
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2026 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL**

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

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

 20 members of the public and press

167 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Boyce-Churn and Graham Hill.

168 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

No declarations of interest were received.

169 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8 April 2026 for Approval

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

RESOLVED
to APPROVE the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8
April 2026.

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

170 Town Mayor's Announcements

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

She told those present that “while I have no intention of implementing any standing orders that would limit freedom of speech, I must emphasize that any individual causing a disruption will be asked to refrain from such behaviour. Should the disruption continue, I may be forced to either exclude the individual (SO 10xiii), suspend (SO 10xiv), or even adjourn the meeting (SO 10xvi). Therefore, I kindly ask everyone to be mindful and considerate of all individuals present.”

She then reminded 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 at 3pm to raise money for St Michael’s Hospice. Details on how to support are on social media and in the digital Altonian.

She finished by announcing that a by election to elect a new Town Councillor for Whitedown ward will be held on 11 June. The deadline for nominations is 14 May.

171 **Written Representations from the Public**

Correspondence was received in advance of the meeting from Jenny Griffiths of Alton and Villages Local Action for Nature (AVLAN), Melba Kellermann and Anthony Furnival. It was circulated to councillors on 5 May and published under supplementary papers on the Council website.

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

RESOLVED

To note the correspondence received.

All councillors voted in favour.

172 **Questions and Statements by the Public**

172.1 Gareth Hurd spoke to congratulate ATC for the rigorous way it has investigated the King’s Pond issue. He said he is very impressed that councillors have stuck it out and implored them to see it through so there can be no arguments that it has not been done properly. He said a huge thanks to councillors, adding that they can be proud that they have done their level best for the town.

172.2 Jenny Abbott said she agreed with everything Gareth had said and stressed how important it is for the public and wildlife alike that the Town Council continue its investigations. She added that she loves the pond and would probably wish to keep it as it is but needs to see all the information first to be able to make a proper decision.

172.3 District Councillor Ginny Boxall spoke in support of ATC adopting EHDC’s policy on chalk streams and rivers. She said that the River Wey is not just a local amenity but also a living, breathing thing that supports our wildlife and

without protections we risk irreversible harm. It is not about stopping growth but about supporting it responsibly and sustainably. She finished by urging the council to support this motion.

172.4 Chris Newton added his support to what others had said about the importance of continuing with the King's Pond project. He said he looks forward to the consultation and wanted to give his support and thanks to the councillors and officers for all the hard work that has gone into this. He added that he is also in support of the rivers motion.

172.5 Nathan Cuff said that he is still opposed to spending more money on the pond but today wished to speak about dwindling democracy in the council. The reduction to 3 minutes per person with a maximum of 20 minutes, but also his disgust about the decision to no longer permit amendments in the meeting. He said that it stinks of predetermination and asked the council to reconsider.

172.6 Ian Abbott reiterated what everyone else had said about King's Pond and thanked the council for seeing the project through. He said it will be nice to see it come to a conclusion.

172.7 County Councillor Andrew Joy said thanks to the Town Council for allowing him the privilege to work alongside them in his roles as a District and County Councillor since he started in 2009. He said he would like to take this opportunity to thank them as this was his last official meeting, and he had always done his best to address the needs of the town – not just the buildings, but the residents who are the lifeblood of the town. He said it has been a privilege to work alongside them all and he wished councillors all the very best for the future.

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

RESOLVED

To note the questions and statements.

All councillors voted in favour.

173 District Councillor's Report

A report had been received in advance from Councillor Suzie Burns and was included with the council papers. There were no additional questions from councillors but they thanked Councillor Burns for the report.

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

RESOLVED

To note the District Councillor's report.

All councillors voted in favour.

174 **Chalk Streams and Rivers**

Councillor Botten proposed that the Council:

- note and endorse the motion passed by East Hampshire District Council on 27 November 2025,
- endorse the proposals made by the Northern Wey Community Trust set out in their PowerPoint presentation,
- resolve to make appropriate use of these as guidelines in response to local planning applications, and
- pursue these objectives in the council's policy-making in related areas.

This was seconded by Councillor Hammond.

Following the debate Councillor Bayliss explained that he felt the motion was not sufficiently clear and as he was unable to amend it in the meeting he would have to vote against it.

The Town Clerk explained the mechanism for moving an amendment in the meeting with the changes to Standing Orders.

Councillor Bayliss therefore proposed, in accordance with Standing Order 10(a)(xiv), to suspend Standing Order 1(g) to allow an amendment to be made in the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Quincey, and it was

RESOLVED

To suspend Standing Order 1(g) for to allow an amendment.

All councillors voted in favour.

Councillor Bayliss then proposed an amendment that the motion read that the Council:

- note and endorse the motion passed by East Hampshire District Council on 27 November 2025
- endorse the proposals made by the Northern Wey Community Trust set out in their PowerPoint presentation
- resolve to be mindful of the proposals of the Northern Wey Community Trust in responding to planning applications
- pursue these objectives in the town council's policy-making in related areas but to be agnostic as to the two options being considered for King's Pond

This was seconded by Councillor Kellermann, and the amendment was **carried** with all councillors voting in favour.

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

RESOLVED

To

- **note and endorse the motion passed by East Hampshire District Council on 27 November 2025**
- **endorse the proposals made by the Northern Wey Community Trust set out in their PowerPoint presentation**
- **resolve to be mindful of the proposals of the Northern Wey Community Trust in responding to planning applications**
- **pursue these objectives in the town council's policy-making in related areas but to be agnostic as to the two options being considered for King's Pond**

All councillors voted in favour.

175 **Standing Order 1(g)**

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council suspend Standing Order 1(g) for all of the remaining items of this Council meeting's agenda. This was seconded by Councillor Kellermann, but the motion was **not carried** with voting as follows:

In favour: Councillors Bayliss, Eyre, Kellermann and Quincey

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

176 **Internal Auditor's Report 2025/26**

Councillor Hammond proposed that the Council

- a) note the content of the Internal Auditor report, and
- b) approve the review of effectiveness of Internal Audit.

This was seconded by Councillor Bayliss, and it was

RESOLVED

To

- a) note the content of the Internal Auditor report, and**
- b) approve the review of effectiveness of Internal Audit.**

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

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

177 Statement of Governance 2025/26

177.1 Councillor Bayliss proposed that the Council approve the Statement of Governance (Section 1 of the AGAR). This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien, and it was

RESOLVED

To approve the Statement of Governance (Section 1 of the AGAR).

All councillors voted in favour.

177.2 Councillor Hammond proposed that the Council witness the signatures of both the Town Clerk and the Mayor. This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien, and it was

RESOLVED

To note that the signatures of both the Town Clerk and the Mayor have been witnessed by the Full Council.

All councillors voted in favour.

178 Statement of Accounts to 31 March 2026

Councillor Bayliss proposed that the Statement of Accounts to 31 March 2026 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Eyre, and it was

RESOLVED

To approve as tabled:

- 1. The Balance Sheet to 31 March 2026**
- 2. The Income and Expenditure Report for the period 1-31 March 2026**
- 3. Bank reconciliations to 31 March 2026**
- 4. Payments over £500, issued between 1-31 March 2026**
- 5. The PWLB Statement to 31 March 2026**
- 6. Section 2 of the AGAR duly signed by the Town Clerk and the Mayor**
- 7. The creation of an Elections earmarked reserve and the transfer into it of £15,000**
- 8. The transfer of the remaining revenue outturn variance of £146,106 into the General Reserve.**

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

179 Conflict of Interest Form and Notice of the Exercise of Public Rights

Councillor Bayliss proposed that the Council

a) note whether there are any conflicts of interest with BDO LLP and authorise the Town Clerk and Mayor to complete and return the Conflict of Interest Form accordingly

b) note the dates for the statutory inspection period for the accounts.

This was seconded by Councillor Hammond, and it was

RESOLVED

a) To note that there are no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP and to authorise the Town Clerk and Mayor to complete and return the Conflict of Interest Form accordingly

b) To note the dates for the statutory inspection period for the accounts as 3 June to 14 July 2026.

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

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

180 King's Pond Stage One Invitation to Tender

Councillor Hammond proposed that the Council approve the appointment of Company A to commence Stage One of the King's Pond project as set out in the invitation to tender to be funded from the King's Pond earmarked reserve. This was seconded by Councillor Botten.

Councillor Quincey proposed, in accordance with SO 10(a)(ii) that this item be deferred in light of there being so many unknowns and the potential risks associated with the dam. This was seconded by Councillor Kellermann, but the motion was **not carried** with voting as follows:

In favour: Councillors Kellermann and Quincey

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

Councillor Hammond had emailed with a small amendment 48 hours prior to the meeting as follows:

"to change the word 'commence' to 'carry out'.

This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien and the amendment was **carried** with voting as follows:

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

Abstained: Councillors Kellermann and Quincey

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

RESOLVED

To approve the appointment of Company A (Five Rivers) to carry out Stage One of the King's Pond project at a cost of up to £44,041.37 as set out in the invitation to tender, to be funded from the King's Pond earmarked reserve.

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

Against: Councillor Kellermann

Abstained: Councillor Quincey

181 Minutes of the King's Pond Task and Finish Group

Councillor Hammond proposed that the minutes of the King's Pond Task and Finish Group be approved as tabled. This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien.

Councillor Hammond introduced the item, saying how important it is to read the minutes and that they cover discussion on the dam and the risk register for the project.

Councillor Quincey highlighted the parts of the minutes that dealt with the risks the dam poses to the project and the possible changes to the volume of water before inspections and certification of the construction of the dam are required that had all been discussed by the Task and Finish Group. He requested his comments be minuted.

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

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes of the King's Pond Task and Finish Group as tabled.

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

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

182 Grant Applications

182.1 Councillor Tansey proposed that the Council approve a grant of £200 from the Climate Change Grant budget for Anstey Junior School for the purpose of purchasing plants for a sensory garden. Councillor O'Brien seconded this and it was

RESOLVED

To approve a grant of £200 from the Climate Change Grant budget for Anstey Junior School for the purpose purchasing plants for a sensory garden.

All councillors voted in favour.

182.2A member of the public was permitted to read a message from Jupiter Petrichor as the applicant, who was also present. Councillor Woodcroft proposed that the Council approve a grant of £500 for Trans Joy Network from the Events and Projects Grants budget for the purpose of contributing to the cost of events. Councillor O'Brien seconded this and it was

RESOLVED

To approve a grant of £500 for Trans Joy Network from the Events and Projects Grants budget for the purpose of contributing to the cost of events.

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

183 Paths at Flood Meadows

Councillor Hammond proposed that the Council approve Company A to undertake the repairs and improvements to the footpaths in Flood Meadows, to be funded from the Open Spaces earmarked reserve. This was seconded by Councillor Botten, and it was

RESOLVED

To approve Company A (Rocon) to undertake the repairs and improvements to the footpaths in Flood Meadows with a budget of £40,000, to be funded from the Open Spaces earmarked reserve.

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

184 Replacement of Windows and Doors at Jubilee Bungalows

184.1 Councillor Hammond proposed that the Council appoint Company A to replace the windows and doors and the soffits and fascias for 1 and 2 Jubilee Bungalows, to be funded from the Capital earmarked reserve. This was seconded by Councillor Quincey, and it was

RESOLVED

To appoint Company A (Excellent Windows) to replace the windows and doors for 1 and 2 Jubilee Bungalows at a cost of £11,016 + VAT, and the soffits and fascias for 1 and 2 Jubilee Bungalows at a cost of £6,960 + VAT, to be funded from the Capital earmarked reserve.

All councillors voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm.