

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ALTON TOWN ELECTORS' MEETING
HELD ON 16 MARCH 2022 AT 7:00PM**

Present:	Councillor	Pam Jones Ginny Boxall Suzie Burns Sharon Cullen Graham Hill Richard Platt Graham Titterington	-	Town Mayor
Apologies:	Councillor	Matthew Bayliss Paul Crossley Lewis Jones Christopher Lawrence		
Did not attend:	Councillor	Gideon Cristofoli Amanda Durley		
In attendance:		Leah Coney Pat Harris Samantha Brown Wendy Simson 4 members of the public	- - - - -	Town Clerk Admin and Finance Manager Councillor Support/ Admin Officer Finance Officer

98 **Welcome and Town Mayors Address**

The Town Mayor welcomed all to the Annual Meeting of Electors.

Mayor's address to Electors' Meeting 16 March 2022

As my term of office comes to a close, events further from home are uppermost in my mind, as I am sure they are in yours too.

Alongside living through a pandemic; the picture is not a good one... But add the generous caring nature of Altonians to the mix and it gives us courage to carry on; to keep rising to the challenges when they come.

Mayoral invitations have been reduced this year due to covid but there have certainly been some memorable occasions from putting together virtual greetings for the Jalsa Salana to being interviewed by the children at the Butts school. At the heart of all this activity are the people I serve as Mayor; Altonians young and not so young and from all walks of life.

The King's Arms, Alton, my Mayor's Charity, have gone from strength to strength during the pandemic continuing to offer vital support to our young people.

We are all aware of how much pressure has been put on our NHS workers and the enormous debt of gratitude we owe them. Tonight, I am delighted to welcome Alex Whitfield, Chief Executive Officer at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who is going to speak to us about the future plans for our Community Hospital.

I remember, as a young mum, back in the 80s, campaigning with the NCT for, what was then, our new Community Hospital... and more recently working with the council to ensure it was included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

What have I had to do the most? I think smiling will be at the top of the list as usual. The role of the Mayor is not just a Civic role though, as I am also Chair of the Council; this is often overlooked and it has not always been easy to 'keep smiling'. But through it all I hope I have continued to listen to the peoples' voice and have tried to speak on their behalf acting as their ambassador.

I have been honoured to serve Alton as a councillor for over 20 years. When I hand over my chain of office in May, I will continue to serve as an ordinary Town Councillor until the next election, meanwhile I am here to listen to your concerns.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me in my role.

99 **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17th March 2021**

On the proposal of Councillor Pam Jones, seconded by Councillor Graham Hill, it was

RESOLVED

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and will be signed by the Town Mayor at a later date.

All councillors present voted in favour.

100 **To table the Alton Town Council Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 and the Modified Alton Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillors noted the Audited Accounts as presented and that the External Auditor had raised no comments

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill, seconded by Councillor Suzie Burns, it was

RESOLVED

To approve the Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 and the Modified Alton Neighbourhood Plan

All councillors present voted in favour

101 **Town Mayor to welcome Hampshire Hospitals Chief Executive Alex Whitfield**

The Town Mayor welcomed Alex Whitfield, Chief Executive of Hampshire Hospitals.

101 **Presentation by Alex Whitfield on the future of Alton Community Hospital followed by a Q&A session**

The presentation is appended to the Minutes and the following questions with the responses which were either given on the evening or provided at a later date are contained within the annex to these Minutes.

102 **Open Forum - To receive questions and statements from Electors of the Alton Town Council area, including those received in advance**

There were no questions received in advance of the meeting and there were no other questions raised on any other subject matter.

103 **Closing Comments**

The Mayor thanked Alex Whitefield for sitting in the “hot seat” and for providing an informative update and agreeing to provide answers to those questions which could not be answered on the evening which she was taking away to find out more information.

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 8.12 pm.