
**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2026 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL**

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

In attendance: **Tom Horwood (Town Clerk)**

 13 members of the public and press

23 Chair's Announcements

The Chair reminded all in attendance of the Standing Orders relating to speaking and conduct

24 Apologies for Absence

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

25 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

No declarations of pecuniary interest were received. Councillor Boxall stated that she was on the Curtis Museum Community Partnership and would abstain from voting on that item. Cllr Kellermann stated that he knows the Chair of the Partnership personally and will abstain from voting on that item. Cllr Tansey stated that she had attended meetings of the CMCP and had no pecuniary interest.

26 Minutes of Previous Meeting for Approval

Councillor Tansey proposed that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10 June 2026 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien, and it was

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10 June 2026.

In favour: Councillors Botten, Boxall, Eyre, Hammond, O'Brien, Quincey, Tansey, Woodcroft

Abstained: Councillors Bayliss, Kellermann, Lamb

27 Written Representations from the Public

Correspondence was received in advance of the meeting from St Michael's Hospice. It was circulated to councillors and published with the agenda of this meeting. Councillor Eyre noted that the online donations page is still live and donations may still be made.

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

RESOLVED

To note the written representations from the public.

All councillors voted in favour.

28 Questions and Statements by the Public

Andrew Joy raised the issue of doorstep scamming and invited the Town Council to publicise the risk in the media and The Altonian newsletter, with advice on how to respond. This can include supposedly "urgent" home repairs and pressure selling techniques.

Melba Kellermann asked how soon the King's Pond costs will be known and whether they will be known for the consultation. Cllr Hammond confirmed that cost estimates are part of Stage One of the project.

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

RESOLVED

To note the questions and statements by the public.

All councillors voted in favour.

29 Curtis Museum Request for Funding

The Chair invited speakers on this agenda item.

Ian Holliday, Chair of the Curtis Museum Community Partnership (CMCP) and a museum volunteer, stated that the CMCP is a group of concerned individuals that

aims to prevent the museum from closing and put it on a sustainable footing. There is a threat to the museum following grant reductions from Hampshire County Council from April 2027. Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) is faced with an imminent decision about the museum's future. If the museum were closed, the collection would be less accessible.

County and District Councillor Emily Young thanked Ian Holliday and Karen Murrell for their work on the Partnership. Cllr Young referred to the opportunity with the museum as a cultural asset, in an impressive building and at an excellent location. Every town deserves a space like this to reflect Alton's history. It has not been updated since the 1990s. Over 700 people have signed a petition to save it. There is the potential for other grants. Let's save the museum and work on the exciting opportunity that this presents for the future through working together.

Mark Brett, a trustee/director of Hampshire Cultural Trust, said that the heritage and history of the town's museum is important. The HCT board, its staff and volunteers support the bid from CMCP.

Rebekah Jeffery of Hampshire Cultural Trust said that this is both a funding request and a request for a good partnership to develop a long-term plan, with a joint management committee, including Alton Town Council. The committee would investigate funding opportunities, community engagement and the potential for a new vision. HCT works in this way in other places, such as in Gosport.

Councillor Botten proposed to approve the payment of £20,000 to the Hampshire Cultural Trust in the financial year 2027/28 for the provision of the Curtis Museum, subject to the Museum remaining open until 31 March 2028 or the payback of some of the grant determined according to the proportion of the year that it remains open. This was seconded by Councillor Quincey.

In debate, councillors appreciated the professional way that the information and application had been made both in this meeting and in a workshop on 1 July.

On the proposal of Councillor Botten, seconded by Councillor Quincey, it was

RESOLVED

To approve the payment of £20,000 to the Hampshire Cultural Trust in the financial year 2027/28 for the provision of the Curtis Museum, subject to the Museum remaining open until 31 March 2028 or the payback of some of the grant determined according to the proportion of the year that it remains open.

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

Abstained: Councillors Boxall, Kellermann

30 **Proms in the Park**

The Chair invited Tony Willman, Chairman of Alton Concert Band to speak. He referred to the Alton Concert Band and the Alton Concert Orchestra, which previously hosted the event in Alton and currently host an event in Bordon. He noted that the Band was pleased to receive the idea from the Town Mayor that a Proms event be held in 2027 and had responded positively. He noted how important it is to liaise with the Orchestra, and it would be good to involve both the Band and the Orchestra in future events. In response to a question about the quality of amplification needed, Tony Willman gave reassurances as far as the Band is concerned.

Councillor Boxall proposed to support in principle a Proms in the Park event in July 2027 with the Alton Concert Band. This was seconded by Councillor Bayliss.

Councillor Tansey proposed an amendment to add the words, “and following a 2027 Proms in the Park, to invite proposals for a 2028 Proms event from the Alton Concert Orchestra and the Alton Concert Band.” This was seconded by Councillor Kellermann. Councillor Tansey updated on a conversation with the Orchestra, which is interested in being involved in future years. Councillor Bayliss thanked the Town Mayor for her role in these conversations. The amendment was **carried**.

All councillors voted in favour.

Thus, on the proposal of Councillor Boxall, seconded by Councillor Bayliss, it was

RESOLVED

- 1. To support in principle a Proms in the Park event in July 2027 with the Alton Concert Band, and**
- 2. Following a 2027 Proms in the Park, to invite proposals for a 2028 Proms event from the Alton Concert Orchestra and the Alton Concert Band.**

All councillors voted in favour.

31 **King's Pond Consultation**

Councillor Bayliss proposed that the Council authorise the Town Clerk to continue preparations for a public consultation on King's Pond, with up to £10,000 to be drawn from the King's Pond earmarked reserve. This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien.

Councillors were keen for the consultation to be the best it can be and that this would require resources.

Councillor Kellermann proposed an amendment to add the words, “and to make publicly available the full costs of both options ('dredging plus' and 'pond and river')

in advance and during any consultation so that the public can make a fully informed decision". This was seconded by Councillor Bayliss. Councillor Kellermann stated the importance of the public being fully informed; hence, the amendment. In the debate, councillors noted that: the Five Rivers report and estimates will require scrutiny; the Task and Finish Group should get into the detail; there was a desire that the estimates be publicly available in good time.

Councillor Kellermann moved under Standing Order 10(a)(xiv) to suspend Standing Order 1(g) for this agenda item to enable a further amendment. This was seconded by Councillor Bayliss.

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

The motion was **not carried**.

The debate returned to the amendment. In debate, it was suggested that the amendment was not necessary and that the cost estimates should be made available with the other information, rather than in advance of the other information. It was noted that there has already been a commitment as part of the plan for Stage One to publish cost estimates as part of the consultation. There was a concern among some that, if only the findings of Five Rivers were published, it would be an incomplete picture. As chair of the Task and Finish Group, Councillor Hammond agreed that the cost information should be included regardless of the amendment.

Councillor Kellermann, as the Proposer, suggested the minor removal of the words "in advance and" from the amendment. This was supported by the Seconder, Councillor Bayliss.

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

The amendment was **not carried**.

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

RESOLVED:

To authorise the Town Clerk to continue preparations for a public consultation on King's Pond, with up to £10,000 to be drawn from the King's Pond earmarked reserve.

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

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

Councillor Quincey proposed that the minutes of the King's Pond Task & Finish Group meeting held on 1 June 2026 be noted. This was seconded by Councillor Eyre, and it was

RESOLVED

To note the minutes of the King's Pond Task and Finish Group of 1 June 2026.

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

33 Landscape Value Statement Request

Councillor Boxall proposed that the Council note the advice of the Local Planning Authority on the suggestion of a landscape value statement for Windmill Hill. This was seconded by Councillor Bayliss. Councillor Kellermann wished to state for the record that he supported landscape value statements for many sites in and around the parish. It was

RESOLVED

To note the advice of the Local Planning Authority on the suggestion of a landscape value statement for Windmill Hill.

All councillors voted in favour.

34 Strategic Transport Plan

Councillor Boxall proposed that the Council endorse the request for an Area Transport Strategy for Alton and Holybourne. Councillor Boxall wished to record thanks for County Councillor Emily Young for pursuing this matter with Hampshire County Council and securing a commitment from officers that it is on their work plan. The motion was seconded by Councillor Hammond, and it was

RESOLVED

To endorse the request for an Area Transport Strategy for Alton and Holybourne.

All councillors voted in favour.

35 **Statement of Accounts Q1 2026/27**

Councillor Tansey proposed that the Council approve the accounts statements. This was seconded by Councillor Eyre. Councillor Botten wished it to be noted that by approving the accounts, councillors are taking collectively responsibility for their accuracy. Councillor Kellermann wished it to be noted that this is why he would abstain as he had not been into the detail of the account beyond the published papers. It was

RESOLVED**To approve:**

- 1. The Balance Sheet to 30 June 2026;**
- 2. The Income and Expenditure Report for the period to 30 June 2026;**
- 3. Bank reconciliations to 30 June 2026;**
- 4. Property fund statement to 31 May 2026; and**
- 5. Payments over £500, issued between 1 April and 30 June 2026.**

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

Abstained: Councillor Kellermann

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.