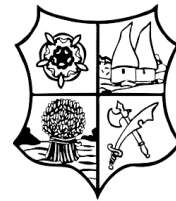


ALTON Town Council



Telephone (01420) 83986
www.alton.gov.uk
info@alton.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Pat Harris

Town Hall
Market Square
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 1HD

14th May 2025

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of ALTON TOWN COUNCIL** at the **TOWN HALL** on **Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7:00pm** when the under-mentioned business will be transacted.

Yours faithfully

Patricia M Harris

Mrs Pat Harris
Town Clerk

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ALTON TOWN COUNCIL

21st MAY 2025 at 7.00 p.m. at the Town Hall

AGENDA

- 1 To elect the Town Mayor for 2025/26
- 2 To receive the Town Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office
- 3 Presentations to the outgoing Town Mayor
- 4 Town Mayor to announce the name of their Consort, Chaplain and Town Mayor's Charity for the year
- 5 Apologies for absence
- 6 To elect the Deputy Town Mayor
- 7 Committee Structures
- 8 Loss of General Power of Competence

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 21st MAY 2025

REPORTS BY THE TOWN CLERK

ITEM 1 & 6: ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR (CHAIR)

FOR DECISION

The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the Council shall be the election of the Mayor (Chair) and Deputy Mayor (Vice-Chair) of the Council.

Please note, that in accordance with Standing Orders, in an election year, as the current Mayor of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, she shall preside at the annual meeting until a successor Mayor of the Council has been elected. The current Mayor (Chair) of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council but shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

In accordance with Standing Order 8 *“Where more than two persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the Council and none of those persons has received an absolute majority of votes in their favour, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken. This process shall continue until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person. A tie in votes may be settled by the casting vote exercisable by the chair of the meeting”*.

This process will be repeated for Item 6

RECOMMENDATION: The Council is requested to elect a Mayor (Chair) of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

ITEM 9 COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

FOR DECISION

At the Council Annual Meeting held on 29th May 2024 (Minute reference 09/2024 refers) it was Resolved to allow committees to be filled for the forthcoming year but that champion roles were to be vacated until the whole structure of the Council could be reviewed at a workshop in September.

A “Ways of Working” workshop was held on Monday, 23rd September with councillors agreeing that the current committees would remain, but that Task & Finish Groups would be set up with Terms of Reference on an *as and when required* basis and that an Allotment representative would be appointed. This was ratified at the meeting of the Full Council held on 9th October 2024 (Minute 63 refers) with Councillor Doug Richards being appointed as the allotment representative. However, since that time, Councillor Richards has resigned his position of councillor and, therefore, a councillor allotment representative will need to be appointed.

The current Committee membership with appointed chairs are as follows:

The Planning Committee (to consist of all members who have completed their planning training)

Councillor Annette Eyre (Chair)
Councillor Matthew Bayliss
Councillor Mark Boyce-Churn
Councillor Don Hammond
Councillor Graham Hill
Councillor Matthew Kellermann
Councillor Nick O’Brien
Councillor Barbara Tansey
Councillor Janice Treacher
Councillor Jonathan Waugh

The Chair of NALC, Councillor Keith Stevens released the following update on 17th March 2025:

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has informed NALC of an increase in the Section 137 expenditure limit for parish and town councils in England for the 2025/26 financial year. The new limit is £11.10 per elector, up from £10.81 in 2024/25.

The increase reflects the percentage rise in the retail price index between September 2023 and September 2024, in accordance with Schedule 12B of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 137 of the Act allows parish and town councils to incur expenditures for purposes that benefit their communities when no specific statutory power is available.

Adjusting the expenditure limit will enable parish and town councils to allocate funds to projects that support local communities, ranging from small infrastructure improvements to community welfare initiatives.

This Section 137 expenditure limit increase is a welcome development for parish and town councils. It provides greater flexibility for councils to support their communities in meaningful ways. Ensuring funding keeps pace with inflation enables parish and town councils to continue making a real difference in residents' lives.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the members consider this report and pass the following resolution:

“The Town Council resolves from 21st May 2025, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council on 20th May 2026 that it no longer satisfies all 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.

Members are requested to remain in the Chamber for the annual Council photograph followed by light refreshments after the conclusion of the meeting