

Complaint 023/20

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: James Thrift

Your Email Address:

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
Peter	Yeo	a Town or Parish Council	Shaftesbury Town Council

Please provide us with the details of your complaint: Shaftesbury Town Council held an Extraordinary Full Council meeting via Zoom last night, Tuesday 2nd June 2020 at 19.00. The meeting was to debate a motion of no confidence in one of the councillors, and as such was conducted with approximately 45 people present online, including over 30 members of the public. Under the circumstances of such a motion one could expect, and to a large part accept, that feelings might get a little heated. However all councillors would have been aware of the Code of Conduct that they all have agreed to abide by as it was only adopted on the 18th June 2019, and states quite clearly in 2.2.g "behave in a way which could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or the Council into disrepute." <https://www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Code-of-Conduct-Members-Adopted-18th-June-2019.pdf>

Unfortunately Cllr Yeo chose to ignore these standards, and while muted as another Councillor spoke could be clearly seen mouthing the word "wanker" while making the equivalent hand gesture in front of the camera. Despite an immediate request by the chair of the meeting he made no attempt to retract or apologise for his actions.

The online proceedings are recorded as a matter of course, with recording of meetings made available for the public to view via the Town Council website.

Not only does this action display Councillor Yeo in a very poor light, but has far reaching ramifications not only for the Town Council, but the very image of Shaftesbury itself.

Please select 'Yes' if you are willing to accept an apology from the councillor who you are complaining about : no

If you are not willing to accept an apology what would you like to happen as a result of you making a complaint: I will leave any decision for further action to the proper officers in this matter.

Please tell us which of the following type of person best describes you:: Member of the public

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