

DORSET COUNCIL DECISION NOTICE

Complaint Reference: 19/20
Subject Member: Cllr K Tippins
Date of Hearing: 20 September 2021
Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee

1. Summary of the Complaint

The Complainant alleged that Cllr Tippins had breached the Shaftesbury Town Council Member Code of Conduct in respect of Cllr K Tippins behaviour towards the Complainant that amounted to bullying and harassment over a period of time and on specific dates between 18 December 2019 and 20 April 2020.

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 will be available on the Dorset Council website when published and forms part of this Decision Notice. [Link](#)

3. The Hearing Sub-Committee's Decisions

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

3.2 Members of the Sub-Committee having heard all of the views at the hearing and having read all the papers and taken account of the view of the Independent Person, made a unanimous decision to agree with the recommendations of the Investigating Officer and found that there had been multiple breaches of the Shaftesbury Town Council Member Code of Conduct by Cllr K Tippins; in particular:

section 2.1 (b):

"A Councillor musttreat others with respect;"

section 2.2 A Councillor must not -

"(b), bully any person;"

"(c), intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be (iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings in relation to an allegation that a councillor has failed to comply with the code of conduct;"

"(g) behave in a way which could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or the Council into disrepute;"

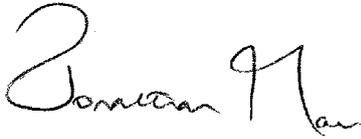
"(h) use or attempt to use their position improperly to confer on or secure for them or any person, an advantage or disadvantage".

3.3 Where the Investigating Officer found that there was no breach of the code the Sub-Committee agreed with that finding.

3.4 The Sub-Committee therefore required the following actions as an appropriate and proportionate response to the complaint:

- Cllr K Tippins to attend a training course on interactions with other councillors and officers within 3 months;
- Shaftesbury Town Council to identify a single point of contact for Cllr K Tippins, other than the Town Clerk, to protect Cllr K Tippins and the Town Clerk from direct dealings outside of formal council meetings;

- Shaftesbury Town Council to make arrangements, to apply until the date of the next Town Council election, for any meeting between Cllr K Tippins and Town Council staff (outside of formal council meetings) to be by appointment only so that staff can be accompanied at the meetings.



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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.