

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE 2025 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL**

Present: **Councillor** **Annette Eyre (Town Mayor)**
 Don Hammond
 Graham Hill
 Matthew Kellermann
 Nick O'Brien
 Barbara Tansey
 Janice Treacher
 Peter Wadman

In attendance: **Hayley Carter** - **Deputy Clerk**
 Wendy Simson - **Assistant to the Clerk**
 7 Members of the public and press

9 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Matthew Bayliss, Mark Boyce-Churn and Jonathan Waugh

10 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor welcomed councillors and the public and thanked everyone for attending. She then reminded all those attending that in accordance with the Council's published Recording of Meetings Policy, as displayed on the doors and the table at the back of the hall, anyone wishing to make any recording of a meeting must let the Chair of the meeting know prior to or at the start of the meeting. If anyone does not wish to be recorded, they must make the Chair of the meeting aware. No filming of any member of the public is allowed without their consent, or of any child or vulnerable person without the consent of them and their parent, guardian or carer.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 paragraph 41 (1) only the official signed minutes of the council and its committees will be recognised as the formal, statutory and legally binding record of a meeting.

The Mayor reminded those attending of two upcoming events in the town; the Community Big Lunch in the Public Gardens on Sunday 8th June from 1-3pm at which the Alton Concert Band would be playing, and Regency Day on 21st June.

She then congratulated Councillor Graham Hill on becoming Chairman of East Hampshire District Council for the coming year.

11 **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 7th May 2025 and the Annual Meeting held on 21st May for Approval**

11.1 On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Wadman, it was

RESOLVED

to APPROVE the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7th May 2025

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Hill, O'Brien, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman.

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

11.2 On the proposal of Councillor Wadman, seconded by Councillor Hill, it was

RESOLVED

to APPROVE the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21st May 2025

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hill, O'Brien, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman.

Abstained: Councillors Kellermann and Hammond

12 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**

No declarations of interest were received.

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

13.1 Councillor Waugh sent an email to the Mayor in advance of the meeting, which the Mayor read out in full:

Dear Annette,

I am writing, sadly, to formally resign from my position as Town Councillor for Ashdell Ward with immediate effect.

It has been an honour to serve as a Town Councillor, but I am sorry that I have not been able to commit more time this year, and I do not see the situation improving.

Therefore, I believe it would be in the best interests of the residents of Alton and my fellow town councillors for me to step down.

I would like to thank Pat, Hayley and the exceptional team at the town hall and I wish you and all the councillors the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan

13.2 Mr Furnival thanked the Council for publishing the 'attendance at Councillor workshops and training' in addition to the Full Council Meetings and praised the

greater transparency this afforded the public. However, he voiced concern about the poor attendance, citing a workshop on 23rd March 2025 titled “Essential Training” at which only 5 of the 13 Councillors attended. The Councillor for Mr Furnival’s Ward, Jonathan Waugh, did not attend any of the workshops and Mr Furnival questioned how he could truly represent his constituents and provide a democratic voice, if he was not fully informed of all the relevant information. He said he had been going to call for his resignation had the Mayor not just made the announcement she had. Mr Furnival said he is not looking to make this personal but asked that all Councillors “up their game” with their work at the Town Council to represent the current 25,000 residents which continues to grow. He then expressed his hope that the three vacancies would be filled in a timely manner and with Councillors able to commit to the role.

Mr Furnival then asked for clarity about a CIL application from Binsted, saying surely they have their own parish council to apply to; the Mayor explained that this would be covered as part of agenda item 6.

The Mayor responded to Mr Furnival’s concerns by echoing the fear that the town’s 25,000 residents are not being fairly represented by those councillors who are not committed, but also emphasised the pressures of the Councillor role. All the Town Councillors have family, holidays, and careers in some cases which restrict the time available. As a business owner, the Mayor explained that she understood how important communication is with the public along with carrying out the statutory duties, this often meant that she spent 2-3 hours in the Town Hall each week, along with attending public engagements and meetings. The election or co-option of three new Councillors she hoped would produce applications to represent all demographics of the town.

Councillor Tansey thanked Mr Furnival for attending the meeting but explained that it was very difficult to get residents to step forward to become Councillors. Whilst the Town Council does not currently have a full complement of Councillors, lots of good work has been achieved.

Councillor Hill agreed that the attendance of some councillors does not reflect well on the council, but added that the situation with fewer people stepping forward as Councillors was not unique to Alton; that most Town and Parish Councils struggle to get the right people who are committed to the role.

Councillor Hammond suggested that local democracy requires that residents engage with their Town Council, and how sad it was that in 2023 there had not been sufficient applications for election in any wards except Holybourne. He added that he was not about to take offence at Mr Furnival’s comments as he was speaking to those people who had put themselves forward for the role of councillor, rather than to the thousands of people who hadn’t, and that the people within the room, sat around the table, were the ones who committed lots of their time to the role.

Councillor Kellermann echoed the comments made by Councillors Tansey and Hill that the poor attendance and depleted Councillor numbers does not reflect well on the Town Council. Councillor Kellermann explained that he had attended all the training sessions in 2023 where they were held remotely so had not felt the need to attend the essential training session that had been organised. He added that he did not attend

workshops as he objected to the format. Councillor Kellermann reassured Mr Furnival that he is fully engaged as a Councillor both in person and on paper.

Mr Witcher voiced his concerns about the future of the Town Council as there are so few applications to become a Councillor; he asked will this mean that in the future there will be no Town Council.

Councillor O'Brien commented that for the last co-option there was just one candidate and stressed how important it was that people be found to stand.

14 **Evaluation of Neighbourhood CIL Applications received during 1st April – 1st May 2025**

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

RESOLVED

Not to award CIL Funding against the application from Andrew Endowed School.

All Councillors voted in favour

14.2 On the proposal of Councillor Treacher, seconded by Councillor Tansey, it was

RESOLVED

To award CIL Funding in the value of £5,974 (five thousand, nine hundred and seventy four pounds) to Beech Wellhouse Project.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Tansey, and Treacher.

Against: Councillors Kellermann and O'Brien

Abstained: Councillor Wadman

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

RESOLVED

To award CIL Funding in the value of £4,500 (four thousand, five hundred pounds) to Chawton Park Social Bowls Club, on the condition that they could demonstrate actively trying to increase membership and encourage further community use of the building over the next year.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Hill, O'Brien, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman

Against: Councillor Kellermann

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

RESOLVED

Not to award CIL Funding against the application from Treloar College.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Kellermann and Hammond

Against: Councillors Treacher, Tansey and Hill

Abstained: Councillor O'Brien and Wadman

The Mayor used her casting vote to support the resolution for no grant to be awarded.

14.5 On the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

RESOLVED

To award CIL Funding in the value of £9,900 (nine thousand, nine hundred pounds) to First Friends Nursery.

All Councillors were in favour.

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

RESOLVED

To award CIL Funding in the value of £5,160 (five thousand, one hundred and ten pounds) to Alton College.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Hill, O'Brien, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman

Against: Councillor Kellermann

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

RESOLVED

To award CIL Funding in the value of £17,029.23 (seventeen thousand and twenty nine pounds and twenty three pence) to Amery Hill Residents Association, but this must be the last time they apply for CIL funding for the Wey Walk project.

Councillor Kellermann recused himself due to a family tie to this project and so did not comment or vote.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Hill, O'Brien, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman

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

RESOLVED

Not to award CIL Funding against the application from Binsted School.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Hill, O'Brien, Tansey, Treacher, and Kellermann

Abstained: Councillor Wadman

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

RESOLVED

Not to award CIL Funding against the application from Alton Infant School.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Hill, O'Brien, Tansey, Treacher, Wadman and Kellermann.

Abstained: Councillor Tansey

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

RESOLVED

Not to award CIL Funding against the application from Chawton House.

All Councillors voted in favour.

15 **Purchase of Ability Swing and Roundabout for the Public Gardens**

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

RESOLVED

To appoint Contractor A (GL Jones) to replace the Ability Swing in the Public Gardens at a cost of £6,975 + VAT

All Councillors voted in favour.

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

RESOLVED

To appoint Contractor B (Vitaplay) to replace the Ability Roundabout in the Public Gardens at a cost of £10,374.84 + VAT

All Councillors voted in favour.

16 **Planning Applications**

16.1 EHDC-25-0329-FUL and EHDC-25-0526-LBC - The Priory, 11 Howards Lane, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4HH.

Richard Goddard, the agent for the development was in attendance at the meeting and confirmed that he was happy to answer any questions.

Councillor Hill informed the Council that there was no Conservation Officers Report available and it was likely to be two weeks before this was included.

Mr Goddard confirmed, when probed by Councillor Hill, that the applicant was not the resident of The Priory, but that when submitting an application a postcode must be entered and in the information it clarified that it was 'land adjacent to' The Priory.

Councillors asked if the closing date for comments could be extended; the Deputy Clerk explained that it had already been extended and so could not be extended further.

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

RESOLVED

To defer to the Conservation Officer's opinion on the Full Planning Application EHDC-25-0329-FUL and the Listed Building Consent Application EHDC-25-0526-LBC for The Priory, 11 Howards Lane, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4HH.

All Councillors voted in favour.

16.2 EHDC-25-0455-FUL – Land to the rear of 86-90 Wilsom Road, Alton, Hampshire

The Deputy Clerk directed Councillors to the correct map which had been printed for the meeting as the wrong document had been uploaded to the EHDC Planning Portal.

James, the developer, was in attendance at the meeting and indicated he would be happy to answer any questions.

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

RESOLVED

To submit a response of SUPPORT for the Full Planning Application EHDC-25-0455-FUL for Land to the rear of 86-90 Wilsom Road, Alton, Hampshire

In favour: Councillors Eyre, O'Brien, Hammond, Hill, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman.

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

17 **Legal Agreements**

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

RESOLVED to:

- (i) **Approve the sealing of the TP1 Agreement as signed by two authorised signatories (councillors) in the presence of the proper officer for the transfer of open space land from Highwood Ventures 2 Limited (Title number SH61112) Land at Stonehill Farm, Selborne Road, Alton, GU34 3HH to Alton Town Council**

- (ii) **Note the receipt of the commuted sum of £79,422.03 and authorise its transfer to Earmarked Reserves – Alton Gateway**

All Councillors voted in favour.

17.2 On the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor Eyre, it was

RESOLVED

To approve the sealing of the Lease Agreement as signed by two authorised signatories (councillors) in the presence of the proper officer with Aquiva

All Councillors voted in favour.

18 **Statement of Accounts from 1st – 31st May 2025**

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

RESOLVED

To confirm approval of:

- 1. The balance sheet dated 31st May 2025**
- 2. The Income and Expenditure account to 31st May 2025**
- 3. The bank reconciliations for the Unity Account**
- 4. The Payments over £500 covering 1st- 31st May 2025**

In favour: Councillors Eyre, O'Brien, Hammond, Hill, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

19 **Current Consultations**

19.1 Gambling Act 2005 – EHDC Review of its Statement of Principles

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

RESOLVED

To submit no response on behalf of the Town Council, but councillors are encouraged to submit their own individual responses

All Councillors voted in favour.

19.2 Hallam Land Public engagement re: emerging design proposals for Land at Brick Kiln Lane, Alton

Councillors noted that this is available to view at 222.landatbrickkilnlane.co.uk until 20th June 2025

20 To receive a report from the Climate Change Committee

The report from the Climate Change Committee was noted. The report is as follows:

Annual Report from Alton Town Council Climate Change Committee

The Alton Climate Change Committee meets four times a year and pulls representatives from across the town including local businesses and the youth, along with organisations like Energy Alton, Cycle Alton and ACAN (Alton Climate Action Network). Three of the Town Councillors sit on the committee along with a representative from East Hampshire District Council.

In June 2024, Alton Town Council updated its Climate Change Strategy and the Action Plan, highlighting three key aims:

- **Aim 1** – to reduce Alton Town Council’s carbon footprint to achieve carbon neutral by 2030.
- **Aim 2** - to create opportunities for residents, schools, and businesses to have a direct and positive impact on their own energy consumption habits by working alongside our climate change community groups.
- **Aim 3** - to influence third parties in the adoption of policies providing sustainable alternatives to traditional construction, infrastructure, and transport models.

A copy of both the Action Plan and Strategy are on the Alton Town Council website, and you should have a flyer detailing the strategy on your chair this evening.

Progress in the last 12 months

The Committee has identified steps that will push the Town Council towards its goal. By far the most extensive of these objectives is retrofitting of the existing Council owned properties. To date we have:

- Installed double glazing in the three retail units on the Market Square.
- Secondary glazing has been installed at the Assembly Rooms.
- Secondary glazing is being fitted at the Town Hall next month.
- Thermal blinds at the Town Hall will be fitted once the glazing is completed.
- Working with Government funded body, Innovation Exchange, a Challenge Statement has been created to invite innovative ideas to replace the gas fired boiler at the Town Hall. These are due to be presented to the Climate Change Committee in July for implementation as part of the 2026//27 budget.
- An agreement with Energise South Downs is supporting Energique to install solar panels on the roof.
- A survey to identify the suitability of solar panels for the Finnimore Pavilion is being carried out.
- The Rugby Club, Alton Social Bowls, the Kings Arms, and The Allotment Association are all installing solar panels which the Climate Change Committee have supported.
- The Committee are speaking with Energise South Downs about solar panels for other buildings in the portfolio.
- The Harry Baker Pavilion, leased to Alton Cricket Club, is being refurbished including energy efficient equipment and upgraded insulation.
- Improved insulation is being delivered at Jubilee Bungalows.

The Committee are involved with other projects including:

- Installing robust drinking water taps to allow residents and visitors to fill reusable water bottles in some of open spaces.
- Cycle parking has been added to our open spaces along with cyclepods which allow cyclist to repair their bikes if needed.
- Electric tools are currently being trialled by the Grounds Team.
- Last Autumn (2024) 1,300 heading plants and 56 trees were planted across the Town including a trial of 9 disease resistant Elms at Anstey Park.
- Planting of 300m² of wildflower meadows.
- Working with Cycle Alton and Walk Alton to update the map of walking and cycling routes across the town including additional signage from the new estates. An EHDC grant has been awarded to fund this project.
- Supporting ACAN's Eco Streets Project.
- Changing all bulbs in Town Council run buildings to LEDs.
- Two electric bikes are available free of charge for residents to try. The second electric bike was donated to the Town Council by a resident in 2024. Both bikes have been well used, and it is understood that 20 e-bikes have been purchased as a result of loaning one of the units.
- The Town Council were represented at the Green Homes Fair on 29th June 2024.

The Climate Change Committee are currently looking to recruit a representative from local businesses, so if you would like to get involved, please contact the Town Hall.

All the Climate Change meetings are open to the public and we would welcome you at our next meeting on Wednesday 23rd July at 9:30am.

Councillor Tansey took questions from the Councillors.

Mr Furnival pointed out a trip hazard with the carpet in the Chamber.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm