

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY 2025 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL**

Present: **Councillor** **Annette Eyre (Town Mayor)**
 Matthew Bayliss
 Mark Boyce-Churn
 Don Hammond
 Graham Hill
 Matthew Kellermann
 Nick O'Brien
 Barbara Tansey
 Peter Wadman
 Jonathan Waugh

In attendance: **Pat Harris** - **Town Clerk**
 Hayley Carter - **Deputy Clerk**
 Wendy Simson - **Assistant to the Clerk**
 Samantha Brown - **Admin / Cllr Support Officer**
 Natalie Beckell - **Events & Marketing Lead Officer**
 Kaylie Grace - **Events Support Officer**
 5 Members of the public and press
 County Councillor Andrew Joy

1 Election of Town Mayor for 2025/26

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 Bayliss, Councillor Eyre was nominated for a further year and consented to the nomination.

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 incredible service to the town over the last year.

4 Town Mayor's Consort, Chaplain and Charities

- The Town Mayor announced that she would not have a Consort but instead wished to continue to invite other councillors along to accompany her.
- She then announced that this year she would not be appointing a Chaplain. As Alton is such a diverse town, she will invite representatives of all faiths along to say a few words at the beginning of each meeting throughout the year.
- The Town Mayor's Charity for this mayoral year will be St Michael's Hospice.

5 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Janice Treacher.

The Town Mayor then read out a resignation letter received from Councillor John Chubb:

“Dear Madam Mayor

I write to submit my resignation from Alton Town Council. My work commitments preclude regular attendance at our meetings, and I believe that to continue would be too much of a burden on other councillors and letting down Whitedown Ward residents.

Whilst only on the council for two years, I believe that the council has had to ‘grapple’ with significant town events. In that time your leadership has been exemplary. You have been put in incredibly testing circumstances, both with the public and by individuals, and delivered even-handedness, despite significant provocation.

I also feel that you have injected more than a little humour to the office and made elements of our work fun; and for that I thank you.

I would also like to express my sincerest thanks to your Clerk (Pat). She has been outstanding. A consummate budget manager, encyclopaedic regulatory advisor, and strong leader of the ATC team. Having been on the receiving end of one or two of Pat's ‘looks’, it has always been clear to me when to ‘behave’ better. The fact that she has continued in office despite the appalling behaviour of one particular councillor is a real commitment to duty. Please pass on my thanks.

Should work commitments allow I would definitely consider standing again in the future, but for now I must bow out.

Yours sincerely...”

The Town Mayor then took the opportunity to present the Town Clerk, Mrs Pat Harris with flowers and offer her a huge thank you for her significant contribution to the council and the town over the past sixteen years and congratulated her on her retirement.

Councillor Hill added his most sincere thanks and stressed how much the council will miss her.

County Councillor Andrew Joy also added his thanks on behalf of Hampshire County Council, apologised for all the ‘grief’ HCC had given her and presented her with a small olive branch.

Councillor Suzie Burns also offered thanks on behalf of East Hampshire District Councillors for all of Pat’s help and support over the years.

Councillor Bayliss also added his thanks and said that Pat was one of the reasons he had stayed on the council for so long.

6 **To elect the Deputy Town Mayor**

On the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Bayliss, Councillor Nick O’Brien was nominated and accepted the nomination, thus it was

RESOLVED

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

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Hammond, Hill, O’Brien, Tansey, Wadman and Waugh

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

7 **Committees Structures**

Councillor Kellermann proposed himself to be added to the Staffing Committee. There being no seconder this was not taken to a vote.

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

RESOLVED to:

- **approve the appointments for the Planning Committee as “All councillors once they have completed their planning training” with Councillor Eyre as Chair**
- **approve the appointments for the Climate Change Committee as Councillors Don Hammond, Barbara Tansey and Janice Treacher with Councillor Tansey as Chair**
- **approve the appointments for the Staffing Committee as Councillors Matthew Bayliss, Annette Eyre and Graham Hill with Councillor Bayliss as Chair**

In favour: Councillors Eyre, O’Brien, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Hammond, Hill, Tansey, Wadman and Waugh

Against: Councillor Kellermann

8 **Confirmation of General Power of Competence**

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

The Town Council RESOLVED from 29th May 2025, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council on 21st May 2025 that it does not satisfy all of the conditions to hold 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 operate 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.

All in favour.

The meeting closed at 7.17pm