MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2026 AT 6.30PM AT THE TOWN HALL

Present: **Councillor** **Annette Eyre (Chair)**
Chris Botten
Ginny Boxall
Don Hammond
Graham Hill

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

No members of the public and press

15 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Matthew Bayliss, Mark Boyce-Churn, Matthew Kellermann, Roger Lamb, Nick O'Brien, John Quincey, Barbara Tansey and Lorna Woodcroft.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

17 **Chair's Announcements**

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

18 **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

Councillor Hill proposed that the minutes of the meetings on 17 June and 14 October 2026 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Botten, and it was

RESOLVED
to approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 17 June and 14 October 2026.

All councillors voted in favour.

19 **Written Representations from the Public**

Four written representations had been received prior to the meeting. In debate, councillors expressed gratitude to the correspondents for their very useful representations.

Councillor Hill proposed that these were noted. This was seconded by Councillor Hammond, and it was

RESOLVED
to note the written representations received.

All councillors voted in favour.

20 **Questions and Statements by the Public**

No members of the public were present.

21 **Planning Applications: EHDC-26-1076-FUL and EHDC-26-1071-PA3MA, 77-85 High Street, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1LG**

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council authorise the Town Clerk to submit an appropriate response to the planning applications EHDC-26-1076-FUL and EHDC-26-1071-PA3MA, based on the points made by councillors. This was seconded by Councillor Hammond.

No objections were raised.

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

RESOLVED
to authorise the Town Clerk to submit an appropriate response to applications EHDC-26-1076-FUL and EHDC-26-1071-PA3MA, 77-85 High Street, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1LG, based on the points made by councillors.

All councillors voted in favour.

22 **Planning Application EHDC-26-0331-CONVR, Land At Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital Site Chawton Park Road, Alton, Hampshire**

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council authorise the Town Clerk to submit an appropriate response to the planning application EHDC-26-0331-CONVR, based on the points made by councillors. This was seconded by Councillor Hill.

The discussion included:

- Alton Town Council had previously submitted strong objections (14 May 2026), and these concerns have not been sufficiently addressed.

- The site has been discussed for many years and previous assurances as to the site's special nature were given and how it would be safeguarded.
- The site was previous pristine with high biodiversity.
- The site had not been managed well in recent years causing degradation.
- "Reprofiling" is now proposed, but no details have been given as to how and by whom.
- The proposed amendments to the ecological mitigation strategy are not supported. This runs against the National Planning Policy Framework and (in this case) the spirit of the push to improve biodiversity net gain.
- Local residents are very upset about how it has been managed.
- Preventing further ecological damage is paramount.
- Enforcement conditions have been lacking and should be strengthened and utilised by the Local Planning Authority.
- If Alton Town Council were to take it on, as promised, the council should seek reassurances as to its condition and viability.
- Alton Town Council objects strongly.

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

RESOLVED
to authorise the Town Clerk to submit an appropriate response to application EHDC-26-0331-CONVR, Land At Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital Site Chawton Park Road, Alton, Hampshire, based on the points made by councillors.

All councillors voted in favour.

23 **Planning Application: EHDC-26-1046-FUL, Betfred, 46B High Street, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1BD**

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council authorise the Town Clerk to submit an appropriate response to the planning application EHDC-26-1046-FUL, based on the points made by councillors. This was seconded by Councillor Hill.

The discussion included:

- The space is proposed to be used, whereas it is currently vacant.
- Alton Town Council does not object.

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

RESOLVED
to authorise the Town Clerk to submit an appropriate response to application EHDC-26-1046-FUL, Betfred, 46B High Street, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1BD, based on the points made by councillors.

All councillors voted in favour.

24 **Neighbouring Parish Planning Application: EHDC-26-1085-FUL, Solar Farm Developments On Land At Cakers Lane, East Worldham & Selborne Road, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire**

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council authorise the Town Clerk to submit an appropriate response to the planning application EHDC-26-1085-FUL, based on the points made by councillors. This was seconded by Councillor Boxall.

The discussion included:

- The application is within Worldham Parish.
- While solar farms are not opposed in principle, the scale of the proposed development and its impact on views and landscape will be considerable.
- The proximity to the National Park and the impact on the views from Windmill Hill is a concern.
- Residents are concerned about glare on homes and drivers.
- The conversion away from productive farmland at a time of food security concerns is a concern.
- The cumulative effect of so many solar farms and proposed solar farms is a cause for objection.
- The site is in flood zones 2 and 3; Planning officers should consider whether extra risk is created by removing plants that would otherwise absorb water.
- Heritage and the impact of listed buildings is a concern.
- Alton Town Council objects on the grounds cited above.

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

RESOLVED
to authorise the Town Clerk to submit an appropriate response to application EHDC-26-1085-FUL, Solar Farm Developments On Land At Cakers Lane, East Worldham & Selborne Road, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire, based on the points made by councillors.

All councillors voted in favour.

25 **Four Marks and Medstead Neighbourhood Plan Consultation**

Councillor Eyre proposed that the Council authorise the Town Clerk to submit an appropriate response to the Regulation 14 consultation on the draft Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan, based on the points made by councillors. This was seconded by Councillor Hill.

The discussion included:

- Recognition of the high quality of the documentation in support of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and of how allocations and flood risk were tackled.

- Support for the policy that new development should contribute to a "substantial reduction in potable water consumption", as this is a key challenge for north-east Hampshire
- The impact on the facilities of Alton, as the nearest large town, in terms of leisure, sports, health, education and highways services, and that the parish councils would hold a larger proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy, which is intended to mitigate such pressures.
- Alton Town Council wished to thank the parishes for their work and the invitation to consult, and supported the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

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

RESOLVED
to authorise the Town Clerk to submit an appropriate response to the Regulation 14 consultation on the draft Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan, based on the points made by councillors.

All councillors voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 7.12pm.