

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL**

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**Present:**        **Councillor**    **Annette Eyre (Town Mayor)**  
                                 **John Chubb**  
                                 **Don Hammond**  
                                 **Graham Hill**  
                                 **Matthew Kellermann**  
                                 **Nick O’Brien**  
                                 **Doug Richards**  
                                 **Barbara Tansey**  
                                 **Janice Treacher**  
                                 **Peter Wadman**  
                                 **Jonathan Waugh**

**In attendance:**        **Pat Harris**                                -        **Town Clerk**  
                                 **Hayley Carter**                                -        **Deputy Clerk**  
                                 **34 Members of the public**

**12        Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Boyce-Churn and Matthew Bayliss, and County Councillor Andrew Joy.

**13        Town Mayor’s Announcements**

1. The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that all mobile phones were either switched off or put to silent mode.
2. In respect of Agenda item 6, she then made the following statement:  
“Just to clarify, what is on the agenda for decision this evening is for Councillors to approve the content of this Draft Alton Neighbourhood Plan (not the draft Local Plan) to go out for consultation and comment to the public and statutory bodies – this is known as Regulation 14.  
Therefore, all residents and statutory bodies will have ample opportunity to comment on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan being tabled this evening during a 6-week consultation period (the start date for which has yet to be confirmed) and for those comments to be reviewed and amendments made before the Plan progresses to the next stage.  
Regulation 14 is part of the process that will afford all residents the opportunity to comment and allow formal feedback to be gathered (known as evidence). It will be at the end of this 6-week public consultation period when further amendments to the Draft Plan will be made which could include removal of sites.  
I hope this clarifies the process that has to be followed and both reassures and provides you with a level of comfort in that the public will be consulted fully.”

14 **Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

With regards the minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> May, Councillor Kellermann noted that there was no mention of a question he asked County Councillor Andrew Joy about potholes or the thanks that he offered him for his support of the Curtis Museum.

1. On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

In favour: Councillors Annette Eyre, John Chubb, Don Hammond, Graham Hill, Nick O'Brien, Doug Richards, Barbara Tansey, Janice Treacher, Peter Wadman, Jonathan Waugh

Against: Councillor Matthew Kellermann

With regards the minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> May, Councillor Matthew Kellermann felt that the committees appointed at the Annual Meeting were interim committees, until the review of the council's structure in September. The Deputy Clerk clarified that the structure was to be reviewed in September, but that it had been agreed that the membership of the committees remain the same until the next AGM to ensure continuity, therefore the minutes were correct.

2. On the proposal of Councillor Wadman, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council Annual Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

In favour: Councillors Annette Eyre, John Chubb, Don Hammond, Graham Hill, Nick O'Brien, Doug Richards, Barbara Tansey, Janice Treacher, Peter Wadman, Jonathan Waugh

Against: Councillor Matthew Kellermann

15 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Councillor Graham Hill stated that, in respect of agenda item 6:

"I have sought the views of the Deputy Monitoring Officer at EHDC. I wish to remain consistent and again make the following declaration of interest.

For the Neighbourhood Plan item, I declare a non-pecuniary interest in that I am the nominated Town Councillor member of the Steering Group.

This Group has already made recommendations to the Town Council. To avoid any possible conflict of interest I will therefore not be participating in the discussion and will abstain from voting on this item."

**16 Correspondence Received and Questions to the Council**

- 16.1 The email correspondence received on the day of the meeting from residents of Holybourne are attached at Appendix A.
- 16.2 Helen Walters of the Holybourne Village Association said she was puzzled why a decision needs to be made tonight when we don't know the baseline for the Local plan and there is a very high likelihood that the numbers the Alton neighbourhood Plan have to deal with will be reduced.
- 16.3 Jerry Janes of the Holybourne Village Association said he has had a brief read of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and it is very impressive, but very provocative in the area of site allocations. He said he could not see why the Town Council would do this when they know what the answer will be, and when previous consultation has obviously not been taken into account. If the plan goes out like this, it will be rejected. We have two years before the plan needs to be approved.
- 16.4 Ginny Boxall stated that she was not speaking as an EHDC Councillor, but was here on behalf of Sara Whitwell of the 'Save Windmill Hill' group, who was unable to attend this evening. She was surprised the council were doing this tonight, during purdah, and wants the Town Council to put this aside for now. She said any housing needs to be shared equally around the town.
- 16.5 Jack Bucknall, a Windmill Hill resident, said he did not understand why there was such a rush for this. He had only heard about it two hours ago. He said we don't know what the allocation to Alton will be and there is plenty of time before we have to do this.
- 16.6 Jane Davis said it feels like this has been rushed and she supports everything that has been said.
- 16.7 Juliet MacColl, a Holybourne resident, said she endorses everything that has already been said.
- 16.8 Andrew Muir, a Holybourne resident, said that he supports everything that has been said but also wanted to add that he has done his own traffic survey in Holybourne, outside of half term, which is when he alleges the one in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan was done, and it yielded very different results to that put forward by the developers.

**17 Alton Neighbourhood Plan – approval of the pre-submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan**

There was much discussion in the room, which included members of the public being invited to participate. Although many concerns were raised with residents expressing the view that the council were rushing into a decision, it was made clear that the Regulation 14 consultation had already been delayed from December 2023 (to allow EHDC to undertake their Regulation 18 consultation) and that the item had already been on the agenda with no decision made at three previous meetings, in February, April and May. If the Regulation 14 consultation does not take place before East Hampshire District Council goes to their Regulation 19 consultation and there is therefore no decision on whether site allocations will be included in the Neighbourhood Plan or not, then EHDC will allocate sites in Alton in their Local Plan. Councillor Kellermann said he felt this was just scaremongering and proposed the following amendment:

“That Alton Town Council should act with caution, not undue haste, deferring any decision on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan until a response has come back to EHDC from Kings Counsel and their call for Brownfield sites.”

There being no seconder the amendment was not carried.

The Town Mayor advised Councillor Kellermann that those councillors who had attended the briefing the previous evening (with the Neighbourhood Plan consultants and EHDC) were made aware of the need to move forward with the Regulation 14 public consultation or the town would lose control over housing allocation.

In light of the pressure coming from the public, Councillor Nick O’Brien proposed the following amendment:

“That Alton Town Council put forward a Draft Neighbourhood Plan without site allocations and site-specific policies to the Regulation 14 consultation”

There being no seconder this amendment was not carried.

Members of the public said they did want to see sites included in the Plan, but felt there were other sites that had not been looked at, such as North Alton, and that by so doing, development could be spread more fairly across the town. The Chair of the ANP Steering Group said that all sites in the Land Availability Assessment (LAA) had been considered, and that all except three had been included in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan put forward this evening. The three that had not been included had been screened out due to breaching the skyline or they had previously had planning applications rejected on appeal.

However, with continuing pressure mounting from the public who believe that there are other sites that should be included and determine that they could get a group together (with representatives from all areas of Alton) to put together a more fair and just proposal in quick time to deliver a revised site allocation section of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan which the people of Alton would get behind, rather than the one tabled this evening which is provocative and divisive.

Councillor Don Hammond therefore put forward the following amendment:

“That Alton Town Council proceed to a Regulation 14 consultation but not before 14th September and that a group of representatives could be given until the end of July to come back with any new proposal for site allocations to be included in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, which would then be put to the Full Council Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September. The alternative sites and accompanying assessment / information should be submitted to the Town Clerk by the end of July.”

This was seconded by Councillor Nick O’Brien, therefore on the proposal of Councillor Don Hammond, seconded by Councillor Nick O’Brien, it was:

#### **RESOLVED**

**To amend the resolution to “Alton Town Council proceed to a Regulation 14 consultation but not before 14th September and that a group of representatives be given until the end of July to come back with any new proposal for site allocations to be included in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, which would then be put to the Full Council Meeting on 4th September. The alternative sites and accompanying assessment / information should be submitted to the Town Clerk by the end of July”**

In favour: Councillors Annette Eyre, John Chubb, Don Hammond, Nick O'Brien, Doug Richards, Barbara Tansey, Janice Treacher, Peter Wadman, Jonathan Waugh

Against: Councillor Matthew Kellermann

Abstain: Councillor Graham Hill

1. On the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor O'Brien, it was

**RESOLVED**

**to proceed to a Regulation 14 consultation but not before 14th September and that a group of representatives could be given until the end of July to come back with any new proposal for the site allocations to be included in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, which would then be put to the Full Council Meeting on 4th September. The alternative sites and accompanying assessment / information should be submitted to the Town Clerk by the end of July.**

In favour: Councillors Annette Eyre, John Chubb, Don Hammond, Nick O'Brien, Doug Richards, Barbara Tansey, Janice Treacher, Peter Wadman, Jonathan Waugh

Against: Councillor Matthew Kellermann

Abstain: Councillor Graham Hill

2. On the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor Kellermann, it was

**RESOLVED**

**To delegate to the Town Clerk any amendments to the draft Plan including spelling, grammatical errors, or amendments to wording, which do not change the nature of the policies, as required, prior to publication for the Regulation 14 consultation.**

In favour: Councillors Annette Eyre, John Chubb, Don Hammond, Matthew Kellermann, Nick O'Brien, Doug Richards, Barbara Tansey, Janice Treacher, Peter Wadman, Jonathan Waugh

Abstain: Councillor Graham Hill

18 **To receive a verbal report from and ask questions of County Councillor Andrew Joy.**

Councillor Joy had sent his apologies to the meeting, so no update was provided.

19 **Statement of Accounts to 30th April 2024**

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

**RESOLVED****To approve:**

- 1. The balance sheet dated 30th April 2024**
- 2. The Income and Expenditure account to 30th April 2024**
- 3. The bank reconciliations for the Unity Account and the CCLA Deposit Account**
- 4. The Payments over £500 covering 1st -30th April 2024**

All in favour.

20 **Alton Arts Festival Grant application**

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

**RESOLVED**

**to approve a grant for the organising committee of the Alton Arts Festival in the sum of £2,000 (two thousand pounds) to assist with the costs associated with the staging of this inaugural event for Alton.**

All in favour.

21 **Landlords Consent: Alton Rugby Club for the installation of a disabled access ramp**

On the proposal of Councillor Wadman, seconded by Councillor Richards, it was

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the installation of a disabled access ramp at the Alton Rugby Club**

All in favour.

22 **Review of Alton Town Council Policies & Regulations**

Councillor Kellermann wanted to know who had written the policies. The Town Clerk confirmed that officers write, review or update policies. As indicated in the previous meeting, four to five will be put before council each month over the next few months to make sure they remain current and up-to-date. Councillor Kellermann then queried to what CCTV the policy applies. The Town Clerk confirmed that it applies to all the CCTV operated by the Town Council, including the Public Gardens, the High Street, the Assembly Rooms, Anstey Park, Jubilee Fields and Market Square. Councillor Kellermann then went on to query why we would need a policy for recording at meetings. The Deputy Clerk clarified that it is a policy adopted by most Parish and Town Councils. Taking each policy in turn:-

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

**RESOLVED  
to approve the updated Financial Regulations as tabled.**

All in favour.

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

**RESOLVED  
to approve the updated CCTV Policy as tabled.**

In favour: Councillors Annette Eyre, John Chubb, Don Hammond, Graham Hill, Nick O'Brien, Doug Richards, Barbara Tansey, Janice Treacher, Peter Wadman, Jonathan Waugh

Abstain: Councillor Matthew Kellermann

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

**RESOLVED  
to approve the updated The Communications & Social Media Policy as tabled.**

All in favour.

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

**RESOLVED  
to approve the updated Recording at Meetings Policy as tabled.**

In favour: Councillors Annette Eyre, John Chubb, Don Hammond, Graham Hill, Nick O'Brien, Doug Richards, Barbara Tansey, Janice Treacher, Peter Wadman, Jonathan Waugh

Against: Councillor Matthew Kellermann

23 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**No members of the public or press remained in the room at this time.**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

24 **Code of Conduct**

The confidential item was noted.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.