

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7.00PM AT THE ALTON ASSEMBLY
ROOMS**

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

In attendance: **Tom Horwood** - **Town Clerk**
 Hayley Carter - **Deputy Clerk**
 10 Members of the public and press

49 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Matthew Bayliss, Mark Boyce-Churn and Richard Moore.

50 Town Mayor's Announcements

1. The Mayor welcomed councillors and the public and thanked everyone for attending.
2. She then announced that nominations are open from Thursday 4th September for the Town Council by election for the Ashdell Ward. Nominations must be received by East Hampshire District Council by 4pm on 12th September.
3. The Mayor 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.

51 **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9th July 2025 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 6th August 2025 for Approval**

Councillor Hammond proposed that the minutes be approved, taking each one in turn. This was seconded by Councillor Tansey.

1. 9th July meeting - Councillor Eyre proposed the following amendment:
To correct a typing error and remove Councillor O'Brien from resolutions on minutes 27 (ii) and 27 (iii) as he was not at the meeting.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Hammond and was carried with voting as follows:

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Kellermann, Lamb, Tansey and Treacher

Abstained: Councillors O'Brien, Quincey and Hill

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

RESOLVED

to APPROVE the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9th July 2025

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Kellermann, Lamb, Tansey and Treacher

Abstained: Councillors O'Brien, Quincey and Hill

2. 6th August meeting - Councillor Kellermann proposed an amendment as follows:
That the following text be deleted – "Councillor Kellermann said that people can make a decision now about what they want to be done. It does not have to be an informed decision. People simply have a desire to keep the pond." – and replaced with, "Councillor Kellermann stated that (referring to a binding referendum) if the public wishes to pursue a certain course of action, then providing information on the other option is not necessary. His perception, following extensive engagement with the public, was that there is a majority in favour of the online option."

This was seconded by Councillor Quincey but was **not carried** due to voting as follows:

In favour: Councillors Kellermann and Quincey

Against: Councillors Hill, Tansey and Eyre

Abstained: Councillors Hammond, Treacher, O'Brien and Lamb

Councillor Kellermann proposed a second amendment as follows:

That the following be added: "Councillor Kellermann referred to an estimate for the offline option that he stated was shared with him by the-then Town Clerk in 2023."

It was queried whereabouts in the minutes this should be inserted. Councillor Kellermann confirmed under minute 45 and the Town Clerk assured councillors he and the Deputy Clerk would make sure it went in logical order.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Quincey and was **carried** with voting as follows:

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

Councillor Kellermann proposed a third amendment as follows:

That the following be added: "Councillor Kellermann said that the details of the principal motion were inconsistent with other paperwork, which was refuted by Councillor Hammond."

This was seconded by Councillor Quincey and was **carried** with voting as follows:

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

Councillor Kellermann proposed a fourth amendment as follows:

That the following be added: "Councillor Kellerman stated that he suspected some of the studies already paid for had now expired, which was refuted by Councillor Hammond."

This was seconded by Councillor Quincey and was **carried** with voting as follows:

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

Councillor Kellermann proposed a fifth amendment as follows:

That the following be added: "Councillor Moore exhorted the council to listen to residents and challenged Councillor Hammond's assertion that those present were not representative. Councillor Moore said that all Altonians had the opportunity to attend the Council meeting, and he found it significant that the voices heard that evening supported maintaining and improving the online pond. He said that this added weight to his belief that the majority support the online option. Councillor Moore opposed what he called a "waste of public money" performing more studies."

This was seconded by Councillor Quincey but was **not carried** due to voting as follows:

In favour: Councillors Kellermann and Quincey
Against: Councillors Hill, Hammond, Tansey and Eyre
Abstained: Councillors Treacher, O'Brien and Lamb

Councillor Kellermann proposed a sixth amendment as follows:

That the following be added: "Councillor Kellermann outlined the differences between the two proposed amendments to Councillor Bayliss, who accepted the explanation."

This was seconded by Councillor Quincey and was **carried** with voting as follows:

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

Thus, on the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor Tansey, it was

RESOLVED

to APPROVE the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 6th August 2025 with the following amendments:

1. That the following be added to minute 45: “Councillor Kellermann referred to an estimate for the offline option that he stated was shared with him by the-then Town Clerk in 2023.”
2. That the following be added: “Councillor Kellermann said that the details of the principal motion were inconsistent with other paperwork, which was refuted by Councillor Hammond.”
3. That the following be added: “Councillor Kellerman stated that he suspected some of the studies already paid for had now expired, which was refuted by Councillor Hammond.”
4. That the following be added: “Councillor Kellermann outlined the differences between the two proposed amendments to Councillor Bayliss, who accepted the explanation.”

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Quincey, Tansey and O’Brien

Against: Councillor Kellermann

Abstained: Councillors Lamb and Treacher

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

No declarations of interest were received.

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

- 53.1 The following correspondence was received and circulated to Councillors on 4th August 2025:

“Dear Mayor and Town Clerk

As I approach two years as a co-opted Councillor circumstances have sadly caught up with me and I am no longer able to provide the commitment I would like and therefore wish to give a new person an opportunity to take over. As such I offer my resignation from the ATC forthwith.

I am pleased to have played my small part in several areas, particularly in helping to set the ball rolling on the Kings Pond initiative groups which I leave in the hands of the members of the public who stepped up to form the focus groups, led by Councillor Hammond, all of whom I feel will succeed in bringing this much contested matter to a satisfactory solution.

Good luck to all for the remainder of this Council period.

*Cllr Peter Wadman
Alton Ashdell Ward”*

53.2 A letter was received from Treloar's:

"Dear Mr Horwood,

I would like to share with you a huge thank you from everyone at Treloar's for the generous grant of £9,100 which we have received from Alton Town Council Neighbourhood CIL towards our hoist replacement project.

Below is a thank you note penned by a student, explaining what Treloar's means to her:

"Treloar's is more than just a school—it's a place that gives young people with disabilities the support, education, and independence we need to live our best lives. I started Treloar's back in 2023 and honestly, it's been one of the best decisions in my life. Before coming to Treloar's, I had zero confidence and hardly left the house because I had awful anxiety and stress levels. But Treloar's have helped me immensely.

"From my own experience, I can say that Treloar's has helped me in so many ways. The teachers and staff truly care, and I'm the happiest that I have ever been. I love going to hydro every Thursday and every Mondays I do physiotherapy in the gym and I love seeing improvement in my muscles every time I do it."

We look forward to welcoming you to Treloar's so you can see first hand the positive impact of your generosity.

Thank you once again for your generous support. Treloar's would not be what it is today without generous supporters like Alton Town Council."

53.3 An email was received from Ash Dolan-Shakeri on the morning of the meeting:

"Dear Councillors

I cannot make this evening's meeting, otherwise I would attempt make these points to you then.

After attending last night's public meeting of the King's Pond committee, I believe the current strategy towards the pond is profligate with public finances and negligent towards the safety of the town.

I understand the broad principles of Stage 1 and generally support the idea of assessing the environmental impact of both options for the pond before presenting these to the public and then to the Council for their decision.

However, I believe it is highly irresponsible of the Council to permit such extravagant spending on the design and research for Option 2, before the flood risk to the town of taking the pond 'offline' has been assessed and ruled out. Whatever benefits Option 2 may deliver, surely if these come at an increased flood risk (up or down stream) then the option will be ruled out, thereby rendering any funds spent designing and researching it a waste.

Through my involvement with two local residents' associations, I saw first hand the approach taken by SE Water and Jacobs when they were considering reducing abstraction from the river at Lasham earlier this year. As soon as it became clear that this would pose a flood risk to the town; the idea was dropped. I believe their approach should serve as a model for the Council now as they progress with King's Pond.

I put this to Councillor Hammond last night; his response was that a flood risk survey would not be possible without detailed plans for Option 2. He admitted that he wasn't qualified to make such a comment and that there was, as yet, no input from qualified people on the flood risk of Option 2.

I believe that before the Council invest in further design and research, at the public expense, for either option, the first thing to be commissioned should be a full flood risk analysis on the outline proposals, to rule out Option 2 increasing the flood risk to town. Of course, once that has been done, the current proposed process can resume.

Kind regards"

Councillor Kellermann said that he supported what Mr Dolan-Shakeri said.

Councillor Hammond responded by saying that he would firstly like to thank Mr Dolan -Shakeri for attending the meeting yesterday evening and going on to read a prepared statement as follows:

"However, I reject his view that the council is being profligate with public finances or negligent towards the safety of the town. Expenditure to date has been carefully managed; Flood risk assessment is included in the current Stage One of the project.

"Not for the first time in the discussions around King's Pond, I find myself misrepresented and misquoted. At no time in yesterday's meeting did I say that a flood risk assessment was dependent upon detailed design of Option 2. What I said on several occasions is that flood risk assessment is included in the Stage One of the project. This was also clearly shown on the presentation slides. In Stage One the design is preliminary, sufficient for costing and presentation and flood risk assessment and environmental impact assessment. Detailed design of the chosen Option and the cost of that design is for Stage Two.

"I am not a qualified hydrologist. However, over the past two years I've spent a lot of time talking to hydrologists and water engineers and freshwater contractors about this project and listening to knowledgeable opinions and advice. To better understand the issues, I also completed an online course 'Introduction to Hydromorphology'. So, I think I'm in a good position to take a well-informed view. My clear understanding is that, before you can work out the change in flood risk that might result from alterations to a watercourse, you first need to work out what those alterations will be. That is the stage 1 design work.

"Perhaps the way to resolve the difference of opinion on this is to ask the Town Clerk to seek independent advice on this from a qualified hydrologist or water engineer."

54 **Sports Strategy and proposed 3G pitch in Alton**

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council carry out public consultation on whether to take forward assessment of any ATC site as the potential/preferred site for the new facility, starting with a public meeting on 17th September in the Alton Assembly Rooms.

This was seconded by Councillor Hill.

Councillor Kellermann proposed an amendment that:

It should be clear in the consultation that Jubilee is not an option and that the choice is between two sites – Anstey Park and Diggers – with Anstey Park being the clear favourite from the scoring.

Councillor Hill said that we should not be relying on an EHDC assessment for an ATC consultation. The Deputy Clerk reminded Councillor Hill that the assessment of all possible sites in the town had been carried out by the Task & Finish Group appointed by the Town Council, which consisted of Councillor Kellermann, herself as an officer of ATC, one EHDC officer and the Football Association (FA).

The amendment was seconded by Councillor O'Brien but was **not carried** due to voting as follows:

In favour: Councillors Kellermann, Quincey, Lamb and O'Brien

Against: Councillors Hill, Treacher, Tansey and Eyre

Abstained: Councillor Hammond

Mayor's casting vote: Against

Councillor Hammond proposed an amendment as follows:

That the motion be amended to read: To carry out public consultation on whether to take forward assessment of one of the three ATC sites identified by ATC, EHDC and the FA as the preferred site for the new facility, starting with a public meeting on 17th September in the Alton Assembly Rooms.

This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien and was **carried** with all voting in favour.

Thus, on the proposal of Councillor Kellermann, seconded by Councillor Eyre, it was

RESOLVED

To carry out public consultation on whether to take forward assessment of one of the three ATC sites identified by ATC, EHDC and the FA as the preferred site for the new facility, starting with a public meeting on 17th September in the Alton Assembly Rooms.

All councillors voted in favour.

Most members of the public chose this moment to leave the meeting.

55 **Alton Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council should:

1. Take to public consultation the question of whether to review and update the current Neighbourhood Plan and, if so, whether to proceed with or without site allocations.
2. Publish the AECOM report on the Town Council website.

This was seconded by Councillor Hill, who suggested that the two items be dealt with separately, taking point 2 first.

Thus on the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Hill it was:

RESOLVED

To publish the AECOM report on the Town Council website.

All councillors voted in favour.

Councillor Hill proposed an amendment to point 1 as follows:

To take to public consultation the three options listed in the report.

This was seconded by Councillor Kellermann and the amendment was **carried** with voting as follows:

- In favour: Councillors Hammond, Hill, Treacher, Eyre, Kellermann, Quincey and Lamb
Against: Councillor O'Brien
Abstained: Councillor Tansey

Thus, on the proposal of Councillor Kellermann, seconded by Councillor Hill, it was

RESOLVED

To take to public consultation the following three options:

1. Continue using the current Neighbourhood Plan (ANP2) and pause its review until after the adoption of the district's new Local Plan.
2. Restart the process of ANP3 without site allocations.
3. Restart the process of ANP3 with site allocations.

All councillors voted in favour.

56 **Statements of Accounts from 1st July to 31st August 2025**

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

RESOLVED

To confirm approval of:

1. The balance sheet dated 31st August 2025;
2. The Income and Expenditure account to 31st August 2025;
3. The bank reconciliations for the Unity Account and the CCLA Deposit & Property Fund Accounts;

4. The Payments over £500 covering 1st July - 31st August 2025.

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

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

57 Internal Audit Report Quarter 1, 2025-2026

The Internal Audit report was noted.

58 Policies for Approval

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

RESOLVED

To adopt the Investment Strategy and the Fixed Asset Capitalisation Policy as tabled.

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

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

Abstained: Councillor Hammond

59 Alton Arts Festival Bollards

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council approve the Alton Street Bollards Proposal from the Alton Arts Festival where ATC have the authority to do so and support it where permissions must be sought from elsewhere.

This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien.

Councillor Kellermann proposed an amendment that:

Any ATC bollard is to be decorative only and not contain any political, religious or social messaging.

This was seconded by Councillor Quincey but was **not carried** with voting as follows:

In favour: Councillors Kellermann and Quincey

Against: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Hill and Lamb

Abstained: Councillors O'Brien, Tansey and Treacher

Councillor Hill proposed an amendment that:

The Council should have approval of any designs going on their bollards, with the themes being decorative only. The Councillors would be able to give their consent by email to the Town Clerk.

This was seconded by Councillor Eyre and was **carried** with voting as follows:

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Lamb, Quincey, Tansey and Treacher

Against: Councillor Kellermann

Abstained: Councillor O'Brien

Thus, on the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Hill, it was

RESOLVED

To approve the Alton Street Bollards Proposal where ATC have the authority to do so, and to support it where permissions must be sought from elsewhere. ATC bollards must have only decorative designs which councillors would approve in advance. The Town Clerk would consult with councillors by email on each design before providing approval.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Lamb, Quincey, Tansey and Treacher

Against: Councillor Kellermann

Abstained: Councillor O'Brien

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

RESOLVED to:

exclude the press and members of the public in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 section 1, subsection 2, and to be clear, as per subsection 3A, where the public are excluded from a meeting of a relevant local government body under subsection (2), the body may also prevent any person from reporting on the meeting using methods-

(a) which can be used without that person's presence at the meeting, and

(b) which enable persons not present at the meeting to see or hear the proceedings at the meeting as it takes place or later.

All councillors voted in favour.

61 **Food Bank Lease Renewal**

See confidential minute.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm