



Member Code of Conduct Complaint

Decision Notice

Subject Member	Councillor Cathy Hunt
Parish Council	Prestbury Parish Council
Decision Date:	16 May 2023
Decision:	Complaint partially upheld
Sanction:	N/A

Summary of Complaint

Former Councillor Hilarie Owen alleges that at a meeting of a climate change working group on 3rd March 2023 Councillor Hunt shouted and acted aggressively towards her. This resulted in her leaving the meeting very upset and immediately resigning from the Council.

This incident followed a previous altercation with Councillor Hunt over her attitude towards a new Councillor – Dan Taylor. Where it is alleged that Councillor Hunt was very unwelcoming to Councillor Taylor and was ‘aggressive in her questioning’ of him. In a subsequent meetings Councillor Hunt is also alleged to have to have been unpleasant to Councillor Taylor, stating that ‘I don’t need someone like you telling me what to do.’

Parts of the Code of Conduct alleged to have been breached

The complainant alleges that Councillor Hunt has breached the following part of the Code of Conduct:

- Failure to treat fellow Councillor with respect
- Bullying

Standards Hearing Sub-Committee

This complaint was considered by the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee on 16 May 2023.

Hilarie Owen was in attendance and addressed the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Cathy Hunt was unable to attend but submitted a statement which was read to the Sub-Committee

Councillor Sandra Attwood and Councillor Dan Taylor were also in attendance as witnesses and addressed the Sub-Committee.

Full minutes of the hearing are available on the Council website:

www.cheltenham.gov.uk

The decision of the Hearing Sub-Committee was as follows:

On the balance of probabilities the Sub-Committee found:

- Failure to treat fellow Councillor with respect in relation to Hilarie Owen – Not Proven
- Failure to treat fellow Councillor with respect in relation to Councillor Dan Taylor - Proven
- Bullying – Not proven

The full text of the decision is available within the minutes

Sanctions

Councillor Hunt is required to issue an apology to Councillor Dan Taylor.

The Sub-Committee also recommended that the Parish Council give consideration to arranging some training for Councillor Hunt.

Appeal

There is no right of appeal against this decision.

Claire Hughes
Monitoring Officer
Cheltenham Borough Council

19 May 2023



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