

Our ref: MP/MCC ST/ JAB

21 May 2021

FAO Lesley Cleaver  
Clerk to Hartlebury Parish Council

By email - Lesley Cleaver [hartlebury.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:hartlebury.clerk@gmail.com)

Dear Ms Cleaver

## **Member Conduct Committee Special Hearing – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Complaint Against Councillor S Tranter, Hartlebury Parish Council**

You will be aware that we have had an ongoing investigation into a member code of conduct complaint against Cllr Tranter.

In summary, I received a complaint in October 2019. The crux of the complaint, in relation to the code of conduct, was around the lack of respect shown to fellow councilors and the then clerk.

Following a thorough investigation into the issues, my colleague, John Teasdale, produced a comprehensive report.

The investigation concluded that Cllr Tranter had breached the Code of Conduct in two respects and made relevant recommendations.

Cllr Tranter did not accept the findings of the report or recommendations and therefore, in line with adopted procedures the Member Conduct Committee (MCC) held a special hearing.

The hearing took place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The MCC heard representations from Cllr Tranter and took the opportunity to ask him questions.

Having considered the evidence and heard from Cllr Tranter the MCC unanimously resolved that there had been, on balance, the following breach of the Code of Conduct:  
Code 3(1) – failure to treat others with respect;  
Code 5 – actions that had brought the Hartlebury Parish Council into disrepute.

In making their finding, the MCC commented that there were a lot of issues raised which did not fall within their remit to consider.

The MCC noted that the code of conduct does not prevent elected members from being robust and questioning/ investigating matters however it does aim to regulate the manner in which this is done.

The MCC then considered what, if any, recommendations to make and unanimously

resolved to recommend to Hartlebury Parish Council the following

- for both breaches of the Code Cllr Tranter should make a formal verbal and written apology to the former Clerk, Mr Gulliver and also his former fellow Councillors who resigned from their duties on the 1st October 2019.
- Cllr Tranter should undertake training in respect of the Code of Conduct and training in respect of an elected members responsibilities and duties as a Parish Councillor.

As you will be aware it is now for the Parish Council to decide what, if any, action to take in respect of the recommendations I would therefore be grateful if you could bring the findings and recommendations of the MCC to the Parish Council.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with an update on if the recommendations have been accepted and what is being done to implement them or if they haven't been accepted and why in due course.

Yours sincerely



MEESHA PATEL  
Monitoring Officer