matters affecting an interest are as follows:

"8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects –
a. your own financial interest or well-being;
b. a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or
c. a body included in those you need to declare under Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
you must disclose the interest.

9. Where the matter affects the financial interest or well-being:
a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest
you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to declare the nature of the interest."

It is evident that paragraphs 8a, 8b and 8c of Appendix B do not apply. An update on the tender process and the appointment of an architect are not matters which affect any interest which is Councillor Yeo's own financial interest or wellbeing, or that of a friend, relative or close associate, and the CIO is not a body needing to be declared under disclosable pecuniary interests.

Councillor Yeo therefore *cannot* be in breach of paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct, contrary to the conclusion of the draft report. He has not failed to register his interest, nor has he failed to correctly declare it. He was not required to withdraw from the meetings or seek a dispensation for them because his ORI does not directly relate to the matters dealt with at the meetings in questions.

The Findings section of the report describes in some detail the events at the two meetings. At both meetings Cllr Yeo himself sought to extend the discussion about the Mampitts Hub project beyond the items that appeared on the agendas and it was

clear to me that he was trying to frustrate the progress of the Town Council proposal and advance the desirability of the CIO proposal. The conclusions section of the report contained a detailed analysis of the provisions of Appendix B of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and set out the reasons why it is considered that a dispensation was required to enable Cllr Yeo lawfully to participate in the discussion and vote. It is not disputed that Cllr Yeo had both registered his involvement with the CIO as an other registerable interest and declared it at both meetings. The comments made on behalf of Cllr Yeo fail to mention the part of the LGA Guidance (p.81) that follows the part quoted, namely that in construing the meaning of the phrase 'affects the financial interest or well-being' (paragraph 9 of Appendix B), an interest can be taken to directly relate to an outside body where the authority is taking a decision which directly relates to the wellbeing of that organisation. An example is given of a councillor who is also on the committee of the local village hall and an application for a licence for another venue in the village is made which if granted might take business away from the village hall – in that case a reasonable person would believe that the councillor's view would be likely to be affected. It seemed to me when considering the complaint that this part of the Guidance was informative. The conclusion referenced also the correspondence that had previously taken place between the Town Clerk, Cllr Yeo and the Monitoring Officer about declaring interests and seeking dispensations. I therefore believe that my conclusion is well-founded.

Investigating Officer's further conclusions

The Investigating Officer's further conclusions set out at paragraphs 1 – 3 on page 16 of the draft report are either the expression of her personal views or comments on matters outside the scope of the investigation. Those paragraphs should be removed in their entirety.

The comments did not refer to Cllr Yeo and they did not seek to introduce into the Conclusion section of the report starting on page 12 of it, any matters outside the scope of the investigation into the complaints particularised on page 2 of the report.

Mary Dolley
Legal Services
Dorset Council
28 January 2026

Paragraph 5: Disrepute

Councillor Yeo disagrees with the Investigators' finding at page 12 of the report that he is in breach of paragraph 5 of the Code.

The Local Government Association Guidance on the Model Code of Conduct (**LGA Guidance**) is clear that a councillor's right to freedom of expression must be considered when making findings of disrepute. The report fails to appropriately address this as it does not engage with any of the authorities which map out how Article 10 should be considered.

1. Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

Article 10 ECHR states:

"1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.

2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

2. Political Speech

Freedom of expression is protected more strongly in the context of political speech. A wide degree of tolerance is accorded, and this enhanced protection applies to all levels of politics, including local government.

Jerusalem v Austria (2003) 37 EHHR 25

"In this respect the court recalls that while freedom of expression is important for everybody, it is especially so for an elected representative of the people. He or she represents the electorate, draws attention to its pre-occupations and defends its interests. Accordingly, interference with the freedom of expression of an opposition member of parliament, like the applicant, call for the closest scrutiny on the part of the court."

Political expression is a broad concept.

Heesom v Public Services Ombudsman for Wales [2014] EWHC 1504

“Article 10 protects not only the substance of what is said, but also the form in which it is conveyed. Therefore, in the political context, a degree of the immoderate, offensive, shocking, disturbing, exaggerated, provocative, polemical, colourful, emotive, non-rational and aggressive, that would not be acceptable outside that context, is tolerated.

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The protection goes to ‘political expression’; but that is a broad concept in this context. It is not limited to expressions of or critiques of political views, but rather extends to all matters of public administration and public concern including comments about the adequacy or inadequacy of performance of public duties by others. The cases are careful not unduly to restrict the concept; although gratuitous personal comments do not fall within it.”

3. Approach to Applying Article 10

There are three questions which should be considered when dealing with Article 10.

Sanders v Kingston (No.1) [2005] EWHC 1145 (Admin)

“1. Was the Case Tribunal entitled as a matter of fact to conclude that Councillor Sanders conduct was in breach of paragraph 2(b) [respect] and/or paragraph 4 [disrepute] of the Code of Conduct?

2. If so, was the finding in itself or the imposition of a sanction prima facie a breach of Article 10?

3. If so, was the restriction involved one which was justified by reason of the requirements of Article 10(2)?”

Councillor Yeo’s comments on the Town Council proposals are political and therefore, they attract the higher protection afforded to political expression.

4. Disproportionate Interference

A finding of a breach of the Code of Conduct is an interference with Article 10 rights. Where an interference is not proportionate, it is a violation of Article 10.

R (Robinson) v Buckinghamshire Council [2021] EWHC 2014 (Admin)

Councillor Robinson made comments at a public meeting *“which called into question and misrepresented the motivation, intentions and integrity of other parish councillors regarding development of Green Belt land in the parish”* and resulted in public backlash and the integrity of the Chair and Clerk being questioned. The Deputy Monitoring Officer concluded that he had brought the Parish Council and the role of councillor into disrepute.

However, the Court held that this finding was a breach of Councillor Robinson’s Article 10 rights:

“In re-making the decision under Article 10(2), I conclude that the interference did not fulfil a pressing social need, and nor was it proportionate to the aim of protecting the reputation of the other councillors. As an elected councillor, taking part in a public meeting called by the PC to discuss the Green Belt, the Claimant was entitled to the enhanced protection afforded to the expression of political opinions on matters of public interest, and the benefits of freedom of expression in a political context outweighed the need to protect the reputation of the other councillors against public criticism, notwithstanding that the criticism was found to be a misrepresentation, untruthful, and offensive. Although no further action was pursued against the Claimant, beyond recommending that he apologise, it was a violation of Article 10 to subject the Claimant to the complaints procedure, and to find him guilty of a breach of the PC Code.”

There are clear parallels between Councillor Robinson’s case, and Councillor Yeo’s. Councillor Yeo is entitled to scrutinise and express disagreement with the Town Council’s proposals; it is fundamental to his role as an elected representative. The content of his comments is not a breach of the Code of Conduct on a proper application of his Article 10 rights.

We refer also to the former Adjudication Panel for England decision APE 0399 – Capon, which we consider to be analogous. The Councillor made comments about the Town Clerk at a Parish meeting, saying that an Officer found her *“difficult to get on with”*. The Councillor added that *“this is also the view of many town’s people who say that when they try to contact the town clerk, she is downright rude to them”*. The Panel considered that the threshold for a failure to treat another with respect has to be set at a level that **allows for the passion and frustration** that often accompanies political debate and the discussion of the efficient running of a Council. It should also be set within the context of who was involved in the exchange. In this case, the comments were opinions of other individuals which the Councillor honestly believed to be true. The Councillor’s conduct was not unfair, unreasonable or demeaning to the Town Clerk, and the comments were not made in a malicious or bullying manner. The Town Clerk was very experienced in her dealings with Councillors and given her seniority, was entirely able to defend her position. The Panel decided that the threshold was not met.

With regards to the fact that Councillor Yeo allegedly engaged in conduct disruptive to the meeting separate to the content of his comments (i.e. interrupting other Councillors), the LGA Guidance is clear that *“the misconduct will need to be sufficient to damage the reputation of the councillor’s role or local authority, as opposed simply to damaging the reputation of the individual concerned.”* Councillor Yeo interrupting other Councillors and not sitting down cannot reasonably be said to have brought his role or the Town Council into disrepute. It does not have any bearing on the ability of Councillor Yeo, nor the Town Council, to fulfil their

respective roles. It is conduct that can only reasonably be regarded as having a potential impact on Councillor Yeo's reputation as an individual, and it is clear that this is not sufficient for a finding of disrepute.

Paragraph 9: Declaration of Interests

Councillor Yeo disagrees with the Investigators' finding at page 14 of the report that he is in breach of paragraph 9 of the Code.

Appendix B of Shaftsbury Town Council's Code of Conduct states the following about declaring an other registrable interest (**ORI**):

*"6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation."*
(emphasis added)

For a matter to be directly related to an ORI, it must be specifically and immediately about the interest itself. This is distinct from the situation where a matter *affects* an ORI, and the LGA Guidance is clear on this point:

*"What is the difference between 'relates to' and 'affects'?
Something relates to your interest if it is directly about it.
'Affects' means the matter is not directly about that interest but nevertheless the matter has clear implications for the interest."*

As the Investigating Officer pointed out in her response to these comments made on the draft report, the LGA Guidance also states that *"an interest 'directly relates' to an outside body where the local authority is taking a decision which directly relates to the funding or wellbeing of that organisation"*.

The examples given in the LGA Guidance for such situations are:

- Awarding/withdrawing grant funding to a body of which you are a member.
- Granting planning permission to a body of which you are a member.

Councillor Yeo's ORI is that he is a trustee of the Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO. The matters discussed at the meetings were in relation to the Town Council's plans for a community hub:

- 17 December 2024: *"to receive an update on the Mampitts Hub Architect Tender process"*
- 11 March 2025: *"to consider the appointment of the Mampitts Architect"*.

It is plainly evident that neither of these matters are *directly about* the funding or wellbeing of the CIO (as is required by the definition of ‘directly relates’).

In regards to matters that merely *affect* an ORI, Appendix B states:

*“8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects –
a. your own financial interest or well-being;
b. a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or
c. a body included in those you need to declare under Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
you must disclose the interest.*

*9. Where the matter affects the financial interest or well-being:
a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest
you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a ‘sensitive interest’, you do not have to declare the nature of the interest.”*

It is evident that paragraphs 8a, 8b and 8c of Appendix B do not apply. Neither matter listed above are matters which affect any interest which is Councillor Yeo’s own financial interest or wellbeing, nor that of a friend, relative or close associate, and the CIO is not a body needing to be declared as a disclosable pecuniary interest.

With regard to paragraph 9 of Appendix B, the Investigating Officer has given the example of a councillor who is also on the committee of the local village hall and an application for a licence for another venue in the village is made which if granted might take business away from the village hall. Respectfully, this example does not map onto Councillor Yeo’s situation.

At the time of both meetings, the s106 funding had *already been awarded to the Town Council* (decision made by Dorset Council’s Cabinet on 15 October 2024). It was not the case that the CIO was still in competition with the Town Council to receive the funding, such that the appointment of an architect would affect the CIO’s chances of being awarded the funding. The Town Council tendering for an architect when they already secured the s106 funding does not affect the funding or wellbeing of the CIO. The Town Council considering the appointment of the architect when they already secured the s106 funding also does not affect the funding or wellbeing of the CIO.

In drawing the conclusion that Councillor Yeo has breached paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct, the report demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding, stating:

“the Town Council proposal and the CIO proposal are in opposition to one another; there is only one site for the Mampitts Hub project and one developer contribution funding payment – if one proposal goes ahead the other will not.”

“Every decision taken by the Town Council to progress the Town Council proposal will inevitably relate to Cllr Yeo’s other registerable interest (his being a trustee of the CIO) within the meaning of paragraph 6 of Appendix B of the Code, because constructing the community facility in accordance with the Town Council proposal will mean that the CIO proposal will not be brought to fruition.”

Further, in her comments, the Investigating Officer suggests that Councillor Yeo sought to extend discussions to advance the desirability of the CIO proposal. This is irrelevant. The matters which arose at the meetings – in relation to the architect – still do not directly relate to or affect the funding or wellbeing of the CIO.

Councillor Yeo therefore *cannot* be in breach of paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct, contrary to the conclusion of the report. He has not failed to register his interest, nor has he failed to correctly declare it. He was not required to withdraw from the meetings or seek a dispensation for them because his ORI does not directly relate to, and is not affected by, the matters dealt with at the meetings in questions.

Councillor Yeo also notes that the police carried out an inquiry into whether an offence had been committed under s34 of the Localism Act 2011 in relation to the declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests, and they have confirmed that no charges will be brought against him.

Investigating Officer’s Further Conclusions

It is regretful that the Investigating Officer has sought to imply that Councillor Yeo has acted in a manner which is not in the interests of the residents of Shaftesbury in her further conclusions set out on page 16 of the report.

Councillor Yeo has been resoundingly elected twice by the residents of East Shaftesbury (in 2019 and 2024). As a resident of Mampitts Lane area himself, he is well placed to understand the interests of local residents.

Councillor Yeo and five other East Shaftesbury residents founded the Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust (**the Trust**) in July 2020 and it is only because of that that there is going to be a community hub built on Mampitts Green at all. Upon his election in 2019, the Town Clerk briefed Councillor Yeo that, as per its Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council did not want a community hub at Mampitts Green and wanted to spend the s106 money elsewhere in Shaftesbury. Shaftesbury Town Council only launched a proposal in 2022 after the Trust had presented the Trust's own proposal for a community hub to the Town Council in September 2021 (as Dorset Council's s106 Officer directed them to).

This is one of many instances where Councillor Yeo has stood up for the residents' needs and wishes to their benefit.

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Dorset Council – Complaint No. COM8830

Investigation in respect of alleged breaches of the Shaftesbury Town Council Code of Conduct

Investigation undertaken by Mary Dolley Legal Services Dorset Council

Background

Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 requires relevant authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of the authority and, under section 28 of the Act, to have mechanisms in place to investigate allegations that a member has not complied with the Code of Conduct.

Following an initial review by the Complaints Team and having been reviewed by the Monitoring Officer and Dorset Council's Independent Person, complaint number COM8830 was referred for investigation on 21 May 2025.

Introduction

In order to be able to carry out an investigation of the complaint raised I viewed and listened to the following:

- The Councillor Code of Conduct (the Code) adopted by Shaftesbury Town Council (the Town Council) on 14 May 2024 (Appendix B.1)
- The Standing Orders of the Town Council (the Standing Orders) adopted by it on 14 May 2024 (Appendix B.2)
- The agenda for and the minutes of the Full Council meeting of the Town Council held on 18 March 2025 (Appendix B.3) and the audio recording of that meeting.
- A relevant post on the Facebook page of This is Alfred (Appendix B.4)
- Various emails from the Town Clerk to Cllr Yeo as listed in the table in Appendix B.5

To supplement the information provided to me and available in the public domain on the Town Council's website, I also met virtually with the following people in order to seek their comments on a number of issues:

- Cllr Andy Hollingshead (the complainant) – 19 August 2025 (virtual meeting on Teams) (Appendix C)
- Cllr Alex Chase – 14 August 2025 (virtual meeting on Teams) (Appendix D)
- Cllr Peter Yeo (the subject member) – 11 September 2025 (virtual meeting on Teams) (Appendix E)

A record of our discussions is attached at Appendices C, D and E. The records of the discussions with Cllr Hollingshead and Cllr Chase have been agreed with them. Cllr

Yeo has not agreed the record of the discussion with him. He has submitted a written statement which is attached at Appendix F. I remain of the view that the interview record at Appendix E is an accurate record of the interview. I have read Cllr Yeo's statement and to the extent that it is relevant to the investigation I am reporting on I have applied paragraph numbers to its text and commented on it in the section of this report headed 'Further Findings'.

Complaint No. COM8830

A complaint was received from Cllr Andy Hollingshead a member of Shaftesbury Town Council alleging that at a Full Council meeting of the Town Council held on 18 March 2025 the conduct of Councillor Yeo another member of the Town Council was such that Chair suspended the meeting for ten minutes pursuant to SO2, and that the altercation that gave rise to the suspension was publicised in the local media by means of the This is Alfred radio station and its related Facebook page. The complainant alleges breaches of paragraphs 1 and 5 of the Code.

The complaint is set out verbatim at Appendix A.

Undisputed facts

The undisputed facts relating to the complaint are:

1. A meeting of the Full Council of the Town Council ('the meeting') took place on 18 March 2025. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Alex Chase and commenced at approximately 7.00 pm. The first part of the meeting dealt with questions from members of the public and the formal business began at approximately 7.34 pm.
2. The Town Clerk having previously tendered her resignation it was necessary for a new one to be appointed to replace her. Item no 7 on the agenda for the meeting was headed 'To consider the recruitment process for the role of Town Clerk'. The item included a report that outlined a proposed course of action including the formation of a selection committee and sought approval from the Town Council to initiate the recruitment process.
3. Discussion of agenda item no 7 commenced at approximately 8.12 pm, the meeting was suspended by Cllr Chase in accordance with SO2(c) of the Standing Orders at approximately 8.27 pm and recommenced at approximately 8.39 pm. The discussion of Agenda item no 7 concluded at approximately 8.47pm.
4. On 19 March extracts from the meeting were broadcast by the This is Alfred local radio station as part of its Alfred Daily radio programme.
5. A video clip of part of the meeting was also posted by This is Alfred on its Facebook page. The video clip ran for approximately 54 seconds and showed the vote being taken and the meeting being adjourned pursuant to SO2.

Facts/statements not agreed

Cllr Yeo denies that he has acted in breach of the Code.

Findings

1. The Code was adopted on 14 May 2024. The paragraphs that are relevant to the complaint are:
 - 1.1. General principles of councillor conduct – to lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.
 - 1.2. Standards of councillor conduct:-
 - 1.2.1. Respect (paragraph 1.1) – to treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.
 - 1.2.2. Disrepute (paragraph 5) – not to bring the role or local authority into disrepute.
 - 1.2.3. Complying with the Code of Conduct (paragraph 8.1) – to undertake Code of Conduct training provided by the local authority.
2. The Standing Orders contain amongst other matters, provisions about the rules of debate at meetings (SO1), disorderly conduct at meetings (SO2), the conduct of meetings generally including arrangements for members of the public to address meetings and for meetings to be recorded (SO3), and motions at a meeting that do not require written notice (SO10).
3. Councillor Hollingshead's complaint relates to the conduct of Councillor Yeo at the meeting and in order to investigate the complaint and as well as reading the minutes of the meeting and interviewing the persons mentioned above, I watched the video recording of the meeting, listened to the relevant segment from the Alfred Daily broadcast on 19 March 2025 (see paragraphs 5.1 to 5.5 below) and looked at material posted by This is Alfred on its Facebook page on 18 March 2025 (see paragraph 5.6 below).
4. The complaint concerns the discussion of item no. 7 on the agenda for the meeting and:
 - 4.1. Agenda item 7 is headed 'To consider the recruitment process for the role of Town Clerk', and it comprised a brief report recording the resignation of the Town Clerk and containing proposals for the recruitment of a replacement, including five recommendations intended to be debated and subject to any amendments, put to a vote in order for a decision to be taken in the usual way.
 - 4.2. The discussion of agenda item 7 began approximately 1 hour and 12 minutes into the meeting and in accordance with standard procedure, Cllr Chase who was in the chair introduced the item. Having obtained Cllr Chase's permission to speak the complainant made some comments, asked a few questions and (amongst other things) made some suggestions regarding the formation of the selection committee referred to in the recommendations. Cllr Yeo, having got to his feet but not having requested permission to speak, interrupted the complainant and notwithstanding Cllr Chase's request to him to be quiet, objected to the complainant's suggestion regarding the selection committee, and asserted that the proposed procedure was another instance of the process being fixed as he claimed it had been in 2022 on the previous occasion when recruitment for a new Town Clerk took place. Cllr Yeo's tone was aggressive and confrontational and his criticism of the recruitment process and his fellow councillors' approach to it quickly became personal.

- 4.3. Cllr Williams raised a point of order under the procedure described in SO1(p) (which permits interruption to make a point of order) and invoked SO2(a), which states that no person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. Cllr Chase accordingly requested that Cllr Yeo moderate his conduct. Cllr Yeo remained on his feet and talked over Cllr Chase, stating that he was entitled to speak and that the use of SO2(a) was improper and an attempt by Cllr Williams to prevent free speech and democracy. Cllr Yeo made a jibe directed at Cllr Williams about his political affiliation. Cllr Yeo's behaviour was disrespectful and rude and fell far short of the standard of conduct described in paragraph 1 of the Code.
- 4.4. The discussion about the formation of the selection committee proceeded and having remained on his feet Cllr Yeo interrupted again, continuing to criticise the process when the Town Clerk post was previously recruited for, and stating that in his view it should be open to any councillor who wanted to, to be on the selection committee. Cllr Chase having specified the order in which those who wanted to speak were to do so in accordance with SO3(k), Cllrs Dibben, Smith, Brown, Philpott and Yeo spoke. When it was his turn to speak Cllr Yeo reiterated his dissatisfaction with the way in which the recruitment process had been dealt with in 2022 and described it as highly improper. Amongst other things he stated that he ought to have been permitted to participate in the interview process and that good candidates had been ruled out of the process for insufficient reason. He said that the current process was a joke and that it was not the way Town Council business should be done.
- 4.5. Cllr Yeo then proceeded to criticise Cllr Dibben, who had left the meeting having apologised to Cllr Chase, for being unprofessional and again to describe the way in which the current recruitment process was being dealt with as improper. He asserted that he had a right to speak for three minutes and said that Cllr Chase should have stopped Cllr Dibben from speaking while he was doing so.
- 4.6. In accordance with SO2(a) Cllr Chase again asked Cllr Yeo to moderate his conduct and when he did not do so, moved his exclusion from the meeting in accordance with SO2 (b). The motion to exclude was seconded and passed, the only person voting against it being Cllr Yeo. When he refused to leave the council chamber and continued to complain vociferously about the use of SO2 and what he said was the unprofessional behaviour of his fellow councillors, Cllr Chase suspended the business of the meeting for ten minutes pursuant to SO2(c). Cllr Yeo reiterated his view that all the councillors had made the Town Council into more of a joke than it already was, that membership of the selection committee should be open to anyone who wanted to be on it, that the process was improper and that Cllr Chase was unfit to be the Mayor of Shaftesbury. He continued to demand that he be allowed to speak for three minutes and stated that the chair of the meeting should not be allowed to stop him and that it was undemocratic if he was not permitted to do so. Having watched the recording of the meeting I find that Cllr Yeo in fact spoke for longer than three minutes and for longer than any of the other participants in the debate; in addition to the contribution he made at the invitation of the chair, he interrupted other councillors when they were speaking and made other uninvited interjections.
- 4.7. When the meeting reconvened at approximately 8.39 pm Cllr Chase again requested Cllr Yeo to moderate his conduct in accordance with SO2(a). Discussion of agenda item 7 concluded approximately 35 minutes after it

- began, including the ten-minute period during which the meeting was suspended.
- 4.8. The minutes of the meeting record that the report relating to the process for the recruitment of a new Town Clerk was received and noted. The minutes also record that the recommendations were debated and broadly accepted, all councillors present with the exception of Cllr Yeo voting in favour of them; Cllr Yeo voted against the motion.
- 4.9. I find that Cllr Yeo's conduct throughout the discussion of agenda item 7 fell far below that required of him by the Code.
5. The complaint refers also to the publicity afforded locally to the part of the meeting referred to in paragraph 4 above and:
- 5.1. I have viewed the website of This is Alfred [This is Alfred – Great Stories From Shaftesbury, The Vale And Chase](#) the local radio station referred to in Cllr Hollingshead's complaint. The home page states that This is Alfred is a not-for-profit community radio station broadcasting from Shaftesbury. The website also states that the Alfred Daily is a 60-minute radio programme for Shaftesbury and the surrounding area, which is broadcast 7 days a week.
- 5.2. This is Alfred Limited is a company incorporated pursuant to the Companies Acts which was formed in 2018 and is a private company limited by guarantee. Its registration number is 11724793 and the nature of its business is specified in the register at Companies House as radio broadcasting. It holds an Ofcom community radio station licence.
- 5.3. This is Alfred also has a presence on Facebook, its page being called 'Alfred – News from Shaftesbury' which has 11,000 followers [Facebook](#)
- 5.4. The Alfred Daily reported on the meeting both on its daily broadcast on 19 March 2025 and by posting a clip of the meeting on its Facebook page.
- 5.5. Using the 'Listen Again' facility on the This is Alfred website I accessed the Alfred Daily broadcast that aired on 19 March 2025. Coverage of the discussion of agenda item 7 commenced approximately 44 minutes and 40 seconds into the broadcast and finished at approximately 51 minutes and 3 seconds. The coverage included excerpts from the recording of the part of the meeting that dealt with Agenda item no. 7, interspersed with commentary. The coverage concluded with the presenter saying that as the recruitment process moved forward it would seem that whoever was appointed to the role of Town Clerk would need skills in conflict management and dealing with strong personalities.
- 5.6. Item no 4 in Appendix B includes a screenshot of the post on This is Alfred's Facebook page. The clip lasted for approximately 54 seconds and showed the vote being taken for the suspension of the meeting for ten minutes – see paragraph 5.6 above. The clip included Cllr Yeo's statements that his fellow councillors were behaving in a highly unprofessional way, that his fellow councillors were making the Town Council into more of a joke than it already was, and that Cllr Chase was unfit to be the Mayor of Shaftesbury. The text adjacent to the clip shows that 72 comments were applied to the post, and that it has been viewed 16,000 times. I have viewed some of the comments applied to the post by members of the public; many of them were critical of Cllr Yeo's conduct at the meeting.
6. I have also read five emails sent by the Town Clerk to Cllr Yeo (see Appendix B.5) some of them dating back to Cllr Yeo's previous term of office and all of which

referred to the need to observe the provisions of the Code and offered him support and guidance to enable him to do so and:-

- 6.1. The email of 20 July 2022 (B.5.1) referenced the Full Council meeting that had taken place the previous evening. Amongst other things the email reminded Cllr Yeo of various provisions contained in the Code including those relating to treating other councillors, members of the public and Town Council employees with respect. The email quoted verbatim from parts of the Code and recommended that Cllr Yeo ought to consider how he delivered his message and presented himself.
- 6.2. The email of 28 September 2022 (B.5.2) recorded that Cllr Yeo had not responded to the email of 22 July 2022. The email was sent in the aftermath of the Town Council meeting that had taken place the previous evening. The email urged Cllr Yeo to attend the Code training (also known as Standards in Public Life training) and offered four dates on which online training was available. The email referred also to the Civility and Respect pledge promoted by the National Association of Local Councils and to which the Town Council has subscribed and to the Town Council's own Dignity at Work policy, and the Good Councillors Guide which is also promoted by the NALC. When listening to the recording of the meeting I noted that at one point when Cllr Yeo was speaking he described the Civility and Respect pledge as 'the purely voluntary behaviour thing that you don't have to sign whatsoever', indicating to me his disregard and indeed disdain for such initiatives and for the need to abide by the Code and its associated standards of conduct.
- 6.3. The email of 20 October 2022 (B.5.3) recorded that Cllr Yeo had not responded to the email of 29 September 2022 and again referenced Cllr Yeo's unsatisfactory behaviour at a recent Town Council meeting, including the making of condescending comments, disrupting the meeting and his disrespectful attitude. The email reminded Cllr Yeo of the desirability of attending Code of Conduct training.
- 6.4. The email of 29 October 2022 (B.5.4) reiterated dates on which Code training could be made available to Cllr Yeo.
- 6.5. The email of 10 May 2024 (B.5.5) referred to a presentation that had been given the previous evening and Cllr Yeo's conduct at it and reiterated to him the need to abide by the Code, the Nolan Principles and Town Council policies.

I therefore find that Cllr Yeo has been aware at all material times of the existence of the Code and the need to abide by it, and that he has continued to disregard its provisions notwithstanding that his attention has been drawn to them and to the existence of materials that would have assisted him in understanding how he ought to conduct himself in order to meet public expectations, as described in the Joint Statement at the beginning of the Code.

Further Findings

7. I have read the paragraphs numbered 31 to 46 of Cllr Yeo's statement (Appendix E). (The paragraphs numbered 1 to 30 are dealt with in the report relating to the complaints numbered COM 8299 and COM 8319.)
8. As regards paragraphs 31 to 39 of the statement, for the reasons stated in paragraph 1 of the section of this report headed 'Conclusion' below I do not accept Cllr Yeo's contention that the use of SO2 at the meeting was unlawful or

inappropriate, nor that the conduct of any of his fellow councillors in using SO2 as they did was a breach of the Code. Nor do I find that the motive of any of the councillors concerned in doing so was improper.

9. As regards paragraphs 40 to 44 of the statement, Mr Proctor was not a councillor at the time of the meeting. During my investigation I have found no evidence of the existence of a cabal of councillors, nor that any group of councillors conspired to misuse the Standing Orders, take decisions unlawfully or to prevent Cllr Yeo from speaking at meetings provided that he did so within the scope of what is acceptable under the Code and the Standing Orders.
10. As regards paragraph 45 of Cllr Yeo's statement and for the reasons set out in paragraph 6 above, I do not accept that he was unaware of the need to undertake training about the Code. Indeed the contents of paragraph 45 are contradictory – if Cllr Yeo had fully understood the requirements of the Code as he states, he would be aware that Paragraph 8.1 of it requires him to undertake Code training provided by the Town Council and he would have responded positively to the emails particularised in Appendix B.5 rather than ignoring them as he seems to have done.
11. As regards paragraph 46 of Cllr Yeo's statement I have found nothing to support his allegation that Cllr Hollingshead's complaint is vexatious or malicious, nor that his behaviour towards Cllr Yeo at the meeting on 18 March 2025 and the meetings referred to in the report relating to the complaints numbered COM 8299 and COM 8319, was abusive.

Conclusion

On concluding my investigation, I am of the view that Cllr Yeo is in breach of the Code as follows:

1. As regards the General principles of councillor conduct that require a councillor to lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor and paragraph 1 of the Standards of councillor conduct that require a councillor to treat other councillors with respect:

Conclusion: I conclude that in my opinion Councillor Yeo is in breach of these provisions of the Code.

The Joint Statement at the beginning of the Code states that the role of councillor across all tiers of local government is a vital part of democracy and that it is important that councillors can be held accountable and adopt the behaviours and responsibilities associated with the role. It reminds councillors that their individual conduct affects the reputation of all councillors and that there is an individual and collective responsibility to meet the expectations of the public by maintaining high standards and demonstrating good conduct and by challenging behaviour which falls below expectations. The Statement concludes by stating that the Code has been designed to protect the Council's role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in local government.

The section of the Code headed 'General principles of councillor conduct' states that everyone in public office should uphold the Nolan Principles and sets out how councillors should act on all occasions. Paragraph 1 of the section of the Code headed 'Standards of councillor conduct' requires councillors to treat other

councillors with respect and the accompanying text states that respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour and speech, and that whilst debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy and councillors can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views and policies in a robust but civil manner, councillors should not subject individuals or organisations to personal attack.

The Guidance issued by the Local Government Association on its Model Councillor Code of Conduct, on which the Code is closely based, states that showing respect to others is fundamental to a civil society and that rude, offensive and disrespectful behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in its elected representatives. It goes on to explain that the key roles and responsibilities of councillors (representing and serving communities and taking decisions on their behalf) require councillors to interact and communicate effectively with others and that one means by which this is achieved is by attending local authority meetings, thereby needing to be able to interact with many different people with different or conflicting needs and points of view. The Guidance suggests that although councillors will at times engage in robust debate and may express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies, this ought to be done in a respectful way. Examples of respectful behaviour given in the Guidance include being polite and courteous, listening and paying attention to others, having consideration for other people's feelings and following protocols and rules. The Guidance explains that this can mean using appropriate language in meetings, allowing others time to speak without interruption during debates, focusing any criticism or challenge on ideas and policies rather than personalities or personal attributes and recognising the contribution of others to projects. Examples of disrespect include rude or angry outbursts at meetings, the use of inappropriate language in meetings, attempts to shame or humiliate others in public and fault-finding. The Guidance states that ongoing disrespectful behaviour can damage morale and ultimately create a toxic culture.

In my opinion whilst Cllr Yeo was entitled to express his views about the process to be adopted for recruiting and choosing a new Town Clerk, he ought to have done so politely rather than in the confrontational, accusatory and belligerent manner in which he did. On the first occasion when he spoke to the matter, he interrupted the complainant rather than seeking the permission of the Chair to speak, contrary to SO3 (i). His choice of language to describe his reservations about the proposed arrangements was unfortunate and at times intemperate and he conveyed his views rudely, aggressively and angrily. By continually describing his fellow councillors as unprofessional and stating that the process was improper, he was in my view demonstrating a lack of respect not only to them but also to the employees of the Town Council including the Town Clerk, who had done much work to bring the proposals for the recruitment process forward to the agenda. The way in which he behaved, which resulted in the meeting being suspended as described in paragraph 4 of the section above headed 'Findings' in my view fell a long way short of the standard of conduct required by the General principles of councillor conduct that requires a councillor on all occasions to treat all persons fairly and with respect, and paragraph 1 of the section of the Code headed 'General Conduct'.

During the interview summarised in Appendix E and in the statement he subsequently provided (Appendix F), Cllr Yeo asserted that if allowed by the Chair

to speak, he has the right at any Town Council meeting to speak uninterrupted to a particular agenda item or debate, for three minutes. I have read SO1(t) of the Standing Orders which states that except for motions moved under SO1(r), contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed three minutes without the consent of the chairman of the meeting. In my view SO1(t) does not permit a councillor to speak for three minutes in circumstances where their conduct and/or manner of speaking could reasonably be said to be obstructing the transaction of business or to amount to offensive or improper behaviour within the meaning of SO2(a). When called to account by reason of his interruptions and interjections, Cllr Yeo has asserted that it is his democratic right to speak, and whilst this is indeed the case his contributions must be made within the framework provided by the Code and the Standing Orders. The Town Council is a representative democracy to which all councillors are elected (or nominated if there are no more candidates than available seats). All members of the Town Council have the right to speak at meetings, in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Orders and Cllr Yeo has no greater right to do so than any of the other councillors.

Cllr Yeo has also contended in his Statement that SO2 was used improperly at the meeting and that it does not apply to councillors but rather only to members of the public. I do not agree with this interpretation. In cases where a provision in the Standing Orders applies only to councillors, the word 'councillor' is used; an example of this is found in SO1. In cases where a provision applies only to members of the public, the words 'member of the public' are used, as for instance in SO3(e). Moreover, paragraphs xii and xiii of SO10, which describes the procedure for dealing with motions at a meeting that do not require written notice, mirror SO2b in their use of language. SO10.xii uses the words 'to not hear further from a councillor or a member of the public' and SO10.xiii uses the words 'to exclude a councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct'. It is therefore clear to me that the use of the word 'person' in SO2 means that its provisions apply both to councillors and members of the public alike. I conclude also that the use of SO2 during the meeting was lawful, justified and proportionate in the circumstances.

2. As regards paragraph 5 of the section of the Code headed 'Standards of councillor conduct' that require a councillor not to bring their role or local authority into disrepute:

Conclusion: I conclude that Cllr Yeo is in breach of this provision of the Code.

The explanatory commentary about paragraph 5 states that councillors are trusted to make decisions on behalf of their community and their actions and behaviour are thus subject to greater scrutiny than those of ordinary members of the public, and that their actions may lower public confidence in theirs or their council's ability to discharge its functions. The commentary goes on to state that councillors may hold their council and fellow councillors to account and may constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the council, whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of the Code.

The LGA Guidance referred to in paragraph 1 above defines disrepute as a lack of good reputation or respectability. It states that a councillor's behaviour in office will bring their role into disrepute if the conduct could reasonably be regarded as either reducing the public's confidence in them being able to fulfil their role or adversely affecting the reputation of the authority's councillors in being able to fulfil their role. It goes on to state that conduct by a councillor which could reasonably be regarded as reducing public confidence in their local authority being able to fulfil its functions and duties, will bring the authority into disrepute. The Guidance states that making grossly unfair or patently untrue or unreasonable criticism of a councillor's authority in a public arena might well be regarded as bringing that authority into disrepute.

When challenging the procedural steps that his fellow councillors wanted to take in connection with the recruitment of a Town Clerk and as described in paragraph 1, Cllr Yeo repeatedly accused his fellow councillors of a lack of professionalism and of having made the Town Council into more of a joke than it already was. He also alleged that the recruitment process was improper. By making such allegations publicly and by doing so in the intemperate, provocative and exaggerated manner in which he did, and by using personal criticism, I am of the view that Cllr Yeo's conduct was intended to undermine the Town Council's reputation and was likely to lower the public's confidence in its ability to discharge its functions.

3. Although not part of the complaint, during the course of my investigation it has transpired that Cllr Yeo has not undertaken Code of Conduct training as required by the Code:

Conclusion: I conclude that Cllr Yeo is in breach of paragraph 8.1 of the Code.

When interviewing Cllr Yeo I asked him why he had not undertaken the standards (Code of Conduct) training required of all councillors and he told me that he was not aware that such training must be done (see para 4 of interview record in Appendix E). In light of the emails I have seen and to which I have referred in paragraph 6 of the section of this report headed 'Findings', I do not believe that Cllr Yeo was unaware of the requirement that he abide by the provisions of the Code, including paragraph 8.1 in the section headed 'Standards of councillor conduct' that refers to undertaking training about it.

Further conclusions

As to the coverage of the meeting by This is Alfred including the radio broadcast on 19 March and the video clip posted on its Facebook page, whilst councillors and members of the public are entitled to their own views about the media and how it reports on matters relating to the Town Council and its meetings, it is a reasonable expectation that councillors should be aware that their actions and words are likely to be scrutinised by the media and so brought to the attention of the public. The fourth of the Nolan principles of public life is that of accountability and states that holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this. Whilst the possibility of adverse media coverage cannot and should not prevent councillors from expressing their own opinions and the views of those they are elected to

represent, and on occasion participating in the taking of decisions that might not be universally popular, councillors ought to be mindful that their words and actions are likely to be publicised in the media and thereby subjected to a measure of comment that might not always be positive. It is therefore all the more necessary that they consider how their behaviour and the manner in which they express themselves are likely to be perceived, and that they moderate their words and conduct accordingly.

The complaint with which this report is concerned relates to events that occurred at a meeting where the process for the recruitment of a Town Clerk was discussed. The role of Town Clerk is an important one, encompassing a wide range of responsibilities that are crucial for the effective functioning of the Town Council – the Town Clerk serves as chief administrative officer of the Town Council having day-to-day oversight of a number of members of staff and handling a wide range of tasks such as managing meetings, record-keeping and ensuring compliance with local government regulations. The Town Clerk interacts with various stakeholders and provides advice and support to councillors. From an examination of the information on its website, the Town Council is responsible for the running of several facilities that are important to the residents of Shaftesbury. The importance of attracting and retaining a suitable person to serve as Town Clerk is therefore in my view critical. The Joint Statement at the beginning of the Code states that the conduct of individual councillors affects the reputation of all councillors and that the role of councillor ought to be one that people aspire to. The same principle applies in relation to those who work for the Town Council, and the quality of leadership required by the Code to be displayed by councillors ought to mean that the Town Council is, and is perceived as, an employer of choice.

Mary Dolley
Legal Services
Dorset Council
28 January 2026

Appendix A

COMPLAINT No. COM8830

At Full Council on Tuesday 18 March 2025 Cllr Yeo's conduct was such that SO 2 (b) (c) was breached and the chairman was forced to suspend the meeting for 10 minutes. The altercation was put on a local media outlet (This is Alfred) and at time of writing had in excess of 10,000 views and 63 comments.

The complainant alleges that Cllr Yeo thereby failed to comply with Respect, Disrepute and Code of Conduct clauses and requirements.

Appendix B

1. The Town Council's Code of Conduct [Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020](#)
2. The Town Council's Standing Orders [Standing-Orders-2025-05-20.pdf](#)
3. The Agenda and Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18 March 2025 [2025-03-18-Full-Council-Agenda-UPDATED.pdf](#) and [2025-03-18-Full-Council-Minutes-Approved.pdf](#)
4. Post on the Facebook page of This is Alfred [Video](#) | [Facebook](#)



5.

B.5.1	20 July 2022 - email from the Town Clerk to Cllr Yeo
B.5.2	28 September 2022 - email from the Town Clerk to Cllr Yeo
B.5.3	20 October 2022 - email from the Town Clerk to Cllr Yeo
B.5.4	29 October 2022 - email from the Town Clerk to Cllr Yeo
B.5.5	10 May 2024 - email from the Town Clerk to Cllr Yeo

Appendix C

Interview with Cllr Andy Hollingshead (Complainant)

1. I explained to Cllr Hollingshead that the purpose of the interview was to gather information to enable me fully to understand the background to the complaint I had been asked to investigate, so that I could formulate my report and any conclusions for consideration by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person and if necessary, by the Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee. I explained that the investigation is being undertaken in accordance with Dorset Council's Arrangements for dealing with Councillor Code of Conduct complaints and I advised him that the Arrangements could be accessed on Dorset Council's website. I advised Cllr Hollingshead that our interview was to remain confidential.
2. I asked Cllr Hollingshead to explain his understanding of the comments made by Cllr Yeo about the process adopted the last time a Town Clerk was being recruited

namely in 2022, Cllr Yeo having alleged that the process had been fixed. Cllr Hollingshead said that the background to Cllr Yeo's allegation is that as most councillors agreed that it was not feasible to have all of them involved in the detail of the selection and interview process, there was a consensus that a panel (informal committee) ought to be formed to consider the applications, interview the candidates and make a recommendation for appointment to a Full Council meeting. Cllr Hollingshead was one of the councillors who considered that only councillors who had subscribed to the civility and respect pledge promoted by the Society of Local Council Clerks and the National Association of Local Councils should be appointed to such panels, although this approach was not ultimately adopted by the Town Council. Cllr Hollingshead believes that Cllr Yeo's allegation that the minutes of the relevant meeting in 2022 at which this was discussed had been fabricated is born of his (Cllr Yeo's) belief that the minutes of Town Council meetings should be a word-for-word account of everything that is said by those who speak rather than a record of the decisions taken.

3. Cllr Hollingshead confirmed that Cllr Brown had seconded the motion introduced by Cllr Chase for the exclusion of Cllr Yeo from the 18 March meeting, pursuant to SO2(b).
4. Cllr Hollingshead had noted from This is Alfred's Facebook page that there had been in excess of 16,000 viewings of the clip posted on it relating to Cllr Yeo's behaviour at the 18 March meeting, and that the majority of the 72 people who had added comments to the post had been critical of Cllr Yeo's conduct.
5. Cllr Hollingshead has established that approximately 900 people had listened to the Alfred Daily broadcast on 19 March 2025, that included a six-minute segment reporting on the discussion of agenda item no 7 at the 18 March meeting.

Appendix D

Interview with Cllr Alex Chase

1. I explained to Cllr Chase that the purpose of the interview was to gather information to enable me fully to understand the background to the complaint I had been asked to investigate, so that I could formulate my report and any conclusions for consideration by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person and if necessary, by the Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee. I explained that the investigation is being undertaken in accordance with Dorset Council's Arrangements for dealing with Councillor Code of Conduct complaints and I advised him that the Arrangements could be accessed on Dorset Council's website. I advised Cllr Chase that our interview was to remain confidential.
2. I confirmed to Cllr Chase that the complaint relates to the events that occurred during the discussion of Agenda item no 7 at the 18 March 2025 Full Council meeting, and I explained that I had read the agenda and the minutes and viewed the video recording of the meeting.
3. Cllr Chase explained that Cllr Yeo has a history of interrupting speakers at meetings of the Town Council, and being rude to other councillors, officers and even members of the public who are present at meetings.
4. At the 18 March meeting, after Cllr Chase introduced item no 7 and went through the recommendations for which a vote was to be sought, Cllr Hollingshead made

various comments including in relation to the composition of the panel or committee that would be formed to interview candidates for the Town Clerk vacancy. Cllr Yeo interrupted and after he ignored Cllr Chase's attempt to ask him to wait, Cllr Williams stood up and invoked SO2(a).

5. Other councillors wished to speak as well, and Cllr Chase directed the order of speaking in accordance with SO3(k). When it was Cllr Yeo's turn to speak, he stated that the process was improper and spoke about his dissatisfaction with the recruitment process used when recruitment of a Town Clerk was previously undertaken in 2022. I asked Cllr Chase about the background to Cllr Yeo's allegation that the process had been fixed, and he stated that Cllr Yeo had not been on the panel of three councillors that had been constituted for the purpose of considering the applications for the post and interviewing the candidates. Cllr Chase said that after the recruitment process had been completed and a Town Clerk appointed it transpired that the panel had not been unanimous in its recommendation and that the panel member who had dissented was one with whose views Cllr Yeo frequently associated himself.
6. Cllr Chase told me that Cllr Yeo regularly expresses the view that smaller groups or panels of councillors should not be formed to take forward work on discrete aspects of particular projects in advance of discussion of them and decision taking at Full Council meetings, and that all councillors should have the right to participate in all discussions about them.
7. I asked Cllr Chase about the circumstances in which Cllr Dibben left the 18 March meeting before it ended. Cllr Chase explained that Cllr Dibben had been upset by Cllr Yeo's tone during the discussion of agenda item no 7 and his implicit accusation of malpractice and wrongdoing in relation to the appointment of the Town Clerk in 2022. Cllr Dibben apologised to Cllr Chase as he left the meeting.
8. I asked Cllr Chase to comment on the statement made by Cllr Yeo, that he (Cllr Chase) should never have been the Mayor of Shaftesbury. Cllr Chase explained that the role of Mayor is held by the councillor who is the Chair of the Town Council, and he thinks that Cllr Yeo's objection may be based on a belief on his part that his (Cllr Chase's) ability to chair Town Council meetings is poor. Cllr Chase told me that Cllr Yeo has expressed similar views about the chairing skills of previous Mayors.

Appendix E

Interview with Cllr Peter Yeo (Subject Member)

1. I introduced myself to Cllr Yeo and explained to him that the purpose of the interview was to gather information to enable me fully to understand the background to the complaints I had been asked to investigate, so that I could formulate my reports and any conclusions for consideration by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person and if necessary, by the Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee. I reminded him that the investigation is being undertaken in accordance with Dorset Council's Arrangements for dealing with Councillor Code of Conduct complaints details of which had been notified to him previously. I advised Cllr Yeo that our interview was to remain confidential.
2. I explained to Cllr Yeo that my request that he permit me to record the interview had been made in order to assist in the preparation of a written summary of it and

that the recording would be destroyed as soon as the summary had been agreed by both of us as an accurate record of what was said, in accordance with guidance issued by the Local Government Association. I confirmed that the recording would not be shared with any third party. Cllr Yeo remained unwilling for a recording to be made, and I confirmed that I would not make one. I also confirmed that he did not have my permission to make a recording either.

3. Cllr Yeo expressed concern that the required procedure for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints had not been followed. He said that he understood that the procedure had been altered earlier in the year and I confirmed that it had, and that he had been given details of the updated procedure. He said that he had not been provided with details of the Independent Person. I reminded him that he had received correspondence from me and others, most recently my email to him of 28 August 2025, advising him of the identity of the Independent Person and telling him that he was at liberty to contact them. I said that I would arrange for him to be sent Mr Powell's contact details, which I subsequently did by email dated 11 September 2025.
4. I advised Cllr Yeo that I had looked at his training record posted on Shaftesbury Town Council's website and noted that it indicated that he had not undertaken the Code of Conduct (Standards) training, and that I had obtained confirmation from the Town Clerk that according to her records this information is correct. I asked Cllr Yeo why he had not undertaken the training, and he said that he was not aware that he was required to do so. I reminded him that by signing the declaration of acceptance of office in the aftermath of having been elected to Shaftesbury Town Council, he became bound by Shaftesbury Town Council's Code of Conduct, and I directed him to the opening sentence in the section of it headed 'Application of the Code of Conduct'. Cllr Yeo asked me whether training about the Code of Conduct is compulsory, and I stated that it is; I directed him to paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2 of the section of the Code headed 'Complying with the Code of Conduct' and I advised him that I had seen emails sent to him by the Town Clerk reminding him of his obligations under the Code. Cllr Yeo said that he is [REDACTED] and works full time, that he was unaware that he is obliged to undertake training about the Code and that he considers that his conduct has been entirely proper.
5. I referred Cllr Yeo to paragraphs 1 (Respect), 5 (Disrepute) and 6 (Use of position) in the section of the Code of Conduct headed 'Standards of councillor conduct' these being the provisions cited in the complaint. I also referred him to the provisions of Standing Order 2 of the Town Council's Standing Orders that allow the Chairman of a council meeting to request moderation of conduct and to restore order, and Standing Order 3.k that allow the Chairman to dictate the order of speaking.
6. I asked Cllr Yeo to explain how he considered that his conduct during the discussion of agenda item no 7 at the Town Council meeting on 18 March 2025, complied with the obligations in the Code of Conduct, particularly those relating to treating others with respect and not bringing the role of councillor or the Town Council into disrepute.
7. Cllr Yeo stated that he was not surprised that the complainant has made a vexatious complaint. He (Cllr Yeo) said that he has the right to speak uninterrupted

for three minutes to agenda items at Town Council meetings and that the complainant did not want the councillors who had been newly elected in 2024 and members of the public to know how improper the candidate selection process had been when the position of Town Clerk had previously been recruited for in 2022. The complainant had shown him (Cllr Yeo) disrespect. The complainant is friendly with Cllr Chase who chaired the meeting and Cllr Chase showed bias in his conduct of the meeting. I reminded him that Cllr Chase had permitted six councillors including himself and the complainant, to speak to the matter of the recruitment process. Cllr Yeo said that Cllr Dibben had been allowed to interrupt and talk over him. Cllr Yeo reiterated that the recruitment process in 2022 had been illegal and that the complainant and the other councillors who had been involved in the process, did not want the public to know about it.

8. I asked Cllr Yeo whether he considered that it was acceptable for him to interrupt and speak over other councillors, and if so, why he felt that such behaviour is acceptable. Cllr Yeo stated that the complainant and other councillors had ganged up on him and that he should be making complaints about their conduct. He reiterated that the councillors who had been involved in the 2022 recruitment process did not want his views about how the current process ought to be undertaken to be heard because they did not like him speaking the truth.
9. I told Cllr Yeo that my attention had been drawn to the publicity about the 18 March meeting afforded by the Alfred Daily radio programme on the This is Alfred local radio station the following day and on its website and related Facebook page, and I asked him whether he considered that the report of the meeting that appeared on those facilities reflected well on the Town Council and its members. Cllr Yeo said that the journalist/reporter who is behind This is Alfred is a friend of the outgoing Town Clerk and some of the councillors including a gang of legacy councillors (those who had been members of the Town Council before the election in May 2024), who use social media as a weapon and who try and bully some of the other members off the Town Council. Cllr Yeo does not believe that This is Alfred offers an independent and unbiased view of matters on which it reports and understands that a number of complaints have been made about it to its regulator Ofcom.
10. I asked Cllr Yeo whether there was anything he wanted to add before the interview was concluded. He reiterated that he believed that the complainant's motive in making the complaints was malicious and that he had an axe to grind, going back to events at a committee meeting in 2020 that he (Cllr Yeo) considered was being held unlawfully.
11. I explained that the next step is for me to prepare a note of the interview, which I will aim to forward to him by the end of the coming week (19 September). I stated that I will aim to complete work on my draft report within the next four weeks after which it will go initially to the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person, then to Cllr Yeo and the complainant before being finalised and submitted to the Monitoring Officer for a decision to be made, in accordance with paragraphs 6.H and 6.I of the Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against Councillors.

Appendix F

Written statement submitted by Cllr Peter Yeo

Cllr Yeo's statement dated 25 September 2025 is attached.

Appendix G

**Comments on draft report submitted on behalf of Cllr Peter Yeo with
comments on them made by Investigating Officer in red ink**

CONFIDENTIAL

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Mary Dolley

From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 July 2022 14:19
To: pyeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk
Subject: Full Council 19th July 2022

Dear Peter

I am writing to you regarding the Full Council meeting last night.

I want to be able to understand how I can help you and in turn support STC to perform at its very best for the people of Shaftesbury.

As a councillor there is a requirement in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow councillors, STC officers and the reputation of local government.

I was hopeful that 2022 would give STC the opportunity to press the re-set button, put the past behind us and work towards being a council that can proactively deliver for the people of Shaftesbury. In my view we should not allow an experience like last night to reoccur and stall the progress we are making. I hope you don't mind me offering my views and I very much hope you will take this on board in the spirit that it is intended.

The general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct in my considered view was not met last night. It was most disappointing that our two new members of staff observed such aggressive, confrontational and disrespectful behaviour shown by yourself. Likewise, some new faces in the public gallery indicated they were aghast with the level of overt hostility and antagonistic behaviour in the Chamber. This is damaging the credibility of the council and also yourself as a councillor.

The Code of Conduct 2020 states that as a councillor:

1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

It is timely to remind you that the fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government. The council, as the corporate body, in the public's eyes, as displayed last night was dysfunctional. Each councillor has their own reasons for wanting to serve their community. A diverse range of people who have been democratically elected should provide STC with a solid platform to deliver great things for the community. It is therefore incredibly disappointing that the public, once again, experienced such a hostile and unprofessional meeting environment.

As the corporate body (as a group of 12) it is important to respect the viewpoints of others in a professional, courteous and respectful manner as per the Nolan Principles and code of Conduct as referenced below in italics. I note from your training records that you have not undertaken any councillor training. As per the Digest, I would further recommend you undertake the one-hour DAPTC Code of Conduct training session so you can learn more about the expected levels of behaviour of a councillor.

Excerpt from the Code of Conduct:

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- *I act with integrity and honesty*

- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

In undertaking my role:

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person
- I avoid conflicts of interest • I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.

This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when:

- you misuse your position as a councillor
- Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a councillor; The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:
 - at face-to-face meetings
 - at online or telephone meetings
 - in written communication
 - in verbal communication
 - in non-verbal communication
 - in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments. You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a councillor.

You are able to hold the local authority and fellow councillors to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

All I am recommending that you do is to think about how you deliver the message and the way you present yourself as I fundamentally believe you could add so much more value if it was delivered in a constructive, non-confrontational and respectful manner.

To reiterate, I truly hope you will take this on board the in the spirit that it is intended.

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
 Town Clerk
 For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
 Main 01747 852420
 Direct 01747 859342
 Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk



♻️ Consider the environment before you print this email.

Mary Dolley

From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 September 2022 13:04
To: pyeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk
Subject: STC - Civility and Respect pledge

Dear Peter

In July 2022, following the Full Council meeting I provided you with constructive behavioural related feedback relating to the meeting, as described in the email below. Disappointingly I did not receive a response from you.

In August 2022 Shaftesbury Town Council RESOLVED to adopt the Civility and Respect pledge thus demonstrating commitment to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.

Intimidation, abuse, bullying and harassment of councillors, clerks and council staff, in person or online, is unacceptable, whether by councillors, clerks, council staff, or public members. This can prevent councils from functioning effectively, councillors from representing local people, discourage people from getting involved, including standing for election, and undermine public confidence and trust in local democracy.

I feel compelled to write to you following last night's meeting. The behaviour you chose to demonstrate fell short of the minimum standard expected. You directly contravened the [Dignity at Work Policy](#) where the expectation is that all councillors, officers and the public are polite and courteous when working for, and with the council. It is unacceptable in a public forum to present your views about my integrity and professionalism in such an aggressive and confrontational manner. If you would like to raise a formal complaint about my performance then the correct procedure is to manage this via the [Comments, Compliments and Complaints Protocol](#). Please refer to section 9 which outlines the process for managing complaints about a Council employee and Section 10 outlines the procedure.

I also feel it is appropriate and timely for you to review the [Good Councillors Guide 2018](#) to refresh your understanding of the guidance. I would like to draw your attention to page 38 which references: *You should keep contributions short and to the point; you probably don't enjoy listening to others who speak for too long. Always work through the chairman and try not to score points off fellow councillors. Never engage in personal attacks on others – however tempting.*

The expectation is that representatives of the council treat each other with respect and uphold the values of the code of conduct, equality opportunities policy, and all other policies and procedures set by the Council. There is an expectation to demonstrate respect by listening and paying attention to others, having consideration for other people's feelings, following protocols and rules, showing appreciation and thanks, and being kind and respectful to one and all.

To support you further, and as referenced again at last night's meeting, I am urging all councillors to attend the Standards in Public Life training session (formerly known as Code of Conduct). Please let the office know which one best suits your availability and we will book it with DAPTC on your behalf. Note; these sessions are held online via Zoom.

Monday	4 th October	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Tuesday	18 th October	5pm to 6pm
Tuesday	15 th November	5pm to 6pm
Tuesday	13 th December	6:30pm to 7:30pm

As a reminder, where councillors, clerk and chairman work together as a team they combine knowledge and skills to deliver real benefits to the community they serve. Good working relationships, mutual respect and an understanding of their different roles are vital. Conflict between these key players, especially during meetings in front of the press or public can damage the council.

Finally, following my email in July, I was hopeful that 2022 would give STC the opportunity to press the re-set button, put the past behind us and work towards being a council that can proactively deliver for the people of Shaftesbury. In my view we should not allow an experience like last night to reoccur and stall the progress we have been making.

I very much hope you will take this feedback on board in the spirit that it is intended.

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
Main 01747 852420
Direct 01747 859342
Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk



♣ Consider the environment before you print this email.

From: Brie Logan
Sent: 20 July 2022 14:19
To: Peter Yeo
Subject: Full Council 19th July 2022

Dear Peter

I am writing to you regarding the Full Council meeting last night.

I want to be able to understand how I can help you and in turn support STC to perform at its very best for the people of Shaftesbury.

As a councillor there is a requirement in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow councillors, STC officers and the reputation of local government.

I was hopeful that 2022 would give STC the opportunity to press the re-set button, put the past behind us and work towards being a council that can proactively deliver for the people of Shaftesbury. In my view we should not allow an experience like last night to reoccur and stall the progress we are making. I hope you don't mind me offering my views and I very much hope you will take this on board in the spirit that it is intended.

The general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct in my considered view was not met last night. It was most disappointing that our two new members of staff observed such aggressive, confrontational and disrespectful behaviour shown by yourself. Likewise, some new faces

in the public gallery indicated they were aghast with the level of overt hostility and antagonistic behaviour in the Chamber. This is damaging the credibility of the council and also yourself as a councillor.

The Code of Conduct 2020 states that as a councillor:

1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

It is timely to remind you that the fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government. The council, as the corporate body, in the public's eyes, as displayed last night was dysfunctional. Each councillor has their own reasons for wanting to serve their community. A diverse range of people who have been democratically elected should provide STC with a solid platform to deliver great things for the community. It is therefore incredibly disappointing that the public, once again, experienced such a hostile and unprofessional meeting environment.

As the corporate body (as a group of 12) it is important to respect the viewpoints of others in a professional, courteous and respectful manner as per the Nolan Principles and code of Conduct as referenced below in italics. I note from your training records that you have not undertaken any councillor training. As per the Digest, I would further recommend you undertake the one-hour DAPTC Code of Conduct training session so you can learn more about the expected levels of behaviour of a councillor.

Excerpt from the Code of Conduct:

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- *I act with integrity and honesty*
- *I act lawfully*
- *I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and*
- *I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.*

In undertaking my role:

- *I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community*
- *I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person*
- *I avoid conflicts of interest • I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and*
- *I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.*

This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when:

- *you misuse your position as a councillor*
- *Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a councillor; The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:*
- *at face-to-face meetings*
- *at online or telephone meetings*
- *in written communication*
- *in verbal communication*
- *in non-verbal communication*
- *in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments. You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a councillor.*

You are able to hold the local authority and fellow councillors to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

B 5 2

All I am recommending that you do is to think about how you deliver the message and the way you present yourself as I fundamentally believe you could add so much more value if it was delivered in a constructive, non-confrontational and respectful manner.

To reiterate, I truly hope you will take this on board in the spirit that it is intended.

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
Main 01747 852420
Direct 01747 859342
Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk



♣ Consider the environment before you print this email.

Mary Dolley

From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 October 2022 09:28
To: pyeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk
Subject: RE: STC - Civility and Respect pledge

Dear Peter

In July 2022 and September 2022, I wrote to you and provided you with constructive feedback to support you in your role of councillor at STC.

Disappointingly I have not had a response from you.

Once again, at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday evening, the behaviour you chose to demonstrate fell short of the minimum standard expected. You directly contravened the Dignity and Work policy and publicly dissed the Civility and Respect pledge that STC resolved to adopt in August 2022.

Condescending comments, disrupting meetings and a disrespectful attitude towards the chair, clerk and your fellow colleagues is having a detrimental effect on the efficiency of the meetings and the reputation of STC.

Whether you agree, support, or disagree, not support items of business being discussed then it is unacceptable to engage in personal attacks on your fellow councillors.

I urge you to commit to attending the Code of Conduct training so that you fully understand the importance of maintaining standards in public life. Like it or not you have a responsibility to maintain respectful behaviour that aligns to the expected councillor code of conduct standard. Your reputation as a councillor is at risk and I have a responsibility to help and guide you to perform in your role. Therefore, the following Code of Conduct training online training sessions are available. Please let me know your preference and I will book the session on your behalf.

1st November 2022 18:30 to 19:30
15th November 2022 17:00 to 18:00
1st December 2022 17:00 to 18:00
13th December 2022 18:30 to 19:30

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
Main 01747 852420
Direct 01747 859342
Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk



♣ Consider the environment before you print this email.

From: Brie Logan
Sent: 28 September 2022 13:04
To: Peter Yeo
Subject: STC - Civility and Respect pledge

Dear Peter

In July 2022, following the Full Council meeting I provided you with constructive behavioural related feedback relating to the meeting, as described in the email below. Disappointingly I did not receive a response from you.

In August 2022 Shaftesbury Town Council RESOLVED to adopt the Civility and Respect pledge thus demonstrating commitment to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.

Intimidation, abuse, bullying and harassment of councillors, clerks and council staff, in person or online, is unacceptable, whether by councillors, clerks, council staff, or public members.

This can prevent councils from functioning effectively, councillors from representing local people, discourage people from getting involved, including standing for election, and undermine public confidence and trust in local democracy.

I feel compelled to write to you following last night's meeting. The behaviour you chose to demonstrate fell short of the minimum standard expected. You directly contravened the Dignity at Work Policy where the expectation is that all councillors, officers and the public are polite and courteous when working for, and with the council. It is unacceptable in a public forum to present your views about my integrity and professionalism in such an aggressive and confrontational manner. If you would like to raise a formal complaint about my performance then the correct procedure is to manage this via the Comments, Compliments and Complaints Protocol. Please refer to section 9 which outlines the process for managing complaints about a Council employee and Section 10 outlines the procedure.

I also feel it is appropriate and timely for you to review the Good Councillors Guide 2018 to refresh your understanding of the guidance. I would like to draw your attention to page 38 which references: *You should keep contributions short and to the point; you probably don't enjoy listening to others who speak for too long. Always work through the chairman and try not to score points off fellow councillors. Never engage in personal attacks on others – however tempting.*

The expectation is that representatives of the council treat each other with respect and uphold the values of the code of conduct, equality opportunities policy, and all other policies and procedures set by the Council. There is an expectation to demonstrate respect by listening and paying attention to others, having consideration for other people's feelings, following protocols and rules, showing appreciation and thanks, and being kind and respectful to one and all.

To support you further, and as referenced again at last night's meeting, I am urging all councillors to attend the Standards in Public Life training session (formerly known as Code of Conduct). Please let the office know which one best suits your availability and we will book it with DAPTC on your behalf. Note; these sessions are held online via Zoom.

Monday	4 th October	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Tuesday	18 th October	5pm to 6pm
Tuesday	15 th November	5pm to 6pm
Tuesday	13 th December	6:30pm to 7:30pm

As a reminder, where councillors, clerk and chairman work together as a team they combine knowledge and skills to deliver real benefits to the community they serve. Good working relationships, mutual respect and an understanding of their different roles are vital. Conflict between these key players, especially during meetings in front of the press or public can damage the council.

Finally, following my email in July, I was hopeful that 2022 would give STC the opportunity to press the re-set button, put the past behind us and work towards being a council that can proactively deliver for the people of Shaftesbury. In my view we should not allow an experience like last night to reoccur and stall the progress we have been making.

I very much hope you will take this feedback on board in the spirit that it is intended.

Kind regards

Brie

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♣ Consider the environment before you print this email.

From: Brie Logan
Sent: 20 July 2022 14:19
To: Peter Yeo <PYeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
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B53

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To reiterate, I truly hope you will take this on board the in the spirit that it is intended.

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
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Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk



♻️ Consider the environment before you print this email.

B53

Mary Dolley

From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 29 October 2022 14:17
To: pyeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk
Cc: Shaftesbury Town Council Office
Subject: Standards in Public Life training

Dear Peter

Two STC councillor's requested Standards in Public Life daytime training sessions to be more compatible with their availability. I am extending these sessions to you as I am aware you are yet to undertake this training.

If either of these sessions (as shown in green below) work for you then please register via one of the links below. If neither of these dates suit then I have listed alternative options below.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Nov 10, 2022 09:00 AM London

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/ztMrd-moqjorG9bj1g7r8gbDU-ACjER-CY6->

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

OR

2pm afternoon session

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Nov 10, 2022 02:00 PM London

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZ0lcuuvriwsH92ZqiPi6hvhULDBbBHQXq0I>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Existing sessions as advertised on the Weekly Digest and via the DAPTC website as re follows:

15th November 5pm to 6pm

1st December 5pm to 6pm

13th December 6:30pm to 7:30pm

If you let the one of the office team know your preference then we can book the session on your behalf.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan

Town Clerk

For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council

Main 01747 852420

Direct 01747 859342

Website www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk



♻️ Consider the environment before you print this email.

B54

855

Mary Dolley

From: Brie Logan <BrieLogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 May 2024 09:57
To: pyeo@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk [REDACTED]
Subject: Feedback on the STC Welcome meeting

Good morning Peter

Following the recent election, STC has eight new councillors and seven returning councillors. Last night we welcomed new and returning members to an informal induction meeting with two main objectives (1) to meet and greet each other and (2) to run through the annual meeting, in advance of the formal meeting next week. The aim of this informal meeting was to support the new members and guide them through the process and protocol as for some, they have never attended a council meeting before.

Throughout the induction presentation I reiterated the importance of working together effectively as a team of councillors and officers and the need to focus on the future and not on the past. With fifteen newly elected members I explained this gives STC a perfect opportunity to press the re-set button and focus entirely on serving the Shaftesbury residents with a singular objective of making this town even better than it is already.

The presentation, as a precursor to the Annual meeting included the need for all members, as the corporate body, to commit to the (1) Civility and Respect pledge (2) the Code of Conduct and (3) the Nolan Principles, all of which provide a valuable ethical framework for town councillors. By embracing these principles, councillors can maintain the trust of their constituents, promote ethical conduct within the council, and work towards the betterment of their communities with transparency and integrity.

I am hugely disappointed that you chose to continually reference the past and display behaviour that was aggressive, very confrontational and intimidating. You chose to personally verbally attack me and others in this professional setting which is utterly unacceptable. This was a hugely unpleasant experience for our new councillors to witness and certainly not the best way to start a five-year professional working relationship.

I will be advising STC, as the corporate body, that it has a duty to promote and abide by the Code of Conduct and the Dignity at Work Policy. In summary, your behaviour continues to be unacceptable and must stop immediately. I will be advising STC that as the clerk the only way forward is for all members, as the corporate body, to be fully compliant with the Code of Conduct and Dignity at Work Policy. STC must sign up to a culture where there will be zero tolerance of behaviour that breaches these policies.

Kind regards

Brie

Brie Logan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council
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APPENDIX F

From Cllr Peter Yeo

Shaftesbury Town Council

Thursday 25 Sept 2025

Dear Ms Dolley,

Further to our meeting on Thursday 11th Sept 25, as promised here is the statement I referred to in the meeting which you will need to incorporate in to your report:

Written Statement – Councillor Peter Yeo

Code of Conduct Complaints COM/8299, COM/8319, COM/8380

- 1 For clarity, the Shaftesbury Town Council (STC) agendas cited in these complaints (17 December 2024 and 11 March 2025) did not involve the Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO in any way.
- 2 Both items were solely about **Shaftesbury Town Council's own procurement process** for the Mampitts Hub project—specifically, **selecting an architect**. The discussion and debate focused on the **bids and responses from architects**, and **not** on the CIO's role or any application from the Trust (because there was not any).
- 3 The **CIO was not a party** to those Town Council decisions, had **no contract** or financial relationship with the Town Council in this matter, and did **not stand to benefit pecuniarily or otherwise** from the architect selection.
- 4 My participation in these STC Full Council meetings was therefore not related to a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** or any **Other Registerable Interest** under the Code. I declared my trusteeship of the CIO on the Register of Interests and acted in good faith, representing residents' concerns about the Town Council's process. I remain committed to following clear guidance and ensuring public confidence in Shaftesbury Town Council decision-making.
- 5 The attached 18 October 2024 Letter from Dorset Council to STC explains that STC have been awarded all the S106 funding (and not The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO). Town Clerk Brie Logan and all Cllr Hollingshead knew this to be the case on 17 December 2024 and on 11 March 2025, so both knew that what they were stating in those Full Council meetings regarding me allegedly having a conflict of interest was false and was unfounded.
- 6 The other attached letter from Mr Mike Garrity (Head of Planning at Dorset Council) from 26 August 2025 shows that there has been no change to the Dorset Council October 2024

decision that the s106 funding allocation is to Shaftesbury Town Council (STC) and that he is recommending that there will not be any change of that decision.

7 As you will see from the STC agendas (and minutes) and be able to acknowledge for both the 17 December 2024 and the 11 March 2025 STC Full Council meetings, there were no agenda item relating to The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO nor to the possibility of the CIO being awarded anything.

8 Town Clerk Brie Logan read out a December 2024 email from Jonathan Mair (Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer) which confirmed that my involvement as an unpaid trustee of The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO (MLCLT CIO) was an 'Other Registerable Interest' (and not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest). Mrs Logan failed to explain to councillors and the public that as the agenda item did not relate to anything being awarded to the MLCLT CIO and was instead to do with architect selection, that I had every right to speak and to fully take part in the meeting and represent the electorate that elected me. Instead, it seems that Mrs Logan intention of reading out the monitoring Officers confirmation of 'Other Registerable Interest' was to mislead and negatively influenced councillors and the public to think I should not take part in that agenda item despite it not relating to the MLCLT CIO. Mrs Logan had every reason to try and silence me on this agenda item as she had unlawfully submitted to Dorset Council the s106 application (that has resulted in Dorset Council awarding the £876,000 of s106 money to STC for their unpopular 'Mampitts Hub' project) without her ever telling STC councillors that DC had asked her if STC wanted to submit an s106 application and without its design or the contents of her s106 application being shown, debated, agreed to be submitted, or ratified by councillors, as it was never put on a Full Council agenda by her.

9 Cllr Hollingshead (who has no legal qualification or remit to give a legal opinion whatsoever) also read out a totally inapplicable text which falsely and maliciously claimed it would be criminal for me to take part in the meeting. Town Clerk Mrs Brie Logan should have immediately cautioned him that he was not legally qualified and had no right to state his incorrect view.

10 The 17 December 2024 STC Full Council agenda item related to tendering for architectural services and 11 March 2025 STC Full Council agenda item was to select an architect for STC, **not** to award anything to the MLCLT CIO.

11 Cllr Hollingshead's clear intent was to mislead and mis-inform STC Cllrs and the public to discredit and undermine me so that I could not represent the residents who elected me to represent them, residents who are strongly against the STC scheme to destroy *their* Mampitts Green open space (which is still owned by Persimmon Homes and will be transferred to Dorset Council) by building STC's poorly designed Proctor Watt Cole Rutter architects (PWCR) two story 'Hub' and dangerous car parking all over it, despite the residents' strong protests.

- 12 Both I and my legal team are therefore extremely surprised that no one in your team at Dorset Council vetted Cllr Andrew Hollingshead's malicious and vexatious Code of Conduct complaints upon receipt and established all of the above undisputable facts.
- 13 Had they done so, they would have ascertained that that these Code of Conduct complaints were unfounded, vexatious, and malicious submitted with malintent as they did not involve the Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIO nor any s106 funds being allocated to this CIO (of which I am a trustee). A Charity trustee is an unpaid role by its very nature and Hollingshead know this being a trustee of another charity.
- 14 Consequently, these two Code of Conduct Complaints should have been dismissed at the initial vetting point (as should Councillor Hollingshead's third Code of Conduct Complaint)
- 15 It is very concerning that no one at Dorset Council seems to have yet noted the fact that all three Code of Conduct Complaints are made by Cllr Andrew Hollingshead and that no one else anywhere in the entire universe thought fit to make any Code of Conduct complaints against me. The residents who re-elected me at the ballot box obviously have no complaints regard my conduct or me representing them.
- 16 Cllr Hollinshead has a long-standing record of harassing both myself and Cllr Karen Tippins (who served as an STC Cllr from Dec 2019 to May 2024 but did not stand for re-election in 2024). Cllr Hollinshead's motives for making these Code of Conduct complaints are politically and maliciously motivated and are part of his long history of harassing any councillor who wants Shaftesbury Town Council to be operated in a professional, open, and transparent manner in accordance with the Nolan Principles.
- 17 It is severely disappointing that Dorset Council have so far allowed Cllr Hollinghead to continue this campaign of harassment against me (and previously against Cllr Karen Tippins when she was a Cllr) totally unchecked. He is deliberately abusing the Code of Conduct process for his own malicious and vengeful purposes.
- 18 Cllr Hollingshead has a personal vendetta against myself as I have repeatedly stood up to his bullying of myself and that of Cllr Karen Tippins during the last six years and he obviously does not like that.
- 19 Cllr Hollinghead held and chaired an unlawful STC 'Human Resources' meeting on Monday 10 Feb 2020. It was unlawful because the committee met to discuss Cllr Karen Tippins in her absence with the then Town Clerk. The 'Harvey Versus Ledbury Town Council' case (won by Cllr Harvey) demonstrated that this to be unlawful at great cost to the Ledbury tax payer.
- 20 Cllr Tippins and I attended this mysterious meeting of the STC HR committee convened at short notice to be on a Monday morning at 0800hrs.
- 21 Cllr Hollingshead attempted to intimidate us and bully us to leave the town hall and then phoned 999 and lied to the Police claiming we were causing a 'breach of the peace', when we were not, we were quietly sitting there as Councillors to observe the unlawful proceedings. I

had publicised that I was recording the meeting and the recording proves that Hollingshead lied to the police (you may have a copy if you wish). This mis-use of the Police 999 service and wasting of Police time by Cllr Hollingshead caused the police to be 'crashed out' with two Police cars to arrest Cllr Tippins and I at the Town Hall. Cllr Tippins and I wanted to greet the Police and tell them about the unlawful proceedings that morning, however after waiting 35 minutes for them to turn up we had to go to other engagements and we didn't get the chance. We phoned up the officer who had attended the town hall and requested to be interviewed but he refused. Cllr Hollingshead's appalling conduct that day was reported to the BBC. When the BBC telephoned Cllr Hollingshead he also lied to the BBC reporter about the events and claimed he had "called 101" but Police records showed the BBC reporter that it was a '999' call and that Hollingshead lied to the BBC about that too. Dorset Police reference 10 Feb 2020 '10-061' in case you wish to confirm this.

- 22 Hollingshead was reported by me to Dorset Police on '101' on 14 Feb 2020 to the Police for harassing me as a citizen and in my duties as a Councillor, one of which is to ensure proper lawful governance occurs in STC.
- 23 Cllr Tippins made a Code of Conduct complaint to Dorset Council about Cllr Hollingshead's severely harassing and blatantly unlawful use of the 999 service to harass myself and Cllr Tippins and yet incredibly Jonathan Mair, Dorset Council's Monitoring Officer, dismissed Cllr Tippin's Code of Conduct Complaint claiming it was 'tit for tat' when it was no such thing, thus giving Hollingshead a licence to continue his harassment of any councillor who, like myself in these three Full Council meetings, stands up for wanting proper governance in STC.
- 24 Cllr Hollingshead was also instrumental in launching the unpopular STC 'Mampitts Hub' Scheme to rival the residents' existing, highly developed and well-liked scheme for Mampitts Green, despite him not living anywhere near it and him knowing that the local residents do not want the STC Scheme.
- 25 Cllr Hollingshead also knows full well that the STC rival scheme for Mampitts Green has been unlawfully progressed on three counts by STC.
- 26 Because of the unlawful progression of the STC scheme by STC, Dorset Council should never have selected STC for the allocation of s106 funding and this should now immediately be withdrawn by Dorset Council.
- 27 The first reason that this scheme has been unlawfully progressed by STC is the fact that the nomination of and contracting of Architects 'Proctor, Watt, Cole and Rutter' (PWCR) as the architects to design the STC proposal and submit the STC Planning Application was not advertising on the Government Contracts tendering website as was required due to its high cost. Instead, the contract was unlawfully awarded to Proctor, Watt, Cole, Rutter (PWCR) Architects without competition and whilst PWCR founder, Cllr Anthony Philip Proctor (a friend of Hollingshead's) was an STC councillor. (Cllr Proctor did not stand for re-election in

May 2024, but remains friends with Cllr Hollingshead and the other problem STC councillors).

28 Secondly, the Planning Application submitted to DC by former STC Town Clerk Brie Logan in late March 2024 was unlawfully submitted by her as the design was never shown to all councillors and was never put on an STC Full Council Agenda for debate, was never voted upon so was never ratified by STC Full Council. Mrs Brie Logan submitted the Planning Application with no lawful authority to do so, but did so knowing that certain Cllrs, including her friend Cllr Hollingshead, wanted her to.

29 Thirdly, the s106 Application that application submitted to Dorset Council by former STC Town Clerk Brie Logan in summer 2024 was also unlawfully submitted by her. In Summer 2024 she never even told the Full Council that DC had enquired as to whether STC wanted to submit an s106 application or not. She by-passed all democratic process, did not inform councillors, failed to put the Dorset Council request on an STC Full Council Agenda and then, with no authority whatsoever to do so, she submitted an s106 application that no Cllrs or the public had a say in as it was never on a Full Council Agenda. It was never debated and never voted for. STC Full Council Agendas and minutes prove this, the agenda and items and resolutions simply do not exist. Dorset Council awarded s106 funds to STC based upon this invalid and unlawfully submitted STC s106 application. Again, Cllr Hollingshead is perfectly happy with this unlawful course of action and is annoyed that I keep publicly stating it - another one of his malicious motives for submitting these vexatious Code of Conduct complaints against me.

30 Hollingshead was one of the only three people in The World, all West Ward STC Councillors (who no one voted for), who attended the Dorset Council Northern Area Planning Committee on 01 Oct 2024 to support this very poor and unwanted STC scheme's Planning Application for East Shaftesbury. No one from East Shaftesbury, nor anyone else, supported this planning application at this meeting, there were numerous objectors present and three (the maximum allowed) spoke against it.

31 As for the third Code of Conduct Complaint, as I stated in our 'MS Teams' meeting interview on Thursday 11th Sept 2025, it should be *me* making Code of Conduct Complaints against all those fourteen STC Cllrs involved as it was *they* who brought Shaftesbury Town Council in to disrepute in the 18 March 2024 Full Council meeting. Cllr Andrew Hollingshead (who made this Code of Conduct complaint against me) is one of the councillors who voted to unlawfully use against me a Standing Order that exists only to be used against unruly members of the public who are disrupting a council meeting, an Order which is blatantly not to be used against an elected representative of the electorate that other councillors wish to cancel and silence. (As explained to STC by my specialist solicitor in 2020).

32 Hollinshead was one of the gang of Cllrs on 18 March 2024 who deliberately talked over me when it was my turn and right to speak unopposed for three minutes on the procedure for

selecting a new Town Clerk. I did not gang up and talk over them in the same manner when they spoke. I obviously could not, I am just one councillor. They did so with the deliberate intent of stopping the public from hearing the truth of the highly improper procedure used to make Brie Logan town clerk and why this process must not be repeated (it was repeated and the new clerk they selected lasted just 56 days in post).

33 Cllr Greg Williams had no right to propose that Standing Order 2a was used against me, it is an order that is only for use against disruptive members of the public in a meeting. I was an elected councillor who was behaving entirely within his rights as an elected representative of the electorate.

34 The meeting Chairman, Cllr Alexander Chase, should have informed Cllr Greg Williams that this would be an unlawful use of a standing order against a Councillors that is only for use against unruly members of the public, but no, Chase then unlawfully proposed and voted to use Standing Orders 2B against me again. His close friend, Cllr Piers Brown, then unlawfully Seconded the proposal. (Both Brown and Chase are close friends with Cllr Andrew Hollingshead and they all took parts in the previous unlawfully uses Standing Order 2B against myself and Cllr Karen Tippins in 2020).

Extract from the minutes of the STC Full Council meeting of 18th March 2024:

FC142 To consider the recruitment process for the role of Town Clerk

Officer report 0325FC7 was received and noted.

Cllr Williams called SO 2a against Cllr Yeo.

Cllr Dibben left the meeting at 8.26pm.

Cllr Chase called SO 2b and a vote was taken to exclude Cllr Yeo from the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Chase		
Seconded by Cllr Brown		
In Favour	14	Cllrs Chase, Edwyn-Jones, Barratt, Brown, Dibben, Elmendorff, Heritage, Hollingshead, Loader, Philpott, Salkeld, Smith, Williams and Wild
Against	1	Cllr Yeo
Abstentions	0	
MOTION CARRIED		

Cllr Yeo refused to leave the meeting and therefore, at 8.27pm the meeting was adjourned for 10mins.

Cllr Edwyn-Jones left the meeting at 8.27pm.

The meeting recommenced at 8.39pm.

Cllr Yeo was asked to confirm the moderation of his behaviour.

35 The minutes fail to state that Cllr Lester Dibben talked over me as he left the meeting to go to another meeting. They also fail to state that neither the chairman nor the councillors have any right to exclude me from the meeting or request me to leave a Full Council meeting. Neither do they state that Cllr Williams has no right to propose that Standing Order 2a, an

order that is only for use against disruptive member of the public in the meeting is used against an elected councillor who is behaving entirely within his rights as an elected representative of the electorate.

(Standing Order 2a: DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT MEETINGS. No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If this standing order is ignored, the chairman of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct).

36

Standing Order 2B

DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT MEETINGS: No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If this standing order is ignored, the chairman of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct. 6 b If person(s) disregard the request of the chairman of the meeting to moderate or improve their conduct, any councillor or the chairman of the meeting may move that the person be no longer heard or be excluded from the meeting. The motion, if seconded, shall be put to the vote without discussion. c If a resolution made under standing order 2(b) is ignored, the chairman of the meeting may take further reasonable steps to restore order or to progress the meeting. This may include temporarily suspending or closing the meeting.

The use of this standing order against a councillor is unlawful and is a very serious perversion of democracy. It is an Order that was created solely for use against members of the public.

37

These fourteen STC councillors totally failed to comply with the council's Code of Conduct:

Particularly – *“Importantly, we should be able to undertake our role as a councillor without being intimidated, abused, bullied, or threatened by anyone, including the general public.*

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions: • I act with integrity and honesty • I act lawfully • I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and • I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

And:

General Conduct 1. Respect As a councillor: 1.1. 1.2. I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

38

As you will see from the attached 08 Dec 2020 legal letter to STC Town Clerk Claire Commons, my specialist solicitor explained the unlawfulness of STC using Standing Orders 2A and 2B against a councillor (it is a Standing order for use against members of the Public

disrupting a meeting) and that it is unlawful to suspend or eject a Councillor from a Full Council Meeting. The actions of Cllr Chase on 18 March 2025 using standing Order 2B against me when I was being improperly interrupted during my three minutes to speak was unlawful and perverse. He, the other councillors and the Town Clerk Brie Logan (who failed to ensure lawful governance) brought Shaftesbury Town Council in to disrepute, not me. Cllr Williams first proposed the unlawful use of Standing Order 2A. Then integrity-less STC Councillors then went along with the highly improper use of standing order 2B to prevent my free speech and prevent the public hearing the highly improper selection procedure conducted for the selection of Brie Logan as town clerk in 2022 and what had gone on within STC then or that this highly improper procedure must not be repeated in the then imminent recruitment of a new Town Clerk.

39 This unlawful misuse of Standing Orders against me is however standard practice by a certain group of Councillors in Shaftesbury Town Council, and of course Town Clerk Brie Logan never intervened to stop it and thus once again left Shaftesbury Town Council open to being sued by me as this unlawful conduct of council business, by the misuse of standing orders to exclude a Councillors, has already been proven as being totally unlawful by the 'Harvey versus Ledbury Town Council' case and which is case law.

40 The Chairman of this 18 March 2025 meeting was Councillor Alexander Chase who is a close friend of Cllr Hollingshead and also Cllr Proctor (Proctor was still a Cllr then). Cllr Chase was having extension work done on his house at this time which was designed by Proctor Watt Cole Rutter architects. Cllr Alex Chase mis-used his position of Mayor and meeting Chairman to unlawfully mis-use standing orders against me and to allow the councillors in the cabal to talk over me without reprimanding any of them.

41 Instead of disciplining those councillors for deliberately talking over me to try and make sure I was not heard, The Chairman, Cllr Alexander Chase (a member of the cabal and therefore totally biased and well versed in this disgusting course of action as they have repeatedly used it against me and Cllr Tippins when she was a councillor) totally failed to reprimand the problem councillors (his friends) and instead mis-used standing orders to try and make out that I had done something wrong and got the council to vote that I was not heard and suspended the meeting for ten minutes.

42 I was proved to be totally correct for stating my concerns of improper recruitment procedure as the same HR Advisor was used in 2025 as in 2022 and Cllr Edwyn-Jones was again on a Town Clerk selection panel of only three councillors. Incredibly this team selected a total unqualified candidate over a fully qualified and highly experienced town clerk and this has already ended in disaster with the 'new' Town Clerk leaving after 56 days in post.

43 Cllr Hollingshead is one of the cabal of Cllrs who are responsible for making STC a dysfunctional, toxic Council, which is disrespected by many Shaftesbury residents. Their conduct is what caused this meeting to be a minor 'news' story on the total unregulated

'This is Alfred' (Shaftesbury 'news') Facebook page and STC subsidised 'Alfred' local radio station.

44 Despite it being against the law to do so, STC gave £2,000 to Mr Keri Jones towards operating his radio station and Town Clerk Brie Logan also used Council Tax to pay for leafleting all of Shaftesbury to promote the 'This is Alfred' Facebook site, which again is not a lawful use of STC Council Tax and was all voted through by Cllr Hollingshead and other councillors in the cabal during the previous council's tenure.

45 My acceptance of Office is attached. Nowhere on this does it state that I have to do Code of Conduct Training. I note from the STC website that out of 15 STC councillors only two have done this training. If it was compulsory, DC or STC would surely have laid on a course for all councillors to attend and sent invites stating it was compulsory. As I stated in your interview of Thursday 11 September 2025, I fully understand the requirements of the Code of Conduct guidance and I have not broken it in relation to these three code of conduct complaints.

46 It should be clear to you from this statement that Cllr Andrew Hollingshead, the only person to make any code of conduct complaints against me regarding these meetings, made these complaints vexatiously, maliciously, vengefully and with malintent towards me and that he has an abusive behaviour that has so far been totally unchecked by Dorset Council.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Yeo

Cllr Peter Yeo

Shaftesbury Town Council, East Ward

Brie Logan – Town Clerk
Shaftesbury Town Council
The Town Hall
High Street
Shaftesbury
SP7 8LY

Date: 18th October 2024
Ref: Mampitts Green s106
Officer: Andrew Galpin

**RE: Allocation of S106 developer contribution funding – Mampitts Green, Shaftesbury**

Dear Brie

As you will be aware, on Tuesday 15th October 2024, Dorset Council Cabinet supported a recommendation to conditionally award £876,278 of section 106 developer contribution funding to Shaftesbury Town Council for the purposes of building, operating, and eventually owning a Community Hub and associated facilities on the area of land known as Mampitts Green, Shaftesbury. The award relates to the application for funding you submitted on behalf of Shaftesbury Town Council on the 14th August 2024.

As set out in the officer report to Cabinet, the award is conditional, and I detail these below:

- **Timescale Conditions** – (1) to provide all the additional information required though condition within 6 months of the Cabinet decision. (2) To commence work on-site no later than 12 months from the date of Cabinet decision, subject to land transfer. Failure to meet this condition would require the funding offer to be revisited by Dorset Council.
- **Operating Plan Condition** - a detailed long term operating plan must be submitted and accepted by Dorset Council.
- **Project Costings and Project Delivery Plan Condition** - final project costings and a copy of contract(s) with builders/contractors must be submitted to Dorset Council before they are signed. In addition, a updated project delivery plan with realistic and achievable timeframes is submitted.
- **Ringfenced Bank Account for Community Hall Condition** - evidence must be provided to Dorset Council to demonstrate that a dedicated bank account for all community hall related financial activity has been set up to manage the project. In addition, copies of annual financial updates and auditors reports will be required where undertaken. This is to ensure that funds received are managed and monitored appropriately.
- **External Funding Grant Applications Condition** - evidence of grant applications for external funding and/or evidence of research and contact with potential grant funding organisations must be submitted to Dorset Council.
- **Evidence of Engagement with Community Groups** – evidence that the awarded party has engaged with local community groups to find out the level of interest in using the community hall on a regular basis. For example, a list of groups who have been contacted with copies of responses.
- **Contingency Budget Condition** - the contingency budget element of the S106 funds will remain with Dorset Council and will only be transferred if required and only

the amount required at the time. Evidence of the increase in costs above the initial estimate will also be required before additional funds will be transferred.

- **Land ownership condition** – Dorset Council will own the land while the proposal is built and will continue to own the land for a period of 3 years following the date of project completion in order to monitor operational performance. Should the operational performance reach a level to be agreed by Dorset Council, ownership of the land will be transferred to the awarded party.

These conditions will form part of a bespoke deed or equivalent agreement between Dorset Council and Shaftesbury Town Council, to be agreed prior to the release of funding. The deed will be consistent with the requirements of the approved s106 protocol for planning obligation funding allocations. This will ensure further safeguards and necessary assurances are put in place for stages involving the release of land or funding, adding confidence to the successful achievability of the project.

Given the timeframe set out in the timescale condition, I will seek to arrange an initial meeting with yourself and colleagues as appropriate to discuss the assessment, associated conditions, protocol requirements, and joint working arrangements on this project. I will pick these arrangements up separately over email.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Galpin
Infrastructure and Delivery Planning Manager

Sarah Smith – Town Clerk
Shaftesbury Town Council
The Town Hall, High Street
Shaftesbury, Dorset
SP7 8LY

Date: 26/08/2025**Ref:** Mampitts Lane**Officer:** Michael Garrity

VIA EMAIL

Email: sarahsmith@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

Dear Sarah,

RE: Mampitts Hub, Shaftesbury

As you will be aware, the decision by Dorset Council on 15th October 2024 to award s106 funding for the Mampitts Hub project was subject to conditions. The report recommendation provided me with delegation to appraise further information required by the conditions in consultation with the Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Planning.

Colleagues have appraised the information submitted to Dorset Council on 18th July and I have been briefed on the findings and the subsequent meeting which took place between DC Officers, the Cabinet Member [and Portfolio Holder] for Planning, and STC representatives, on 11th August. I write to inform you of my position, having sought legal advice on the parameters of the Cabinet decision.

Timescale condition (para 6.7) required: (1) to provide all the additional information required though condition within 6 months of the Cabinet decision; and (2) To commence work on-site no later than 12 months from the date of Cabinet decision, subject to land transfer. Failure to meet this condition would require the funding offer to be revisited by Dorset Council.

It is clear from the appraisal that despite progress across all conditions, most are only partially met. I understand that the meeting held on 11th August provided an opportunity to explain progress and receive feedback from DC officers on the risks associated with key conditions, e.g. the budget position and contingency/fall back. I understand that the Town Council expressed a wish for DC to consider extending the commencement of work milestone by approximately 1 month to allow more time to prepare necessary information.

Given the current position on progress with several key conditions, and the implication this has on project progress and commencement, I have sought advice from Legal Services on the interpretation of the Cabinet decision and associated conditions. That advice confirms that, whilst delegation exists to consider the material submitted to meet the condition, it does not enable any authorisation to change to the actual conditions, milestones, or funding amount (except for any interest added to the funding amount, that would be standard practice in s106 award).

Therefore, I have been advised that the matter should be returned to Cabinet with a report updating Cabinet Members on progress with the project, seeking a decision to extend the timescale condition milestone. Given the risks associated with the budget position, it has been recommended that the Cabinet report clarifies the position around early financial drawdown, in order to provide an agreed position on this. Importantly, the report would not re-open the principle of choosing the funding award recipient.

The next opportunity to take a report to Cabinet will be its meeting on 9th October. In the light of this resulting in a delay to confirming Dorset Council's position and any associated cash flow/draw down decision, both myself and Cllr. Shane Bartlett recognise the importance of continued dialogue to progress this project in a timely and successful manner, subject to any decision by Dorset Council's Cabinet.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Michael Garrity.

Michael Garrity
Corporate Director for Planning
Place

FREETHS

Mrs Commons
Town Clerk & RFO
Shaftesbury Town Council
Town Hall
Shaftesbury
Dorset
SP7 8LY



8 December 2020

Our Ref: STP/0688/2176303/1/ag

By Email

Dear Mrs Commons

Having previously written to you on the 22 July 2020 and 31 July 2020, this is now the third time I am having to write to you on behalf of my client, Councillor Peter Yeo, regarding the improper and ultra vires manner in which you as Town Clerk and Proper Officer are allowing Shaftesbury Town Council to operate towards him (and also towards Cllr Karen Tippins).

In spite of previous correspondence, nothing seems to have been done to stop the unfair, improper and unlawful treatment that Cllr Yeo (and also Cllr Tippins) are subjected to by Shaftesbury Town Council.

My instructions are that you have now ejected and barred Cllr Yeo, three times from official Full Council 'Video Telephone Conferencing' meetings, ie:

1. Firstly from the 7th July 2020 Full Council meeting (and its 13th July 2020 continuation meeting by means of informing him that all resolutions made in the initial meeting still stood)
2. From the 29th Sept 2020 meeting (where you also ejected Cllr Tippins after she asked you a question).
3. Most recently from the 2nd November 2020 Full Council meeting.

In addition to those 'ejections', as the meeting video shows on 2nd June 2020, you, following the Chair's instructions, muted Cllr Yeo's microphone and switched off his camera during this Full Council 'Zoom' meeting which was the improper and malicious 'Vote of No Confidence in Cllr Karen Tippins' meeting. On this occasion, due to you following Cllr Cook's instruction to mute and hide him from view, Cllr Yeo was prevented from making correct 'Points of Order'. This resulted in a large number of unfounded, defamatory and slanderous remarks being made about Cllr Tippins, which went unchallenged and uncorrected by Cllr Yeo, thus preventing him from carrying out his democratic rights and duties in this meeting.

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That you did this on 2nd June 2020 (and the other occasions of 'ejection') is somewhat illogical as you personally sent an email on 9th April 2020 to all councillors informing them of the legal requisites of operating Town Council meetings via Video Telephone Conferencing under the new Regulations (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, along with two NALC documents - [a legal briefing note](#) on NALC's interpretation of the regulations and practical guidance for local councils on [how to hold effective remote council meetings](#), which clearly states that Councillors must be able to be seen and heard by the public at all times, and yet you as Proper Officer have not ensured adherence to the law whatsoever.

In addition to the three Full Council "Zoom" meetings you have ejected Cllr Yeo from against his will, you have also ejected him from a sub-committee meeting where he was pointing out that an item of Full Council business that he had requested to be put on to a Full Council agenda had been put on to this sub-committee's agenda by yourself and was being resolved by this sub-committee (that he was not even part of), thus excluding four of the elected councillors from the decision making process of the Council!

It has been clearly explained to you in my two previous letters that these ejections and the barring of Councillors from Full Council Meetings, in a seemingly routine fashion because a group of Councillors express views that the majority does not approve of, is unlawful and is a totally improper use of a standing order (2B). This is intended for use against unruly members of the public only. Councillor Yeo has done nothing more than to request for a meeting or council business to be conducted in a correct and proper manner and for his rights of attendance to be respected.

Having now also viewed the recent Shaftesbury Town Council Full Council Meetings of 29 Sept 2020 and 03 November 2020 it is clear that the Town Council have still not taken notice of the requirements of British and European Law explained to you in my previous two legal letters, in particular the obligations of Free Expression contained within the European Convention on Human Rights. Instead it seems that you bizarrely think that this law and case law, such as the 'Harvey v Ledbury' case law, does not apply to Shaftesbury Town Council.

It is appalling to see in the video evidence I have viewed, that instead of you stepping in to ensure that Shaftesbury Town Council is operated within the law and within the basic principles of democracy i.e. an elected member cannot be deprived of their democratic right to vote and represent the people – that you stand by silently and allow these appalling instances of bullying and improper procedure and ejection to occur.

This does not occur in the Houses of Parliament but yet you seem to think it acceptable in Shaftesbury Town Council. The way that Shaftesbury Town Council misuses a "scheme of delegation" in order to by-pass the scrutiny and the democratic vote of the Full Council is yet another example of the "intentions of Parliament" being wilfully ignored by you and your Council.

Instead of intervening and conducting your role and duties of 'Proper Officer' to ensure that Shaftesbury Town Council operates lawfully, you are allowing councillors who are merely chairing these meetings (Cllr Hollingshead, Cllr Chase and Cllr Cook) to hold improper and unlawful votes in these meetings to eject fellow Councillors (Cllr Yeo and Cllr Tippins) because they do not like that Cllr Yeo (or Cllr Tippins) have highlighted improper council procedures, such as the minutes of meetings being fabricated, filibustering to prevent agenda points being debated and resolved, or Full Council business being resolved by sub-committees that have no right to do this.

When, at the last Full Council meeting on 2nd Nov 2020 Cllr Yeo was highlighting that the minutes of the previous meeting (that were up for adoption) were not a true and lawful record of that meeting, (they misleadingly state that Cllr Tippins and then Cllr Yeo merely “left the meeting” rather than ‘were ejected from the meeting against their wills by means of unlawful misuse of standing order 2B), that firstly you as Proper Officer did not even respond to Cllr Yeo’s questions to you on this subject and then you did nothing to stop Cllr Hollingshead interjecting with his threats to sanction Cllr Yeo which was soon followed up by Cllr Hollingshead putting his threat in to action and enabling another vote improperly using Standing Order 2B to eject Cllr Yeo from the Full Council meeting. This is not “democracy is action” as Cllr Hollingshead perversely announced in the meeting and in the local press. This is unlawful.

Cllr Hollingshead, we are instructed, seems to think he is the legally responsible person within Shaftesbury Town Council, (when he is not), and that ‘what he says goes’, when it absolutely does not. You will understand that any Councillor is only “primus inter pares”, even when sitting as chair. He has no right to intimidate, threaten, bully or sanction other councillors. He has no special powers to decree what is a breach of the ‘code of conduct’ and he has no remit to justify ejection of a fellow councillor from any meeting.

We believe that these issues should have been pointed out to Cllr Hollingshead in this public meeting, for his benefit and for that of the other councillors and the public and for the benefit of raising the reputation of Shaftesbury Town Council. Cllr Yeo even reminded you of my two legal letters explaining the law to you, highlighting again that it was unlawful to vote to eject him and asked you to intervene, but alas, you did not.

Cllr Yeo and Cllr Tippins are elected councillors and it is their right and duty to be in Council meetings and to ask questions and scrutinise Town Council proceedings and to request proper governance and most importantly, to be able to vote.

As you have so far not acted to moderate or bring the council’s conduct within its jurisdiction, I must point out yet again that, under Localism Act 2011 requirements, Shaftesbury Town Council does not have any right or remit to sanction councillors or to deprive and councillors of their legal right to vote, as has repeatedly occurred here.

Due to the fact that you have ejected Cllr Yeo (and Cllr Tippins) from numerous Full Council meetings, every subsequent vote and resolution made in every one of those meetings can be regarded as unsound and unlawful and in our view should be re-taken in a Future Full Council meeting that you do not eject them from, in order that democracy can take place and so that these votes can become legally binding.

You are currently operating a council where the constitution of every Sub-committee can be regarded as legally unsound because firstly Cllr Tippins and then Cllr Yeo were ejected from the Annual Meeting (29 Sept 2020) where their composition was voted on. Incredibly Cllr Yeo and Cllr Tippins are now excluded from all four of Shaftesbury Town Council’s sub-committees while some other councillors are on up to four of them.

In order to address some of these serious failings and breaches of proper governance, can you please urgently confirm that you will take the extensive and urgent remedial action that is required and facilitate a re-vote upon the composition of each individual sub-committee and to re-vote upon every other improperly made Full Council resolution, in a future Full

Council meeting that Cllr Yeo and Cllr Tippins are not ejected from such that they can properly carry out their role?

Can you please also write and inform me of what other urgent steps you will be taking to bring Shaftesbury Town Council (perhaps with guidance from the County association or external legal advice) within correct and proper governance;

- (a) To reconsider advising the Council how it should represent political balance in committee representation
- (b) Not to eject or mute Councillors who may express views that others disagree with in an unlawful manner

You will understand that there are further steps that could be considered and my client's rights are reserved. Equally if you are willing to propose an alternative way forward then this would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

This letter is approved but unsigned as it is sent electronically.

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Please respond by e-mail where possible

Appendix G

Comments on draft report submitted on behalf of Cllr Peter Yeo with comments on them made by Investigating Officer in red ink

General Principles

Councillor Yeo disagrees with the Investigating Officer's finding at page 7 of the report that he is in breach of the general principles.

The general principles are set out on page 4 of the Town Council's document "Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020". The Town Council's code follows closely (apart from the additional interest requirement referred to above) on the LGA Model Code. This also contains a section entitled "general principles of councillor conduct". Both in the Town Council's code and the LGA Model Code, this section lies in a preamble to the code itself. The code itself commences at the section "Standards of councillor conduct" which states *"This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a councillor. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken."* The code provisions them follow in numbered paragraphs.

It is clear that those numbered paragraphs form the sole part of the code which is intended to be enforceable. The general principles are intended as guidance.

This is made clear in the guidance published by the LGA to the Model Code:-

General principles of Councillor conduct

The Seven Principles of Public Life (also known as the Nolan Principles) outline the ethical standards those working in the public sector are expected to adhere to. The principles apply to all public office holders at all levels including ministers, civil servants, councillors, and local authority officers, as well as private and voluntary organisations delivering services paid for by public funds. The principles are set out in Appendix 2 below.

*These principles underpin the standards that councillors should uphold and form the basis for the Code of Conduct, where the principles have been translated into a series of clear rules. While fundamental to the Code of Conduct, **the principles are not part of the rules of the code and should be used for guidance and interpretation only.***

(My emphasis).

It is not possible to reach a finding of breach of the general principles and this should be removed from the report.

The complaint alleges a breach of paragraph 1 of the Town Council's Code of Conduct (Respect). Paragraph 1 of the section of the report headed 'Conclusion' contains a detailed analysis of paragraph 1 of the Code of Conduct and describes how Cllr Yeo's conduct fell short of the required standard. It refers specifically to paragraph 1 of the Code of Conduct twice and it is clear from reading the section of the report as a whole, that references to the General principles of councillor conduct at the beginning of the

Code were used for guidance and interpretation and not as suggested on behalf of Cllr Yeo as a ground for complaint.

Paragraph 5: Disrepute

Councillor Yeo disagrees with the Investigators' finding at page 9 of the report that he is in breach of paragraph 5 of the Code for the same reasons as set out above in relation to COM 8299 and COM 8319.

The same comments are made as those applied to the comments made on behalf of the subject member in connection with complaints numbered COM8299 and COM8319.

Paragraph 8.1: training

Councillor Yeo disagrees with the Investigators' finding at page 10 of the report that he is in breach of paragraph 8.1 of the Code. The Investigator states that such allegation was not part of the complaint. It thus cannot have formed part of the scope of the investigation referred to her.

The LGA's guidance on Member Code of Conduct Complaints Handling states:-

Evidence of new breaches

*During the course of an investigation, you may uncover evidence of conduct by councillors that breaches the Code of Conduct but extends beyond the scope of the investigation referred to you. **Your powers as an investigator relate only to the allegation that you have been given.** While that means you may consider other parts of the Code than those initially considered if they are relevant to the matter in hand, you may also uncover evidence of a possible breach that does not directly relate to the allegation you are investigating. If this happens, you should tell the person you obtained the information from that you cannot investigate the possible breach as part of your existing investigation. You should tell them that they may wish to make a separate complaint to the authority and if the authority considers it needs further action it could be subsequently added to your investigation or dealt with as a separate matter.*

This finding should be removed from the report.

Dorset Council's Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against Councillors contain a procedure that enables additional possible breaches that come to light during the course of an investigation to be added to the investigation – paragraph 6.G of the Arrangements refers [Councillor Code of Conduct complaint process February 2025.pdf](#) Following receipt of the above comments the Monitoring Officer sought the views of the Independent Person and decided that the investigation should continue and that the allegation should be added to the investigation. The LGA Guidance to which the above comment refers states that it is for guidance purposes only and where it differs from an authority's own arrangements under the Localism Act the authority's own arrangements should be followed, and that is what has been done.

It is noted that the Town Council's website indicates that Cllr Yeo is not the only councillor who has not undertaken Code of Conduct training.

Further conclusions

The further conclusions set out on pages 10 – 11 of the report are not directed towards whether a breach of the code has taken place and are expressions of the Investigator's personal views. They should be removed from the final report.

The comments did not refer to Cllr Yeo and they did not seek to introduce into the Conclusion section of the report starting on page 7 of it, any matters outside the scope of the investigation into the complaint particularised on page 2 of the report.

Mary Dolley
Legal Services
Dorset Council
28 January 2026

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Complaint COM 8830

Paragraph 5: Disrepute

Councillor Yeo disagrees with the Investigators' finding at page 9 of the report that he is in breach of paragraph 5 of the Code for the same reasons as set out above in relation to COM 8299 and COM 8319.

Councillor Yeo was entitled to comment on the Town Council's recruitment procedure, which he viewed as highly flawed, and his comments were political comments attracting the enhanced protection under Article 10 ECHR.

The following part of judgment in *Heesom v Public Services Ombudsman for Wales* is highlighted: *"The protection goes to 'political expression'; but that is a broad concept in this context. It is not limited to expressions of or critiques of political views, but rather **extends to all matters of public administration and public concern** including comments about the adequacy or inadequacy of performance of public duties by others."* (Our emphasis).

Paragraph 8.1: Training

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(emphasis added)

The Investigating Officer refers to the Council's arrangements to justify the addition of this allegation, however, per those arrangements, Councillor Yeo should have

been informed by the Dorset Council Monitoring Officer of the decision to add an allegation to the investigation. He was not so informed.