MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY 2025 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL

Present:	**Councillor**	**Annette Eyre (Town Mayor)**	
		Matthew Bayliss	
		Mark Boyce-Churn	
		Don Hammond	
		Matthew Kellermann	
		Barbara Tansey	
		Janice Treacher	
		Peter Wadman	

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

21 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Nick O'Brien and Graham Hill

22 **Town Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor welcomed councillors and the public and thanked everyone for attending and directed them to the information about the upcoming events in the Public Gardens which had been placed on people's seats.

23 **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 4th June 2025 for Approval**

On the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor Treacher, 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, Kellermann, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman.
Abstained: Councillors Bayliss and Boyce-Churn

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

No declarations of interest were received.

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

No correspondence had been received and no persons present wished to speak.

26 **District and County Councillor Updates**

District Councillor Suzie Burns provided the following report prior to the meeting which was circulated with the agenda:

EHDC Councillor Report for ATC, July 2025

Cllr Suzie Burns: Alton Ashdell Ward

The summaries provided within this short report are to the best of my knowledge correct and it should be noted that as an opposition councillor at EHDC many of the developments noted are the result of the administrations decisions and are being challenged by many of your local opposition councillors. Do feel free to come back to me with any points or questions that you wish to be clarified.

Local Government Reorganisation

This has dominated the agenda at EHDC for 2025 since the announcement of the government that Hampshire is to be in the first wave of county councils to become devolved to unitary authorities. With our unique location in East Hampshire with part of the region in The SDNP there is still much discussion as to where and with which other regions we may be amalgamated. The sentiment is very much that we need to do whatever is going to provide the best for our residents, however to date we have not been provided with any concrete milestones and pathway as to how or what this reorganisation might look like. HCC and associated district councils originally pursued a contract with the Consultants KPMG to explore the options, however the Leader of EHDC Cllr Millard, wrote to councillors to inform us that Cabinet have taken the decision alongside Hampshire County Council to part ways from KPMG and instead us PWC as the consultant. There is concern amongst opposition that this is an undemocratic and risky move given that all other 12 district councils are now working with a different consultant. The primary focus of PWC is the management of HCC's social care and mandatory requirement rather than how important services, wellbeing and maintenance of local identity could be delivered by the new unitary authorities when they are formed. This is very much an ongoing and moveable situation and a full and frank discussion is scheduled for an extra-ordinary Full Council meeting on 17th July. Hopefully progress and a clear timetable will be made available soon.

Local Plan

Little progress appears to have happened on this. There has been no councillor briefing since Autumn 2023 and as far as I am aware the original date for adoption remains 2027. Site allocations remain a key element, especially in the knowledge that in Alton our housing numbers have been increased so greatly. It is anticipated that the ongoing work of the ANP should feed in to the LP.

Climate

Again this seems to have been on a bit of a backburner currently in the wake of the LGR and the last briefing was in February

Councillor Grants

It should be noted by councillors that District councillors have had an increase in the individual grant pots that they can allocate. There has been a lot of interest and applications – so if you are aware of any local projects that may benefit from project funding do point them in the direction of their District Councillor. Individual Councillor Grant pots have increased to £7k and an additional £3k from every councillor has been put into a centralised pot totalling £129k exclusively for environmental projects. Disappointingly this will not be apportioned by area and will be distributed on a bid basis with the 'strongest projects' being awarded funding.

Planning

There has been a spate of medium to larger developments in the locality that have come forward for planning consideration. Whilst these are still a long way from being decided, with a less than 4year land supply the situation is becoming more and more critical as the Local Plan loses its precedence.

Events

Many Thanks to ATC for hosting the recent Jane Austen Sculpture event which received funding from the EHDC 'Grow Up' Fund. This has been widely promoted on various channels and will hopefully enhance the experience for visitors to the town.

Councillor Burns further updated the meeting on the publication of Hampshire County Council's preferred option for Local Government Reorganisation. This will be discussed by East Hampshire District Council in Full Council in Petersfield on Thursday 17th July.

27 **King's Pond – Update from Task & Finish Group and approval for spending**

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote on all three parts of this agenda item.

(i) Councillor Hammond proposed that the Council note the report from the King's Pond T&F Group. This was seconded by Councillor Treacher. There being no questions on the report and with everyone voting in favour, it was

RESOLVED
To note the report from the King's Pond T&F Group

(ii) Councillor Hammond proposed that the Council accept the minutes of the King's Pond T&F Group. This was seconded by Councillor Treacher. There being no questions on the minutes, it was

RESOLVED
To accept the minutes of the King's Pond T&F Group

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Hammond, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman.
Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

(iii) Councillor Hammond proposed that the Council approve spending of £6,000 for the employment of a consultant to assist in the tender process if necessary note the report from the King's Pond T&F Group. This was seconded by Councillor Treacher.

Councillor Hammond proposed an amendment that the council approve spending of up to £10,000 to include additional ecology reports as well as to help with the tender process. It was emphasised that this is a contingency rather than definite spending in order to allow the project to progress over the summer.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Hammond, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman.
Against: Councillor Kellermann

Therefore, this amendment was carried.

Councillor Kellermann then proposed a further amendment that no more money should be spent on King's Pond until a referendum could be held to establish whether residents wished this to progress. There being no seconder this amendment did not move to a vote.

There being no further debate, it was

RESOLVED
To approve spending of up to £10,000 for the employment of a consultant to assist in the tender process if necessary and further ecological reports / input as needed

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Hammond, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman.
Against: Councillor Kellermann

28 **Co-option of three councillors to fill vacant seats in Ashdell, Eastbrooke and Whitedown wards**

Six candidates had applied for the three vacancies. The Town Clerk explained the co-option process and said he would guide everyone through it. In the vote an absolute majority must be reached in order for someone to be co-opted, so with eight councillors present at the meeting to be successful a candidate would require five votes. All six candidates had applied for all three wards.

Each candidate in attendance was allowed three minutes to speak, followed by three minutes for councillor questions. Mr Quincey and Mr Saunders had sent their apologies due to prior commitments that they had been unable to change.

Councillor Eyre proposed that all candidates be put forward for co-option and for voting to take place this evening. This was seconded by Councillor Hammond, with all voting in favour.

Councillors thanked the candidates and emphasised that as there were six candidates but only three vacancies they should not be disheartened if they are unsuccessful on this occasion and they should still consider standing for election in 2027 and volunteering to help the council in some other capacity in the meantime.

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote. Voting then took place for each ward in turn as follows:

Ashdell Ward

Round 1

	Botten	Fairhead	Lamb	Moore	Quincey	Saunders		Abst
Cllr Bayliss	1							
Cllr Boyce-Churn					1			
Cllr Eyre			1					
Cllr Hammond					1			
Cllr Kellerman				1				
Cllr Tansey					1			
Cllr Treacher					1			
Cllr Wadman				1				
Sub-total	1	0	1	2	4	0		0
Mayor's casting		1						
Total	1	1	1	2	4	0		0

Mr Saunders was therefore eliminated from the next round.

Round 2

	Botten	Fairhead	Lamb	Moore	Quincey	Saunders		Abst
Cllr Bayliss					1			
Cllr Boyce-Churn					1			
Cllr Eyre					1			
Cllr Hammond					1			
Cllr Kellerman					1			
Cllr Tansey					1			
Cllr Treacher					1			
Cllr Wadman				1				
Sub-total	0	0	0	1	7			0
Mayor's casting								
Total								

With seven votes Mr John Quincey received the absolute majority for Ashdell Ward.

Eastbrooke Ward

Round 1

	Botten	Fairhead	Lamb	Moore	Quincey	Saunders		Abst
Cllr Bayliss				1				
Cllr Boyce-Churn				1				
Cllr Eyre				1				
Cllr Hammond				1				
Cllr Kellerman				1				
Cllr Tansey				1				
Cllr Treacher				1				
Cllr Wadman				1				
Sub-total	0	0	0	8		0		0
Mayor's casting								
Total	0	0	0	8		0		0

With eight votes Mr Richard Moore received the absolute majority for Eastbrooke Ward

Whitedown Ward

Round 1

	Botten	Fairhead	Lamb	Moore	Quincey	Saunders		Abst
Cllr Bayliss			1					
Cllr Boyce-Churn			1					
Cllr Eyre			1					
Cllr Hammond								1
Cllr Kellerman		1						
Cllr Tansey								1
Cllr Treacher								1
Cllr Wadman			1					
Sub-total	0	1	4			0		3
Mayor's casting	1							
Total	1	1	4			0		3

Mr Saunders was therefore eliminated from the next round.

Round 2

	Botten	Fairhead	Lamb	Moore	Quincey	Saunders		Abst
Cllr Bayliss			1					
Cllr Boyce-Churn			1					
Cllr Eyre			1					
Cllr Hammond			1					
Cllr Kellerman		1						
Cllr Tansey								1
Cllr Treacher								1

Cllr Wadman			1					
Sub-total	0	1	5					2
Mayor's casting								
Total	0	1	5					2

With five votes Mr Roger Lamb received the absolute majority for Whitedown Ward

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

RESOLVED
To co-opt Mr John Quincey to Ashdell Ward, Mr Richard Moore to Eastbooke Ward and Mr Roger Lamb to Whitedown Ward

All in favour.

29 **Planning Application for comment: EHDC-24-0027-FUL, Land NW of Ackender Wood Basingstoke Road, Pre-decision amendment**

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

RESOLVED to submit a response as follows:
"Alton Town Council (ATC) feels the amendments have not addressed their first two comments previously submitted. ATC further feels strongly that there should be traffic lights on the junction between the site and Basingstoke Road. Some councillors are of the opinion that there should be no building on greenfield sites and that this principle should apply in this case."

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Hammond, Kellermann, Treacher, and Wadman.
Abstained: Councillor Tansey

30 **Legal Agreements**

30.1 On the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Bayliss, it was

RESOLVED to retrospectively approve the signing of the document circulated on 30th May 2025 giving Landlord's Consent to Cellnex to undertake the minor changes necessary to the installation on the site.

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote for all parts of this agenda item.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Hammond, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman.
Against: Councillor Kellermann

30.2 On the proposal of Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

RESOLVED
To approve the signing of the lease once the agreement has been finalised between Energique and Energise South Downs, at no cost to the Council.

All Councillors voted in favour.

30.3 On the proposal of Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Tansey, it was

RESOLVED
To approve the installation of six individual heat pumps at The Tannery (The King's Arms), subject to planning approval.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Kellermann, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman.
Abstained: Councillor Hammond

31 Statement of Accounts from 1st – 30th June 2025

On the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Boyce-Churn, it was

RESOLVED
To confirm approval of:

1. **The balance sheet dated 30th June 2025**
2. **The Income and Expenditure account to 30th June 2025**
3. **The bank reconciliations for the Unity Account**
4. **The Payments over £500 covering 1st- 30th June 2025**
5. **The updated Direct Debit List**

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Hammond, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman.
Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

32 Valuations of ATC Properties for review and updates to insurance

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

RESOLVED to:
(i) note the changes in valuations figures above
(ii) approve the changes to the insurance for the remainder of the term for the changes to the building valuations
(iii) approve the changes to the insurance for the remainder of the term for the addition of the Jane Austen sculpture and the Roller Mower

All Councillors voted in favour.

33 **To resolve whether to take ownership of the Brewing Heritage Trail sculptures along the Wey Walk**

Councillor Kellermann recused himself due to a previous familial connection to the project.

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

RESOLVED
To agree to take ownership of the sculptures along the Brewing Heritage Trail, along with a commuted sum towards the inspections and maintenance and contribution to the insurance – sum to be agreed.

All Councillors voted in favour.

34 **Public Gardens Footpath repairs**

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

RESOLVED
To appoint contractor B (Rocon) to undertake the repairs to the footpaths in the Public Gardens at a cost of £10,804.88 (ten thousand, eight hundred and four pounds and eighty-eight pence).

All Councillors voted in favour.

35 **Public Engagement Consultant proposal**

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

RESOLVED
To appoint Cratus to undertake Phase 1 of the work as follows at a cost of £7,800 taken from the £15,000 Neighbourhood CIL approved for this purpose on 5th February 2025 (minute reference 115.2.1):
Phase 1: Strategy Development and Consultation
This phase includes a detailed review of current communication practices, stakeholder mapping, and the creation of a bespoke communication strategy tailored to address the council's unique challenges.

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Hammond, Tansey, Treacher, and Wadman.
Against: Councillor Kellermann

36 **Co-option Policy update for approval**

Councillor Eyre proposed the updated policy be adopted as tabled. This was seconded by Councillor Kellermann, who then proposed an amendment that a vacancy for co-option be advertised for four weeks rather than three. This amendment was seconded by Councillor Hammond and all councillors voted in favour, therefore the amendment was carried.

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

RESOLVED
To approve the updated Co-option Policy with vacancies for co-option being advertised for a period of four weeks.

All Councillors voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm