
**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ALTON TOWN ELECTORS' MEETING
HELD ON 18 MARCH 2026 AT 6:30PM**

Present: Councillor Annette Eyre - Town Mayor
 Matthew Bayliss
 Roger Lamb
 John Quincey
 Janice Treacher

In attendance: Tom Horwood - Town Clerk ATC
 Hayley Carter - Deputy Clerk ATC
 Samantha Brown - Councillor Support Admin Officer ATC
 Natalie Beckell - Events & Marketing Lead Officer ATC
 Kaylie Grace - Events and Community Officer ATC
 Sarah Webb - St Michael's Hospice
 3 members of the public and press

122 Welcome and Town Mayors Address

The Town Mayor welcomed all to the Annual Meeting of Electors and made the following address:

I am constantly inspired by the vibrant passion that flows through every aspect of life here in Alton. Serving as both your Mayor and a Town Councillor has given me a front-row seat to the remarkable energy our community brings to everything it does. It truly is a privilege to be part of a town where people express their enthusiasm so openly and channel it into creating positive change.

Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of meeting countless extraordinary individuals—from those who have dedicated themselves to causes close to their hearts, to those who joined a group because of a friend's encouragement or found support within a community and chose to give back. Time and again, I see the familiar faces who tirelessly devote their time to Alton, always offering a smile, even when the days get tough. Their commitment is the backbone of our town, and their spirit is contagious.

Our community is a tapestry woven from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. Each person brings something truly unique, and it is this diversity that makes Alton such a dynamic and welcoming place to live. I am continually moved by the willingness of our residents to step forward, whether it's lending a helping hand to a neighbour, participating in local events, or simply sharing thoughtful feedback on ways we can improve. Every action, no matter how small, contributes to the thriving spirit that defines our town.

Looking ahead, as I continue my role as Town Councillor and Mayor, my focus remains on ensuring Alton thrives and continues to be a wonderful place for all. Our town will inevitably evolve, and the decisions that guide this change may occasionally present challenges. What matters most is that we keep your passion at the forefront, always listening and honouring every resident's voice as we shape our future together.

As we navigate the opportunities and challenges before us, I want to assure you that the council and I are committed to transparent and inclusive decision-making. We will continue to seek out your opinions, encourage open dialogue, and involve you in the processes that affect our community. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage everyone to engage with the council—whether through public meetings, community forums, or simply by reaching out directly. Together, we can find creative solutions and ensure our town remains a place where everyone feels heard and valued.

I will serve Alton for as long as I am needed, working alongside my fellow councillors and the amazing staff at the Town Hall to help our town reach its fullest potential. My heartfelt thanks go out to every volunteer, community leader, and resident who makes Alton so special. Your dedication and enthusiasm are the very heart of our town. Whether you are a longtime resident or new to Alton, your involvement strengthens our community fabric. Let us continue to support one another, celebrate our achievements, and face challenges together with optimism and resilience.

Together, we will continue to build an inclusive, vibrant, and prosperous community for all. I am deeply grateful for the trust and support you have placed in me. It is an honour to serve you, and I look forward to the year ahead, confident that by working together, we can accomplish great things.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust. I am excited to see what we can accomplish together in the coming year.

123 **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19th March 2025**

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

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2025 were agreed as a correct record and will be signed by the Town Mayor.

124 **Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 15th December 2025**

On the proposal of Councillor Annette Eyre, seconded by Councillor John Quincey, it was

RESOLVED

The minutes of the Parish meeting held on 15 December 2025 were agreed as a correct record and will be signed by the Town Mayor.

125 **To table the Alton Town Council Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025**

Councillors noted the Audited Accounts as presented

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

RESOLVED

To note the Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025

All in favour.

126 **Town Mayor to welcome representatives of her charity this year, St Michael's Hospice, to present the work they do in the community**

The Town Mayor welcomed Sarah Webb from St Michael's Hospice, who spoke about her personal experience of the hospice and the support they provide. Her experience prompted her first to start fundraising for them and then to work for them. It costs £14,500 per day to continue to deliver all their services, and only 22% of their funding comes from the NHS. All their services are provided free of charge to patients and families, and they are extremely grateful for all the support from the community. As well as the in-patient unit they have an at-home palliative care team, a patient and family support team, a therapy department and Living Well services. They have over 500 active volunteers ranging from age 14 to 96, and their support saves the hospice over £800,000 per year.

A Q&A session followed with questions from both councillors and members of the public.

127 **Town Council Officers presentation on the Town Council's activities over the last year and plans for the coming year**

Officers spoke about what the Council has achieved over the past year and what is happening in the coming year.

128 **Open Forum - To receive questions and statements from Electors of the Alton Town Council area, including those received in advance**

Questions and discussion followed, with people speaking passionately about what an amazing community Alton is in which to live and how it is important to maintain that when the town is facing such rapid expansion.

129 **Closing Comments**

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank everyone for attending this evening.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

DRAFT