

Shaftesbury Town Council

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To: All members of Shaftesbury Town Council

You are required to attend an extraordinary meeting of **Shaftesbury Town Council** to be held at **6.45pm on Tuesday 15th November 2016 in the Council Chamber, Shaftesbury Town Hall** for the transaction of the business shown on the agenda below.



Councillor John Lewer



Councillor Lauren Todd

have issued this Summons in accordance with Standing Order 6.b

Members are reminded of their duty under the Code of Conduct

Public Participation

The Chairman will invite members of the public to present their questions, statements or petitions submitted under the Council's Public Participation Procedure.

Members of the public and Councillors are entitled to make audio or visual recordings of the meeting provided it does not cause disruption or impede the transaction of business.

Out of courtesy to those present, the Council requests that intention to record proceedings is brought to the Chairman's attention prior to the start of the meeting.

Agenda Item

01. Apologies

To receive and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence

02. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Members and Officers are reminded of their obligations to declare interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct 2012. The Clerk will report any dispensation requests received.

03. Chairman and Vice-Chairman Issues within the Council and its Committees

To receive a Notice of Motions relating to Chairman and Vice-chairman issues, as detailed in the attached Paper, and resolve accordingly

Supporting Information for Agenda Item 3

1. A substantial majority of Councillors now believe that the behaviour and leadership style of Cllr R Tippins and Cllr K Tippins is damaging the performance of the Council. Whilst there is no doubt about their positive contribution to both corporate business and civic duties, their autocratic manner, unpreparedness to hear others' views and inability to take advice is undermining other members' patience and morale.
2. This situation has been unresolved for 18 months, despite continual efforts to convince the Cllrs Tippins of their faults. Following the chaotic abandonment of the 25 October Full Council Meeting, 9 Councillors handed them both a letter (see Appendix A) giving notice that no more of this behaviour would be tolerated.
3. The deadline for their response has now passed, and the purpose of this meeting is to formally and publicly ask them both to resign their Chairmans' and Vice-chairman's roles as detailed below. Due notice has been given of the following two motions:
 - (a) This Council has no confidence in the ability of Cllr Richard Tippins to perform his role as Mayor and Chairman of Shaftesbury Town Council in an objective and balanced way. We therefore ask him to resign from this role immediately.
 - (b) This Council has no confidence in the ability of Cllr Karen Tippins to perform her role as Chairman of Shaftesbury Town Council's Recreation and Open Spaces Committee or Vice-Chair of the General Management Committee in an objective and balanced way. We therefore ask her to resign from these roles immediately.

Appendix A. Letter to Cllr R Tippins & Cllr K Tippins

Cllr R Tippins
Cllr K Tippins
Shaftesbury Town Council

1st November 2016

Dear Cllr R Tippins and Cllr K Tippins,

We, the undersigned, are writing formally to convey our collective decision to take the action, outlined below, which we feel is necessary to safeguard the future of the Shaftesbury Town Council.

Since this Council was elected in 2015, we have made many suggestions for a better working environment and the proper inclusion of all members in all matters. Every one of these has been ignored. We have also witnessed your unacceptable treatment of Town Council Officers in public meetings. We are no longer prepared to tolerate this behaviour.

Therefore, it is with deep regret that we formally require that:

Cllr R Tippins resigns as Mayor and Chairman of Shaftesbury Town Council, as well as relinquishing any Chairmanships or Vice Chairmanships he holds within Council committees;

and

Cllr Karen Tippins relinquishes any Chairmanships or Vice Chairmanships she holds within Council committees;

We will give you seven calendar days to act on this requirement. If you comply, then the matter will be closed and we will look forward to a period of better relations between members as well as between members and officers.

Should you not wish to comply, for the purposes of STC's Standing Order 6.a, we ask Cllr R Tippins as the current Chairman, to indicate your willingness to convene an Extraordinary Full Council meeting, at which we intend to propose a vote of No Confidence in your ability to perform the above roles. At that meeting we will also make this letter public. If you do not convene a meeting as requested, we hereby give notice that we will do it ourselves under Standing Order 6.b.

The next stage of our action will then be to absent ourselves from all Shaftesbury Town Council meetings, with the exception of the non-controversial business that the Council has a statutory duty to transact.

We believe this to be a fair course of action that, if you choose, allows you both to resign your positions of authority within the council quietly and respectfully.

Yours Sincerely,

All Agreed and Signed

Cllr A Austin, Cllr P Brown, Cllr George Hall, Cllr M Jackson, Cllr J Lewer, Cllr A Perkins, Cllr P Proctor, Cllr L Taylor and Cllr L Todd