MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 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
Graham Hill
Nick O'Brien
Lorna Woodcroft

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

1 member of the public and press

36 **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded all in attendance of the Standing Orders relating to speaking and conduct.

37 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Boyce-Churn, Matthew Kellermann, Roger Lamb and John Quincey.

38 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**

No declarations of pecuniary interest were received.

39 **Minutes of Previous Meeting for Approval**

Councillor Tansey proposed that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8 July be approved. This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien.

Councillor Hammond said due to holidays he had been too late to put in a correction to the minutes and did not want to put councillors through the rigmarole of suspending standing orders in order to do so but would like it noted that he had gone to great pains to point out that it was always the intention to publish full estimated costs of the two options for King's Pond. He therefore felt the last sentence of Item 31 should read "As Chair of the Task & Finish Group, Councillor Don Hammond confirmed that the cost information would be included in the consultation as always intended, regardless of the amendment."

The Council then moved to the vote and with the above noted it was

RESOLVED
To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8 July 2026.

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

40 **Written Representations from the Public**

No written representations had been received in advance of the meeting.

41 **Questions and Statements by the Public**

There were no persons present who wished to speak.

42 **Planning Application EHDC-26-0744-OUT – Land Adjacent to Baycroft Cottages, Lower Neatham Mill Lane, Neatham, Alton, Hampshire**

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk be allowed to pull together appropriate responses to the application after listening to councillors' comments. This was seconded by Councillor Hill.

The application was discussed at length with comments including:

- this is an outline application and is adjacent to the village of Holybourne and the parish of Alton
- fire engines were planned to exit on a route that would not be possible due to the subway
- there are concerns that walkers with mobility issues would struggle
- the access road is very narrow, has a sharp bend, has few passing places and has no pavement
- there have already been nasty accidents along that road, especially when it is wet and muddy
- there are concerns about the access and quantity of construction traffic
- there is a weight limit on the road bridge so construction traffic will have to find another way round and will damage the narrow lanes
- given the road's history of flooding, there is a concern about drainage and whether the proposed development will enable improvements
- water supply is a critical issue for local proposed developments

- none of these applications should be allowed until such time as we have sufficient water and sewage capacity

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

RESOLVED
To authorise the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk to respond to East Hampshire District Council on planning application EHDC-26-0744-OUT – Land Adjacent to Baycroft Cottages, Lower Neatham Mill Lane, Neatham, Alton, Hampshire, reflecting the points raised in the debate.

All councillors voted in favour.

43 **Curtis Museum Joint Management Committee**

Councillor Botten proposed that Councillors Barbara Tansey and Ginny Boxall be appointed to the Curtis Museum Joint Management Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Eyre, and it was

RESOLVED
To appoint Councillors Barbara Tansey and Ginny Boxall to the Curtis Museum Joint Management Committee.

All councillors voted in favour.

44 **Governance: Committees and Co-option Policy**

44.1 Councillor Eyre proposed that the quorum of the Planning Committee be changed to five. This was seconded by Councillor Bayliss, and it was

RESOLVED
To reduce the quorum of the Planning Committee to five.

All councillors voted in favour.

44.2 Councillor Eyre proposed that the revised Co-option Policy be adopted. This was seconded by Councillor Bayliss, and it was

RESOLVED
To adopt the revised Co-option Policy.

All councillors voted in favour.

45 **Minutes of the King's Pond Task & Finish Group**

Councillor Hill proposed that the minutes of the King's Pond Task & Finish Group meetings held on 23 June and 13 July 2026 be noted. This was seconded by Councillor Hammond, and it was

RESOLVED
To note the minutes of the King's Pond Task and Finish Group meetings held on 23 June and 13 July 2026.

All councillors voted in favour.

46 **Implications of Local Government Reorganisation on the Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Government withdrew the order to reorganise local government in Hampshire on Monday 7 September and so this item no longer had a purpose. Councillor Tansey therefore proposed that the meeting proceed to the next business on the agenda under Standing Order 10(a)vi. This was seconded by Councillor Eyre, and the motion was **carried** with all councillors voting in favour.

47 **Anstey Park Playground and Skatepark**

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council agree to commence consultation on the future of the Anstey Park playground and skatepark as outlined in the report. Councillor Hill seconded the motion.

Councillor Hammond proposed an amendment he had submitted in advance of the meeting, that the motion be changed to read "To commence consultation on the future of the Anstey Park playground and skatepark, starting with the gathering of data on the usage of the playground, skate park and MUGA and the opinions of users on how these should be retained or developed. Development proposals are to be made available for public comment prior to any works being undertaken." The amendment was seconded by Councillor Hill and with all councillors voting in favour the amendment was **carried**.

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

RESOLVED
To commence consultation on the future of the Anstey Park playground and skatepark, starting with the gathering of data on the usage of the playground, skate park and MUGA and the opinions of users on how these should be retained or developed. Development proposals are to be made available for public comment prior to any works being undertaken.

All councillors voted in favour.

48 Energy Contracts

Councillor Hill proposed that the Council 1) To approve contracting with EDF for a 3-year contract, and 2) To renew the contracts now, rather than wait until each is due for renewal. This was seconded by Councillor Bayliss, and it was

RESOLVED
1. To approve contracting with EDF for a 3-year contract, and
2. To renew the contracts now, rather than wait until each is due for renewal

All councillors voted in favour.

49 Grounds Maintenance Vehicles

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council purchase a Ford Ranger XLT Hybrid, and also an Etesia ET Lander EV UTV if the total cost for the two vehicles less part exchange from any redundant vehicles is within the budget of £50,000. This was seconded by Councillor Botten, and it was

RESOLVED
To purchase a Ford Ranger XLT Hybrid, and also an Etesia ET Lander EV UTV if the total cost for the two vehicles less part exchange from any redundant vehicles is within the budget of £50,000.

All councillors voted in favour.

50 Grant Applications

Councillor Hill proposed the motion that £250 be awarded to Carols around the Tree for their event on 23 December 2026. This was seconded by Councillor Bayliss. Councillor Boxall suggested that as there is no money left in the grants budget for 2026-27 that they apply to one of their District Councillors instead. Councillor Graham Hill said he would give them the money from his District Councillor community grant fund and so the motion was **not carried** with voting as follows:

Against: Councillors Botten, Boxall, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, O'Brien, Tansey, Woodcroft
Abstained: Councillor Bayliss

Councillor Botten proposed the motion that £600 be awarded to Eggars School to support termly student celebrations in order to allow the item to be debated. This was seconded by Councillor Hill. The motion was **not carried** with voting as follows:

Against: Councillors Bayliss, Botten, Boxall, Hammond, Hill, O'Brien, Tansey, Woodcroft
Abstained: Councillor Eyre

51 **Internal Auditors Report for 2026-27 Q1**

Councillor Botten proposed that the Council note the content of the Internal Auditor Report. This was seconded by Councillor Eyre.

Councillors asked that their thanks to all officers involved for the incredible work that leads to such an outstanding report be recorded, and that councillors note the comment about their responsibility to read their papers properly and ask any questions if necessary.

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

RESOLVED
To note the content of the Internal Auditor Report for the first quarter of the 2026-27 financial year.

All councillors voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 8.42pm.