

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2026 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL**

Present: **Councillor** **Barbara Tansey (Town Mayor)**
 Chris Botten (Deputy Town Mayor)
 Mark Boyce-Churn
 Annette Eyre
 Don Hammond
 Nick O'Brien
 John Quincey
 Lorna Woodcroft

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

5 members of the public and press

10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Matthew Bayliss, Graham Hill, Matthew Kellermann and Roger Lamb.

11 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

No declarations of interest were received.

12 Minutes of Previous Meetings for Approval

Councillor Tansey proposed that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 6 May 2026 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Quincey, and it was

RESOLVED
to APPROVE the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 6 May
2026

In favour: Councillors Botten, Eyre, Hammond, O'Brien, Quincey,
Tansey and Woodcroft
Abstained: Councillor Boyce-Churn

Councillor Tansey proposed that the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on 13 May 2026 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Eyre, and it was

RESOLVED

to APPROVE the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on 13 May 2026

In favour: Councillors Botten, Eyre, Hammond, Tansey and Woodcroft
Abstained: Councillors Boyce-Churn, O'Brien and Quincey

Councillor Tansey proposed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 20 May 2026 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Eyre, and it was

RESOLVED

to APPROVE the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 20 May 2026

In favour: Councillors Botten, Eyre, Hammond, O'Brien, Tansey and Woodcroft
Abstained: Councillor Boyce-Churn and Quincey

13 Town Mayor's Announcements

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

She then addressed Andrew Joy who has recently completed his terms of office as Hampshire County Councillor, saying she would like to present him with a gift of appreciation and a certificate that records the Town Council's gratitude to him for many years of service to Alton and Holybourne as a county councillor and as a district councillor. The certificate reads:

"On the occasion of his retirement as a Hampshire County Councillor, Alton Town Council wishes to record its thanks and appreciation to Andrew Joy for his long service to the parish.

"As a County and District Councillor, Andrew Joy has served Alton and Holybourne with distinction, with strong support for local groups, activities and events. As Hampshire Armed Forces Champion, he has advocated for members and veterans of HM Armed Forces.

"Alton Town Council is pleased to show its gratitude and to record this formally in the minutes of the Full Council meeting."

Mr Joy thanked the Town Council, saying he has found it an extraordinary privilege, over a much longer time than he ever thought he would be a councillor, to serve his local community in his hometown. He said he has found it extremely rewarding and

emphasised what a good opportunity it is to stand as a councillor. He thanked everyone present who volunteers their time for their local community in this way and also thanked the local community of Alton for always being so welcoming.

Councillor Tansey then reminded the meeting about the byelection for a Town Councillor for Whitedown Ward which is taking place tomorrow.

She finished by saying that she planned to allow councillors to speak more than once but wished for each to have the opportunity to speak once before anyone comes back again and reminded councillors to raise their hand and wait for her to invite them to speak.

14 **Written Representations from the Public**

Correspondence was received in advance of the meeting from

- Jonathan Durante regarding the Neighbourhood Plan
- County Councillor Emily Young and all the District Councillors for Alton and Holybourne regarding correspondence sent to the transport team at Hampshire County Council.

It was circulated to councillors on 9 June and published under supplementary papers on the Council website.

Mr Durante spoke to say that he strongly supports the recommendation on the Neighbourhood Plan but has a recommendation for strengthening it. Councillor Tansey said that the Council cannot resolve to undertake a Landscape Value Statement this evening but would take it to the next meeting.

County Councillor Emily Young spoke about her letter regarding a Strategic Transport Plan for the town which had been circulated to all Town Councillors, saying that she would like to be able to add the Town Council's support to the letter.

Councillor Hammond thanked her for bringing the letter to the Town Council, saying it is an excellent piece of work. Councillor Eyre asked what kind of timescale Councillor Young was hoping for, to which Councillor Young said she would be hoping the plan could be started this year.

Councillor Tansey said that the Town Council could not resolve to support it at this meeting as they would need to put an amendment forward 48 hours in advance. She said she would take it to the July meeting. Councillor Young said she would be sending the letter in this week but could retrospectively add the Town Council's support.

Councillor Woodcroft asked if councillors could all sign the letter individually and Councillor Young said that would be acceptable.

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

RESOLVED**To note the correspondence received.**

All councillors voted in favour.

15 Questions and Statements by the Public

15.1 Rob Jeckells, headteacher of Amery Hill School spoke in support of the application for Neighbourhood CIL for their replacement artificial pitch and floodlighting. He said it was important for both educational and community use and that the floodlights would increase the amount of availability for community use.

Councillor Eyre thanked him for all the facilities they make available to the wider community.

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

RESOLVED**To note the questions and statements.**

All councillors voted in favour.

16 Neighbourhood CIL Applications

Councillor Botten proposed that the Council note the applications received. This was seconded by Councillor Hammond.

Five applications were received which total £257,435.80. As the available funds were only £206,178.99 it was not possible to award in full.

Councillor Tansey therefore proposed, in accordance with Standing Order 10(xiv), “to suspend Standing Order 1(g) for this agenda item”. This would then allow an amendment to be put to that reflects the outcome of the debate. This was seconded by Councillor Eyre and the motion was **carried** with all councillors voting in favour.

The debate went as follows:

Applicant	Project	Amount Requested	Amount proposed	Comments
Alton Tennis Club	Courts 3&4 Canopy Project	£40,373.00	£40,373.00	A strong application providing clear community benefit and growth. Giving less would make the project or parts of the project undeliverable. Councillors suggested there be conditions to make it accessible for all.
Alton Town Council	Replacement Playground and Skate Facility at Anstey Park	£150,000.00	£120,000.00	Awarding less might delay the project while other grant funding is sought but does not make it undeliverable.
Alton Trampoline Club	Replacement Safety Equipment	£2,062.80	£0.00	Navigate to more appropriate funding sources.
Amery Hill School	All-weather pitch resurfacing and floodlight installation	£50,000.00	£30,000.00	A strong bid. Funding reduced only because there is insufficient in the pot and reducing the amount granted does not make the project undeliverable.
Bushy Leaze	Children and Families Centre expansion to increase the capacity of current social and care infrastructure available to Alton and the surrounding areas	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	A strong bid and clear benefits. However, the project is dependent on receiving the rest of the funding from EHDC so the award must be conditional on them receiving that funding.
Total		£257,435.80	£205,373.00	

Councillor Eyre then proposed an amendment to award from Neighbourhood CIL the proposed amounts. This was seconded by Councillor Hammond, 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 award Neighbourhood CIL funding as follows:

- 1. £40,373 to Alton Tennis Club for their Courts 3&4 Canopy Project with accessibility conditions**

2. **£120,000 to Alton Town Council for its playground replacement project at Anstey Park**
3. **£30,000 to Amery Hill School for its all-weather pitch resurfacing and floodlight installation**
4. **£15,000 to Bushy Leaze for the Children and Families Centre expansion, conditional upon their application to EHDC for Strategic CIL being successful**

All councillors voted in favour.

17 **Neighbourhood Plan Next Steps**

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council authorise the Town Clerk to prepare ‘minor modifications’ to the Alton Neighbourhood Plan, consulting with the local planning authority and with the community, for consideration by the Full Council. This was seconded by Councillor Hammond.

Councillor Botten had proposed an amendment 48 hours prior to the meeting to add two more parts to the motion as follows:

“2. For the Town Clerk to consider the recommendations in the AECOM report regarding the revival of the High Street and suggest next steps, and

“3. For the Town Clerk to work with EHDC planners and others as necessary to determine whether the current shortage of water supply for the future in and around Alton would constitute sufficient grounds for the sustainable refusal of speculative planning applications.”

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

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

RESOLVED to:

1. **approve the Town Clerk to prepare ‘minor modifications’ to the Alton Neighbourhood Plan, consulting with the local planning authority and with the community, for consideration by the Full Council**
2. **consider the recommendations in the AECOM report regarding the revival of the High Street and suggest next steps**
3. **work with EHDC planners and others as necessary to determine whether the current shortage of water supply for the future in and around Alton would constitute sufficient grounds for the sustainable refusal of speculative planning applications**

All councillors voted in favour.

18 Minutes of the King's Pond Task & Finish Group

Councillor Hammond proposed that the minutes of the King's Pond Task & Finish Group meeting held on Monday 27 April 2026 be noted. This was seconded by Councillor Quincey, and it was

RESOLVED

To note the minutes of the King's Pond Task & Finish Group meeting held on Monday 27 April 2026.

All councillors voted in favour.

19 Invitation to Tender – Christmas Lights

Councillor Eyre proposed that Company B (Sparkx) be appointed to manage the town's Christmas Lights for 2026-2028 at a cost of £69,720.00 (£23,240.00 per year). This will be funded from the Christmas Lights budget. This was seconded by Councillor Botten, and it was

RESOLVED

To appoint Company B (Sparkx) to manage Alton's Christmas Lights for 2026 – 2028 at a cost of £69,720.00 (£23,240.00 per year) to be funded from the Christmas Lights budget.

All councillors voted in favour.

20 Path Improvements at King's Pond

There was no proposer for this item.

21 Exclusion of Press and Public

Councillor Tansey 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(2), and to be clear, as per subsection 3A, where the public are excluded from a meeting of a relevant local government body under Section 1(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. This was seconded by Councillor Eyre, 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(2), and to be clear, as per subsection 3A, where the public are excluded from a meeting of a relevant local government body under Section 1(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.

22 **Deed of Variation**

Councillor O'Brien proposed that the Council approve the proposed Deed of Variation between Energise South Downs and Alton Town Council regarding solar energy at Energique. This was seconded by Councillor Eyre, and it was

RESOLVED

To approve the proposed Deed of Variation between Energise South Downs and Alton Town Council regarding solar energy at Energique.

All councillors voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.