

DORSET COUNCIL DECISION NOTICE

Complaint Reference: 23/20

Subject Member: Cllr P Yeo of Shaftesbury Town Council

Date of Hearing: 26 February 2021

Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee

1. Summary of the Complaint

The Complainant alleged unacceptable behaviour by Cllr P Yeo in a meeting of Shaftesbury Town Council on 2nd June 2020 in breach of the Code of Conduct and which could be reasonably regarded as bringing his office or the Council into disrepute. The specific complaint is that Cllr P Yeo mouthed an offensive word with equivalent hand gesture in front of the camera and despite a request by the Chairman to retract or apologise for his actions, made no attempt to do so.

2. The Conduct of the Hearing

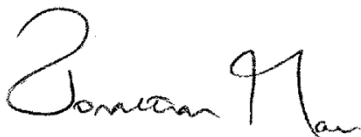
The conduct of the hearing is as detailed in the Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee minutes, a copy of which are appended to (and forms part of) this Decision Notice. A recording of the hearing is available [click here](#)

3. The Hearing Sub-Committee's Decisions

3.1 The Hearing Sub-Committee's decisions are detailed in the appended minutes. However, the Hearing Sub-Committee's key conclusions are also set out below.

3.2 Members of the Sub-committee having viewed the agenda documents and the videos and having listened very carefully to all of the representations made found that the standards displayed by Cllr P Yeo in a public meeting to be vulgar, rude and offensive and therefore found most strongly that Cllr P Yeo breached the Shaftesbury Town Council Code of Conduct, specifically Section 2.1(b) 'respect to others' and Section 2.2(g) 'bringing the council into disrepute'

3.3 It was agreed that the Sub-committee send the clearest message that this type of conduct will not be tolerated and therefore censure Cllr P Yeo in the strongest possible terms.



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Jonathan Mair
Monitoring Officer

Right of Appeal: There is no right of appeal against the decision of the Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee.