

# Agenda Item 7

The Sub-Committee find that Cllr Woollcombe did breach the code of conduct in respect of the complaint made by the Complainant.

And

The Sub-Committee find that Cllr Woollcombe did breach the code of conduct in failing to engage with the process.

The Reasons for this decision are as follows:

1. The words used by Cllr Woollcombe in his e-mail of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 did exceed what can be considered acceptable language and, in the opinion of the sub-committee, amounted to a personal attack contrary to paragraph 1.1 of Code of the Conduct.
2. In particular, the Sub-Committee feel that accusing the Complainant of being intent on causing residents “real harm” and also of behaving in an underhand way by allegedly arranging a meeting for a time at which Cllr Woollcombe wasn't available, were examples of times at which the language amounted to a personal attack and therefore a breach of the code.
3. The Sub-Committee are of the view that Cllr Woollcombe's actions since he was notified of the complaint, particularly in initially agreeing to apologise unreservedly and failing to follow through with it, lead to the unnecessary prolonging of the complaint and did amount to a failure to comply with the process. This was compounded by Cllr Woollcombe's failure to attend the sub-committee hearing without explanation or apologies.

The Sub-Committee feel that appropriate sanction would be for the decision to be publishes on the Council's website, and for the Monitoring Officer to arrange appropriate training for the Councillor on how to interact with other members.