

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2024 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL

Present: **Councillor** **Matthew Bayliss**
 Mark Boyce-Churn
 John Chubb
 Annette Eyre
 Don Hammond
 Graham Hill
 Matthew Kellermann
 Nick O'Brien
 Barbara Tansey
 Janice Treacher
 Peter Wadman
 Jonathan Waugh

In attendance: **Patricia Harris** - **Town Clerk**
 Hayley Carter - **Deputy Clerk**
 Wendy Simson - **Assistant to the Clerk**
 Samantha Brown - **Councillor Support Officer**
 Natalie Beckell - **Events & Marketing Lead Officer**
 Doug Richards - **Applicant for co-option**
 3 Members of the public

1 Election of Town Mayor for 2024/25

The outgoing Town Mayor Annette Eyre welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the councillors and staff for their work throughout the year. She then asked for nominations for the position of Town Mayor.

On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Hammond, Councillor Eyre was nominated and consented to the nomination.

Councillor Kellermann nominated Councillor Peter Wadman but there was no seconder.

Thus it was

RESOLVED
Councillor Eyre be elected Town Mayor for the coming year.

All in favour

2 To receive the Town Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Annette Eyre read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3 Presentations to outgoing Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Annette Eyre, was presented with flowers and thanked for her service to the town.

4 Town Mayor's Consort, Chaplain and Charities

1. The Town Mayor appointed Canon Andrew Micklefield as Chaplain.
2. The Town Mayor announced that her charity for the mayoral year will be Dementia Friendly Alton
3. The Town Mayor announced that she would not have a Consort but instead wished to invite other councillors along to accompany her so that they could get a feel for what goes on in the town, as she feels she has already learned so much in her time as Mayor.

5 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

6 To elect the Deputy Town Mayor

On the proposal of Councillor Tansey, seconded by Councillor Hammond, Councillor Nick O'Brien was nominated and thus it was

RESOLVED

Councillor Nick O'Brien was duly elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

All in favour

7 Co-option of Councillors for vacant seat – Eastbrooke Ward

Councillors had been given the opportunity to chat informally with candidate Doug Richards for half an hour prior to the meeting. Mr Richards gave a brief account of his background and reasons for wanting to join the council. He and his wife moved to Alton in 2022, having made the decision to downsize after their sons left home. He grew up in Devon, spending time on minesweepers and then electric and diesel submarines in the Royal Navy from 1963 to 1977. After leaving the Navy he went back to his roots and was involved with commercial horticulture, eventually becoming Head Gardener for the Chair of the Bank of England. He then went on to work for Woking Borough Council as a supervisor and then Head of Horticulture and Highways. After he retired, he took a role as Highways Inspector with Surrey County Council. He was previously a councillor at Guildford Borough and Ash Parish Council but gave it up when he moved out of the area. He has previously been a school governor and a Judge for the Royal Horticultural Society and remains a Judge for the Tidy Britain Group's Green Flag Award for Parks and Gardens. He also volunteers at Chawton House, paints with an art group at Farnham Pottery and recently joined Alton Arts Society.

On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Bayliss, it was

RESOLVED

To approve the appointment of Mr Doug Richards as Ward Councillor for Eastbrooke

In favour: Councillors Eyre, O'Brien, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Kellermann, Treacher, Wadman and Waugh
Abstained: Councillors Chubb, Hammond and Tansey

8 **To Approve the Draft Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee and Planning Scheme of Delegation**

On the proposal of Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Treacher, it was

RESOLVED

To approve the Draft Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee and the Scheme of Delegation as tabled

All in favour

9 **Committees Structure and appointments of Champions**

Councillor Kellermann proposed a deferment of this item. There being no seconder, this was not carried.

Councillor Bayliss proposed an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Hammond and thus it was

RESOLVED

To amend the resolution to allow committees to be filled for the next year as they currently stand, but champions roles to be vacated until the whole structure of the council could be reviewed at a workshop in September.

All in favour.

Therefore, on the proposal of Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

RESOLVED

that the Climate Change Committee, Staffing Committee and Planning Committee be filled for the next year, but champions roles would be vacated until the whole structure of the council could be reviewed at a workshop in September.

All in favour.

On the proposal of Councillor Treacher, seconded by Councillor Chubb, it was

RESOLVED to approve the appointments for the Planning Committee as follows:

All councillors once they have completed their planning training

All in favour.

On the proposal of Councillor Treacher, seconded by Councillor Kellermann, it was

RESOLVED to approve the appointments for the Climate Change Committee as follows:

Councillor Don Hammond
Councillor Matthew Kellermann
Councillor Barbara Tansey,
Councillor Janice Treacher

All in favour.

Councillor Kellermann expressed a desire to add himself as a member of the Staffing Committee.

Councillor Bayliss proposed an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Hill, who emphasised how important it was to have continuity with the Staffing Committee. Thus it was

RESOLVED

To amend the resolution to limit the membership of the Staffing Committee to three members at this meeting.

In favour:

Councillors Eyre, O'Brien, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Chubb, Hammond, Tansey, Treacher, Wadman and Waugh

Against: Councillor Kellermann

Thus, on the proposal of Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Hill, it was

RESOLVED

To appoint three members to the Staffing Committee at this meeting.

In favour:

Councillors Eyre, O'Brien, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Chubb, Hammond, Tansey, Treacher, Wadman and Waugh

Against: Councillor Kellermann

On the proposal of Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Chubb, it was

RESOLVED to approve the appointments for the Staffing Committee as follows:

Councillor Matthew Bayliss
Councillor Annette Eyre
Councillor Graham Hill

In favour:

Councillors Eyre, O'Brien, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Chubb, Hammond, Tansey, Treacher, Wadman and Waugh

Against: Councillor Kellermann

On the proposal of Councillor Boyce-Churn, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Eyre as the Chair of the Planning Committee

In favour:

Councillors O'Brien, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Chubb, Hammond, Kellermann, Tansey, Treacher, Wadman and Waugh

Abstained: Councillor Eyre

On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Chubb, it was

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Tansey as the Chair of the Climate Change Committee

All in favour

On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor O'Brien, it was

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Bayliss as the Chair of the Staffing Committee

In favour:

Councillors Eyre, O'Brien, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Chubb, Hammond, Tansey, Treacher, Wadman and Waugh

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

10 **To Approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2024/25**

On the proposal of Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Hill, it was

RESOLVED

To approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2024/25 as tabled

All in favour

11 **Confirmation of General Power of Competence**

On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Bayliss,

The Town Council RESOLVED from 29th May 2024, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council on 21st May 2025 that it no longer satisfies all of the conditions to retain the General Power of Competence (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. Alton Town Council having not met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, will revert to operating under the specific powers (e.g. the provision of open spaces and recreational facilities) in addition to section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, permitting the expenditure up to certain limits for "purposes not otherwise authorised". Typically, the expenditure on

grants is covered by section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

In favour:

Councillors Eyre, O'Brien, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Chubb, Hammond,
Tansey, Treacher, Wadman and Waugh

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

Councillor Hill asked that he be permitted to acknowledge the excellent job done by all the officers of the Town Council in challenging circumstances this year and added that he included the Grounds Team in that. He also wanted to thank councillors for their good work in, for many of them, their first year in the role.

The meeting finished at 7.52pm.