

Alton Town Council

Minutes of the Alton Town Meeting

Held at the Town Hall, Market Square, Alton  
20 May 1999

Present: Councillor Ms P J Bradford - Chairman  
Councillor P A Cole  
Councillor D Crocker  
Councillor R J F Evans  
Councillor D G Farr  
Councillor R T Fitzer  
Councillor Ms P E Jones  
Councillor P V Mendham  
Councillor J F Smith  
Councillor P M G Whitmarsh  
Councillor D J Willoughby

District Councillor R A Booker  
District Councillor J M J Janes

4 members of the public attended.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 1998 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor A D Barron.

3. Public Participation

- (a) Councillor Janes stated that the appearance of the grass verges around the town were the worst he had ever known and sought clarification of the Town Council's involvement in grass cutting.

The Town Clerk outlined the position: East Hampshire District Council are responsible for the cutting of highway and some amenity area verges. They employ a contractor to cut these areas every 28 days, amounting to approximately 8 cuts per year in total. The Town Council for the first time, was monitoring the contract on behalf of the District Council in the Town Council area. Any complaints, having identified if it was an area scheduled to be cut under the contract, were investigated further. Complaints mainly concerned areas that should be cut and had been missed; areas that should be cut but had been omitted from the contract by accident; grass cut poorly, and grass cuttings not blown onto the grass off the pavements.

The contractor was he believed carrying out the terms

of the contract as specified quite well. However many of the complaints outlined above, and others concerning visual appearances of the verges in general, resulted from East Hampshire District Council failing to specify enough cuts during the year in the contract.

Councillor Janes said that the number of cuts had been reduced by East Hampshire District Council last year, which on hindsight had been a mistake.

It was agreed that East Hampshire District Council need to be lobbied to change the contract to increase the number of visits by the contractors.

- (b) Councillor Booker asked if the Town Council had a view on changes being implemented by East Hampshire District Council to amalgamate the planning functions of the 4 Area Committees into 2 Planning Committees (North and South) and leave the area's Committees to meet bi-monthly concentrating on purely local and community matters.

Councillor Whitmarsh gave an assurance that the Town Council is concerned about the proposed changes, and would make the strongest possible representations if there was likely to be any diminution of the representation, consultation and influence Alton Councillors and residents had over affairs affecting Alton.

#### 4. Town Mayor's Address

The Town Mayor, Councillor Ms P J Bradford reflected on her year in office. The highlight of the year had been her trip to Montechio Maggiore to sign the Twinning accord. Councillor Bradford had been pleased that so many projects had been started or come to fruition during her mayoral year, citing the following:-

- (a) The Coach Parking area
- (b) Draymans Way Public Toilets
- (c) The Butts, Tree Management Scheme
- (d) Public Gardens Improvements
- (e) Social Housing at Borovere Allotments

She Commented also upon the swans at King's Pond, the work of Alton Promotion and Marketing Forum and the hard work of its former Chairman, Allan Chick, and expressed disappointment that the Artificial Turf Pitch had not gone ahead. She hoped progress could be made on providing toilets at Normandy Street.

The Town Mayor thanked the staff of the Council, past and present Councillors and the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor D G Farr for all their help and support over the past year.

*Handwritten:*  
18/5/2000  
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