
ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ALTON TOWN ELECTORS' MEETING
HELD ON 19 MARCH 2025 AT 7:00PM

Present: Councillor Annette Eyre - Town Mayor
Matthew Bayliss
Mark Boyce-Churn
Graham Hill
Nick O'Brien
Janice Treacher
Jonathan Waugh

In attendance: Pat Harris - Town Clerk
Hayley Carter - Deputy Clerk
Samantha Brown - Councillor Support Admin Officer
Inspector Darren Murphy - East Hampshire Police
Dedicated Named Officer - Neil Croutear - Alton Town Police
Richard Mayon-White - A31 Primary Care Network
6 members of the public

116 Welcome and Town Mayors Address

The Town Mayor welcomed all to the Annual Meeting of Electors and made the following address:

Alton just wouldn't be Alton without its legion of volunteers - Thank you. In my role as Mayor, I have seen the unwavering commitment and time that they each give to their passion. Sadly, their efforts go mainly unnoticed - I must admit being one! I questioned why that in 35 years of living in Alton, had I not noticed these amazing groups and volunteers. The realisation was I didn't need them in my life at this present time. However, it is with the help and support of these groups and volunteers that people can live an enriched life. So many people face challenges that they can't see a way out of for many reasons; pride, affordability or just not knowing that there is someone local who can and will help.

Throughout the year I have taken great pleasure in meeting just some of these amazing people who have devoted their life to the causes close to their hearts; the ones who joined because a friend said come along, to the ones who needed the support of a group at one time and then decided to give something back. I see many recurring faces who give so much of their time to the community, and always with a smile on their faces.

During the recent Volunteers Fayre, I was struck by just how many organisations were looking for support, not financial although that would help, but from people giving of their time. None were asking for hours upon hours of volunteering but accepting whatever people could offer - whether it be popping leaflets through doors, making something at home or being at the end of a phone. Every little helps no matter how big or small!

As our community continues to expand these groups will have a critical role to play in how our community thrives. The services provided by these organisations I believe need to come out of the shadows and into the fore so that every resident knows who they are and how to find them. In my role as a Town Councillor and your current Mayor, I am continually looking at how the town can continue to thrive through the challenging times ahead of it. I will serve Alton for as long as it needs me and along with my fellow councillors we want to see and feel the passion for our town and we will continue to respect and honour each residents voice and make Alton the very best it can be.

117 **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th March 2024**

On the proposal of Councillor Matthew Bayliss, 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 in favour.

118 **To table the Alton Town Council Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024**

Councillors noted the Audited Accounts as presented

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill, seconded by Councillor Annette Eyre, it was

RESOLVED

To approve the Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024

All in favour.

119 **Town Mayor to welcome representatives of Community Groups to speak about the work they do in the Community**

The Town Mayor welcomed:

Inspector Darren Murphy – East Hampshire Policing & DNO Neil Croutear Alton Town Police

Inspector Murphy began by providing some statistics on the headlines and the teams:

- The team cover an area of some 200 square miles, which has a population of approx. 128,000 – as a comparison Portsmouth has an area of approx. 15 square miles, with an approximate 235,000 population)
- There are pockets of population which are in the national top 3% of deprivation
- Significant housing development in both the Alton and Bordon areas continuing
- Part of the area covered by the team has National Park status
- Road network of A3/A3M & A31 corridor presents difficulties for policing

- The team consists of:
 - 5no 24/7 response teams. 1 sergeant, 6 PCs per team- each team has student in training
 - 3no Neighbourhood Teams- each team -1 sergeant, 4-6 PCs, 2 PCSOs
 - Neighbourhood Enforcement Team – based at Havant/Fareham
- The team covers:
 - Country watch
 - Special Constabulary
 - Roads Policing (based at Whitchurch and Havant)
- A new East Hants Priority Crime Team being established this month

The Dedicated Named Officers and the areas they cover are:

- DNO Neil Croutear – Alton Town
- DNO PC Alex Routt – Alton Rural
- DNO PC Lauren Bourne – Petersfield Town
- DNO PC Sarah Clement – Petersfield Rural including Rowlands Castle, Horndean, Clanfield
- DNO PC Ben Godwin – Bordon, Whitehill, Lindford, Headley Down
- DNO Matt Doran – Longmoor Rural including Liss, Liphook, Grayshott

Inspector Murphy then highlighted 'Hampshire Alert':

- a free web-based system which the public can sign up to which allows them to choose what information they want to receive and what format they want to receive it in – email, text or phone message – so the 'alert' is personal to them.
- Alerts are about crime, witness appeals and general policing activity and issues in their local area, and what is being done about them.
- They'll also hear about positive police action, good news stories and be able to play an active part in helping us with our public appeals.

He then went on to provide details of what the public's top five priorities are for Alton (according to the Hampshire Alert system).

1. Speeding
2. Fly tipping
3. Road Safety
4. Burglary
5. Parking issue

Also of importance in East Hampshire were:

6. Dog fouling
7. Dog bites
8. Anti-social behaviour

Finally Inspector Murphy explained the current work of the policing team in our area:

1. County Line drugs supply network development

- currently 12+ people arrested for different drug supply offences or disruptive tactics (such as drug driving)

2. Shoplifting

- improving evidence capture from businesses (CCTV and the actual evidence....). Increased reporting gets a better picture of what and where. Repeat offenders sent to court/remanded in custody

3. Rural crime engagement & reporting**4. Young people**

- cohort of a small group creating the most calls for service- multi-agency
- Cops 4 Coffee drop-ins at school's initiative. Neil Croutear explained that he goes into both Eggars and Amery Hill every week and spends time with the staff and students, building relationships and enabling good communication both ways.

5. Social media

- improving the police footprint on the work undertaken

A Q&A session followed with questions from both councillors and members of the public.

The Mayor then introduced **Richard Mayon-White – A31 Primary Care Network**

Richard started by explaining what the A31 PCN is and is made up of:

- **3 GP Practices:**
 - Boundaries Surgery
 - Chawton Park Surgery
 - The Wilson Practice
- **The PCN provides:**
 - Cancer Care, Mental Health, Physio, Social Prescribers, Proactive Care, Administrative services, Vaccinations, Health Checks & Strategic leadership
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- **It covers an area of around 33,000 people. The current situation is that:**
 - Existing services are scattered across the area
 - Silos have developed
 - Difficult for patients to navigate between services
 - Services are reactive to problems
 - Budgets are restricted/reduced
 - Morale is low

He went on to explain that all the component parts are in place, they just need to be rearranged.

Stage 1 is understanding the problem: who we are as a population and what our needs are:

- Ageing population with more long-term conditions
- Working age population with decreasingly good health: obesity in adults aged 25 and over will jump from 31.7% of women in 2021 to 42.6% in 2050 (a 34% rise), while obesity in men will rise from 29.3% to 39.5% (a 35% rise).
- Young people with mental health problems & less physically active

Integrated neighbourhoods:

- Seeking to realign services to improve pathways for patients
- Provide whole system solutions to complex problems
- Greater local control over service provision
- Where appropriate, services are delivered locally
- Focus on prevention

NHS Strategy – 10 year plan

- Hospital to Community
- Treatment to Prevention
- Analogue to Digital

Stage 2 – what can we do locally?

- Improve relationships across health & social care
- Collaborate on initiatives
- Be willing to think differently

Progress to date:

- A31 PCN has convened several workshops bringing together stakeholders
- Increased collaboration between stakeholders

Health on the High Street is an initiative which is aimed at prevention and getting people to take responsibility for their health. It provides a warm hub, a supportive environment and no appointments are needed. It can be found in the Assembly Rooms every Wednesday from 10am to 2pm. Richard went on to say that the Assembly Rooms is a qualified success story:

- Dementia Friendly have done an incredible job of revitalising the building
- Foundation for partnership working
- Needs to evolve into a true hub for health & wellbeing in the community
- Town Council is an active partner in the initiative
- Part of a reimagining of the High Street – a healthy community vision

The next steps:

- Continue to seek greater partnerships
- Be willing to explore new ways of working

- See health and wellbeing as an integral part of the community
- Prevention is better than cure!

Richard then took questions from the floor.

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

The were no questions to councillors.

121 **Closing Comments**

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank everyone for attending this evening.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.