

**What would you like to contact us about?:** Make a complaint

**What department does your complaint relate to?:** Councillors and electoral services

**Please select a category:** Councillors

**Your name:** Matthew David Welch

**Your Email Address:** [mwelch@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk](mailto:mwelch@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk)

**Your telephone number:**

**Your address:**

Postcode	Select the address
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**subform 1:**

First name of Councillor	Last name of Councillor	Please select if the complaint relates to a Councillor elected to:	Town or Parish
Karen	Tippins	a Town or Parish Council	Shaftesbury
Peter	Yeo	a Town or Parish Council	Shaftesbury

**Please provide us with the details of your complaint:** To whomever this may concern,

Normally I would never consider this an option, filing a complaint about fellow councillors when issues should be able to be sorted in house. But after the meeting on the 14th April EFC I feel that this is necessary. Two councillors broke many policies during a meeting. Below I will list those that are relevant;

Bullying and Harassment Policy 5.1.2 D (Intentional Harassment) E ( Bullying)

[https://www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk/images/Data\\_Transparency/2017\\_05\\_09\\_-\\_STC\\_Bullying\\_and\\_Harassment\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk/images/Data_Transparency/2017_05_09_-_STC_Bullying_and_Harassment_Policy.pdf)

Members Code Of Conduct 2.2 B,C,G <https://www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Code-of-Conduct-Members-Adopted-18th-June-2019.pdf>

These policies were breached in a meeting discussing the Town Councils reaction and community response to COVID-19 in which I made a statement about the town council being an independent body and should protect our community how we see fit. I was then called an "Idiot" by both Karen and Peter, the Chairman asked if Karen would be willing to retract her remark but she was not.

The meeting was recorded so there is video evidence of this occurring and myself, the Clerk or the Chairman would be willing to share this information. Personally I feel like this type of behaviour is unacceptable at public meetings and that I feel like there is a complete lack of respect for myself as an individual.

I completely understand that this is a very busy period for Dorset Council as you are also coordinating a response to COVID-19. Therefore I would like to state that I understand if more vital work needs to be completed first and that this complaint can be pushed back to however long you

need for the more pressing matters.

Many Thanks,

Councillor Welch  
Shaftesbury East Ward

**Please select 'Yes' if you are willing to accept an apology from the councillor who you are complaining about : Yes**

**Please tell us which of the following type of person best describes you::** An elected or co-opted member of an authority

**Do you wish to request that your identity is kept confidential: No**