



City of Doncaster Council

CITY OF DONCASTER COUNCIL

HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF FINDING IN RELATION TO AN INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED BREACHES OF THE HATFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

The Hearings Sub-Committee of City of Doncaster Council (CDC), at a meeting held on Tuesday, 18th March 2025 considered allegations made by Mr Phillip Price and Hatfield Town Councillor Deborah Smith against Councillor Michael Glynn of Hatfield Town Council (HTC). The Sub-Committee determined that there had been a failure by Councillor Glynn to comply with the following paragraphs of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Hatfield Town Council:-

"General Conduct

1. Respect

As a councillor:

- 1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.*
- 1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.*

8. Complying with the Code of Conduct

- 8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination."*

The Sub-Committee considered the following allegations:-

- The first complaint, submitted by Mr Phillip Price (member of the public) alleged that at a Positive Action Group ("PAG") meeting held at Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall on the 12th August 2024, Councillor Glynn made disparaging remarks about the Hatfield Town Clerk, Clare McRoy, referring to her as "Useless" and "she's not very good". The meeting was chaired by a CDC Public Health Officer. Also present were 6 members of the public, at least one other HTC elected member and a CDC Ward Councillor. Clare McRoy was not present. The complainant believed that Councillor Glynn's conduct was inappropriate and that his behaviour was disrespectful, bullying and brought his role and HTC into disrepute.

- The second complaint, submitted by Hatfield Town Councillor Deborah Smith, alleged that during a meeting of HTC held at its offices on the 14th October 2024, Councillor Glynn made a misogynistic remark to Councillor Smith and other female HTC Councillors and the Town Clerk (Clare McRoy) who were also present at the meeting. The complainant believed that Councillor Glynn's conduct was inappropriate and that his behaviour was disrespectful, bullying and brought his role and HTC into disrepute.

Having regard to the report and findings of an Investigation conducted by Neil Concannon, Head of Litigation & Regulatory and Deputy Monitoring Officer, City of Doncaster Council (Investigating Officer), the Sub-Committee accepted the Investigating Officer's findings that there had been a failure by Councillor Glynn to comply with paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 of the Code of Conduct adopted by Hatfield Town Council in respect of the allegations detailed above for the reasons identified in the Investigating Officer's report. Furthermore, the Sub-Committee found that Councillor Glynn had failed to comply with paragraph 8.2 of the Town Council's Code of Conduct in terms of his failings to give further cooperation with the Investigation and his non-attendance at the Hearing.

Following the Sub-Committee's deliberations, the Chair read out the following statement on behalf of the Sub-Committee:

"Councillor Mick Glynn shows an assertive and engaged manner as a member of Hatfield town council, with a strong inclination to challenge both staff and colleagues. Healthy challenge and robust debate are fundamental to our political system. Town and parish councillors are not professional politicians, and their meeting environment should be collaborative and not combative. While we do not want councillors to feel that they cannot express their honest views and be challenging, such behaviour must be tempered with respect for individuals as required by the Hatfield Town Council Code of Conduct, which he has agreed to uphold since adopting it in June 2021."

Sanctions

The Sub-Committee resolved that in the circumstances of this case appropriate sanctions to be imposed upon Councillor Glynn are as follows:

1. That Councillor Glynn be censured and reprimanded for his actions;
2. That Councillor Glynn provides a written apology to the former Clerk to the Town Council, and to Councillor Deborah Smith and the Town Council as a whole, copied to the Monitoring Officer;
3. That the Sub-Committee's findings in respect of Councillor Glynn's conduct be published on City of Doncaster Council's website and to recommend to Hatfield Town Council that the Sub-Committee's findings be published on its website;
4. That the Sub-Committee's findings be reported to Hatfield Town Council for consideration; and

5. To recommend to Hatfield Town Council that Councillor Glynn undertakes training at the expense of Hatfield Town Council on the Member Code of Conduct and on proper conduct at meetings.

Appeals

There is no right of appeal for the Complainant or for the Members against a decision of the Sub-Committee.

If the Complainant or Members feels that the Council has failed to deal with the complaint properly and that this failure has caused injustice, they can make a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Hearing Sub-Committee

The Hearings Sub-Committee was chaired by Councillor Glenn Bluff and comprised Councillors Iris Beech, John Healy and David Nevett, and Co-opted Members David Harle and Monica Clarke.

The meeting was also attended by the Council's Independent Person, Philip Beavers, whose views were sought by the Sub-Committee prior to making a determination on this matter.

The Council's Monitoring Officer, Scott Fawcus attended to provide legal advice to the Sub-Committee. The meeting was clerked by Jonathan Goodrum, Senior Governance Officer, CDC.

Signed:



Councillor G Bluff, Chair of the Hearings Sub-Committee

Dated: 18th March 2025

