
**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2026 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL**

Present: **Councillor** **Annette Eyre (Town Mayor)**
 Matthew Bayliss
 Chris Botten
 Don Hammond
 Graham Hill
 Matthew Kellermann
 Roger Lamb
 Nick O'Brien
 John Quincey
 Barbara Tansey
 Lorna Woodcroft

In attendance: **Tom Horwood (Town Clerk)**
 Hayley Carter (Deputy Clerk)

7 members of the public and press

152 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Boyce-Churn.

153 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

No declarations of interest were received.

154 Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on 19 March 2026 for Approval

Councillor Eyre proposed that the minutes be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Botten, and it was:

RESOLVED

to APPROVE the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on 19 March 2026.

Councillor Kellermann requested recorded votes for all items in the meeting.

In favour: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Lamb, O'Brien, Tansey and Woodcroft

Abstained: Councillors Kellermann and Quincey

155 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

She thanked those who had joined in at the quiz night at The Market Hotel and announced that a total of £1131 had been raised for St Michael's Hospice.

She then informed the meeting that her next charity fundraiser is on Saturday 9th May at the Spinnaker tower, where she and Samantha Brown will be abseiling down the tower. Details on how to support and donate will be posted soon.

She finished by announcing there is a Casual vacancy for a councillor for Whitedown Ward due to the resignation of Councillor Janice Treacher and thanking Councillor Treacher for the valuable contribution she has made to the town. The deadline for electors to write to EHDC to request a by-election is 5pm on Friday 24th April.

156 Written Representations from the Public

No correspondence was received in advance of the meeting.

157 Questions and Statements by the Public

No persons present wished to speak.

158 Planning Applications

158.1 EHDC-26-0246-FUL and EHDC-26-0247-ADV, Star Energy Weald Basin Ltd., Farnham Road, Froyle, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4JD

Councillor O'Brien proposed that the Town Clerk be authorised to respond to East Hampshire District Council on applications EHDC-26-0246-FUL and EHDC-26-0247-ADV, Star Energy Weald Basin Ltd., Farnham Road, Froyle, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4JD, reflecting the points raised in the debate. This was seconded by Councillor Hammond.

The points made in the debate were as follows:

- The application is not in a high-risk flood zone but the application does go into detail about drainage of the site and storage of both surface and foul water.
- Councillors had concerns about the quantity of water going into public sewers.
- Concerns about contamination of surface run-off due to the high number of vehicles using the site
- Important to retain the hidden nature of the site

- Noise report suggests it will be no noisier than it currently is. Perhaps this could be a condition
- Direct access to the A31 so no concerns about traffic
- No impact on residential properties
- Good use of the site
- No objections to the signage

Thus, on the proposal of Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was:

RESOLVED

To authorise the Town Clerk to respond to East Hampshire District Council on planning applications EHDC-26-0246-FUL and EHDC-26-0247-ADV, Star Energy Weald Basin Ltd., Farnham Road, Froyle, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4JD, reflecting the points raised in the debate.

All councillors voted in favour.

158.2 EHDC-25-1342-FUL, The Den, The Den Scout Hut, Chawton Park Road, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1RQ

Councillor Hill proposed that the Town Clerk be authorised to respond to East Hampshire District Council on application EHDC-25-1342-FUL, The Den, The Den Scout Hut, Chawton Park Road, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1RQ, supporting the application. This was seconded by Councillor Botten.

There were no objections raised and councillors agreed they would support the application.

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

RESOLVED

To authorise the Town Clerk to respond to East Hampshire District Council on planning application EHDC-25-1342-FUL, The Den, The Den Scout Hut, Chawton Park Road, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1RQ, reflecting the points raised in the debate.

All councillors voted in favour.

159 **Event and Project Grant Applications**

159.1 Dementia Friendly Alton

Councillor Hill proposed that Dementia Friendly Alton be awarded £500 for their two events. This was seconded by Councillor Hammond, and it was:

RESOLVED

To award £500 to Dementia Friendly Alton towards two events as per their application.

In favour: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Lamb, O'Brien, Quincey, Tansey and Woodcroft

Against: Councillor Kellermann, who asked that it be noted that he was voting against it because of the charity's level of reserves and not as any objection to the work they do. The Deputy Clerk clarified that the reason was that money was committed but not yet spent for some of the remaining improvements to the building and facilities.

159.2 Beech Parish Council

Councillor Hammond proposed that Beech Parish Council be awarded £596.50 to enable them to run the two Auto Speed Watch cameras belonging to ATC on Basingstoke Road. This was seconded by Councillor Lamb, and it was:

RESOLVED

To award £596.50 to Beech Parish Council to enable them to reinstate, operate and monitor the two ATC-owned Auto Speed Watch cameras on Basingstoke Road.

In favour: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Lamb, O'Brien, Quincey, Tansey and Woodcroft

Against: Councillor Kellermann

160 Standing Orders

Councillor Kellermann proposed that the draft Standing Orders be approved and adopted by Alton Town Council with effect from 9 April 2026. This was seconded by Councillor Lamb.

The Mayor said that, before asking Councillor Kellermann to introduce the item, two amendments had been received in advance from Councillors Botten and Tansey. She asked if each had a seconder and if there were any further amendments. Councillor Tansey confirmed she would second Councillor Botten's amendment and Councillor Botten confirmed he would second Councillor Tansey's amendment. Councillor Kellermann said he had an additional amendment which was an addition to record all votes by councillors. This was seconded by Councillor Hammond.

Councillor Kellermann then introduced the item and the Mayor moved straight to the proposed amendments, taking each in the order it had been received.

Councillor Botten introduced his amendment to add that the Standing Orders were approved “subject to:

- a) the addition of, ‘SO 9(i): Draft minutes of Full Council meetings are published within 7 working days of the meeting and are submitted for formal approval at the next available Full Council meeting. Any proposed amendments to the draft minutes must be submitted to the Proper Officer in writing no later than 7 working days before the next Council meeting to enable the amendments to be despatched with the Council papers,’ and
- b) the deletion of SO 10(a)(i).”

Having already been seconded by Councillor Tansey, the amendment was **carried** with all councillors voting in favour.

Councillor Tansey then introduced her amendment to add “subject to:

- a) the replacement of SO 1(g) with, ‘An amendment will only be considered if it has been received in writing by the Proper Officer 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting, to enable legal and procedural advice to be given in a timely way, to allow all councillors time to consider the amendment, to facilitate the smooth running of the council meeting and to support those with hidden disabilities,’ and
- b) the removal of SO 1(h).”

This had been seconded by Councillor Botten, and there followed extensive debate with some councillors concerned that this would stifle debate, not allowing amendments to be formed organically either through that debate or through public representations, and the Town Clerk confirming that there was a mechanism elsewhere in Standing Orders to suspend that specific Standing Order should an amendment on the night be necessary.

The amendment was **carried** with voting as follows:

In favour: Councillors Botten, Hammond, Lamb, Quincey, Tansey and Woodcroft

Against: Councillors Bayliss, Eyre, Hill, Kellermann and O’Brien

Councillor Kellermann then introduced his amendment “subject to the addition to SO 3(s): ‘That all councillor votes are recorded votes’”

This had been seconded by Councillor Hammond, and the amendment was **carried** with voting as follows:

In favour: Councillors Bayliss, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Kellermann, Lamb, O’Brien and Quincey,

Against: Councillors Botten, Tansey and Woodcroft

The Mayor then asked if councillors wished to debate the substantive motion or move straight to a vote. Councillor Hill asked whether voting could be done separately on each part of the motion but this was not allowed as the council had already resolved to include each item as an amendment to the original motion; there was, therefore, a single (albeit amended) motion on which councillors must vote. Councillor Kellermann said that, as original proposer, he would like to withdraw the motion.

The Town Clerk asked for a ten minute recess, which was granted.

On reconvening the meeting Councillor Kellermann confirmed that as original proposer of the motion he would like to withdraw the motion in accordance with SO 1d. However, his seconder, Councillor Lamb, did not consent so it did not move to a vote.

Councillor Kellermann then asked to move directly to the next business in accordance with SO 1r(ii). This was seconded by Councillor Hill, but the motion was **not carried** due to voting as follows:

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hill and Kellermann

Against: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Hammond, Lamb, O'Brien
Tansey and Woodcroft

Abstained: Councillor Quincey

Councillor Kellermann then proposed that the decision be deferred in accordance with SO 10a iii, but with no seconder the motion did not move to a vote.

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

RESOLVED

To approve the draft Standing Orders subject to:

a) the addition of, 'SO 9(i): Draft minutes of Full Council meetings are published within 7 working days of the meeting and are submitted for formal approval at the next available Full Council meeting. Any proposed amendments to the draft minutes must be submitted to the Proper Officer in writing no later than 7 working days before the next Council meeting to enable the amendments to be despatched with the Council papers,'

b) the deletion of SO 10(a)(i)

c) the replacement of SO 1(g) with, 'An amendment will only be considered if it has been received in writing by the Proper Officer 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting, to enable legal and procedural advice to be given in a timely way, to allow all councillors time to consider the amendment, to facilitate the smooth running of the council meeting and to support those with hidden disabilities,'

d) the removal of SO 1(h)

**e) the addition to SO 3(s): ‘That all councillor votes are recorded votes’
and adopt them with effect from 9 April 2026.**

In favour: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Hammond, Lamb, O’Brien, Quincey, Tansey and Woodcroft

Against: Councillors Eyre, Hill and Kellermann

161 Statement of Accounts to 28 February 2026

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Statement of Accounts to 28 February 2026 be approved with the exception of the credit card statement, as officers had identified an error of £6, which would be corrected and brought to a future council meeting for approval. This was seconded by Councillor Hill, and it was

RESOLVED

To approve as tabled:

1. The Balance Sheet to 28 February 2026

2. The Income and Expenditure Report for the period 1-28 February 2026

3. Bank reconciliations to 28 February 2026, with the exception of the credit card reconciliation statement

4. Payments over £500, issued between 1-28 February 2026

In favour: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Lamb, O’Brien, Quincey, Tansey and Woodcroft

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

162 Financial Risk Assessment

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Financial Risk Assessment be approved as tabled. This was seconded by Councillor Bayliss, and it was

RESOLVED

To approve the Financial Risk Assessment as tabled.

In favour: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Lamb, O’Brien, Quincey, Tansey and Woodcroft

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

163 Safeguarding Policy

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Safeguarding Policy be approved as tabled. This was seconded by Councillor Botten, and it was

RESOLVED**To approve the Safeguarding Policy as tabled.**

In favour: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Eyre, Hill, Lamb, Kellermann, O'Brien, Quincey, Tansey and Woodcroft

Abstained: Councillor Hammond

164 Invitation to Tender for Internal Auditor Services 2026-2029

Councillor Eyre proposed that Mulberry & Co be appointed as Internal Auditor for 2026-2029, to carry out four quarterly audits per year. Councillor O'Brien seconded this and it was

RESOLVED**That Mulberry & Co be appointed for Internal Audit services for 2026 to 2029 to undertake four quarterly audits per year.**

In favour: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Lamb, O'Brien, Quincey, Tansey and Woodcroft

Against: Councillor Kellermann

165 Exclusion of the press and public

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council 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.

Councillor O'Brien seconded this and 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.**

In favour: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Lamb, O'Brien, Quincey, Tansey and Woodcroft
Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

166 **Property Matter**

Following some discussions, Councillor Eyre proposed that Standing Order 3x be suspended to allow the meeting to progress past two and a half hours. This was seconded by Councillor Hill but with voting as follows the motion was **not carried**:

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Hill, Kellermann and Quincey
Against: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Hammond, Lamb, O'Brien, Tansey and Woodcroft

Councillor Hammond proposed that the Town Clerk be permitted to negotiate on behalf of the Town Council regarding the matter outlined in the confidential report. Councillor Hill seconded this and it was

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk be permitted to negotiate on behalf of the Town Council regarding the matter outlined in the confidential report.

All councillors voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.