



**Andover
Town
Council**

**Council
Minutes**

Time and date

6.30pm on Wednesday **10 December 2025**

Place

Upper Guildhall, Andover

Councillors Present:		Arrival time noted if after meeting start					
Cllr H Neate (Town Mayor)	✓		Cllr T Burley (Deputy Town Mayor)	✓			
Cllr K Bird	✓		Cllr J Cockaday	x		Cllr M Farren	✓
Cllr J Goodwin	✓		Cllr L Gregori	✓		Cllr S Hardstaff	✓
Cllr A Horsnell	✓		Cllr J Hughes	✓	6.32pm	Cllr K Hughes	x
Cllr R Hughes	✓	6.32pm	Cllr R Kidd	✓		Cllr R Meyer	x
Cllr E Reynolds	✓		Cllr G Walters	✓			

Officers Present:	Tor Warburton (Town Clerk/RFO) Micha West (Deputy Town Clerk/Deputy RFO) Started at 6:30pm
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Members of the Public:	1
County/Borough Councillors:	Councillor Z Brooks
Members of the Press:	0

PUBLIC SESSION

C289/12/25 Q: A Member of the Public asked why funding for the Community Speed Watch had not received sufficient support at the previous council meeting. It was also asked whether the council could provide an explanation for this and outline what alternative measures were being considered to improve road safety.

A: The Mayor reiterated the reasons why councillors had not supported submitting an application for the funding. In response to the Member of the Public's second question, the Mayor requested that Officers write to them setting out the planned actions, how these aligned with the business case and the time frames for delivery.

The member of the Public was satisfied with this response.

APOLOGIES

These minutes are published in draft pending approval at the next Full Council meeting.

C290/12/25 Apologies were received from Councillors J Cockaday and K Hughes.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

C291/12/25 On 21 November, I attended the Christmas Festival, a fabulous event put on by Test Valley Borough Council in partnership with Andover BID and us, Andover Town Council (ATC). My thanks go to Officers and Councillors Horsnell, Reynolds, Farren, Gregori, Cockaday, Burley, and Hardstaff, both in the run up to the festival and on the night for much hard work in bringing the event together so successfully. I have received many supportive comments on the revised layout in front of the Guildhall.

On Friday 5 December, I handed over a big grant cheque for £3,000 to Yellow Brick Road Projects in support of their inspiring initiative, Youth Uplift. I look forward to hearing more from them and their partner organisations, Andover Leisure Centre and Alabare in improving the lives of local young people.

Next on the list of seasonal activities, we are holding our Carols around the Christmas Tree event this Friday 12 December from 4pm on the High Street, with singing, crafting, mulled wine and treats. Hope to see you there.

As this is our last Full Council meeting of 2025, our thanks to the Officers for their support during the year. We have a lively agenda tonight, which is really good to see, we have all had a chance to read the papers, so I hope to end the year at a timely pace and in good order.

EXTERNAL REPORTS

C292/12/25 Councillor R Hughes:

Raised two major issues: potholes and parking. In my area, one of the consequences of the parking problems is that the refuse collection service is unable to reach the end of the road to collect the bins. On the King Arthur's Way estate, there have been twelve occasions since July where the refuse services have had to return more than once to collect bins. This is a direct result of cars being parked illegally, which has led to complaints from residents whose bins had not been collected.

There is also a lack of enforcement regarding cars parked on public roads that are untaxed and uninsured. Despite these vehicles being reported multiple times, they remain in place, much like the potholes, they simply do not disappear.

This is the biggest part of my case work at the moment.

C293/12/25 Councillor L Gregori:

I met with the two wellbeing workers who would now be based at King Arthur's Hall. This is an initiative with Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) to support the more vulnerable members of our community.

I have attended a number of panels which included:

- Climate Investigations
- OSCOM – Digital Inclusion – an area where we could learn some useful lessons
- Affordable Housing – two separate panels
- Revenue Grants System – (TVBC) we are looking at the best aspects of it
- Planning –wide range

One of my concerns was that TVBC were not picking up planning matters quickly enough or feeding information promptly into the paperwork. A clear example is ATC's comments on

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the planning application by the Leader of TVBC, regarding proposed work on their property. We submitted an objection, but this had not been reflected by TVBC.

I also sat on the Budget Panel and LGR is ongoing.

Lastly, regarding drains, I am becoming increasingly concerned that I am receiving requests regarding the clearance of drains, not only in Andover but also outside my ward.

INTERESTS

C294/12/25 Non-pecuniary declarations were received from:

1. Councillor E Reynolds, as a member of the Drove Association and as an allotment plot holder.
2. Councillor T Burley declared an interest in Item 11, due to knowing one of the Rangers.

MINUTES

C295/12/25 It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor R Kidd and **RESOLVED: FOR - 12, AGAINST - 0, ABSTENTIONS - 1**, that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting, held on [19 November 2025](#), be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C296/12/25 The following Committee Minutes were received and noted:

- Planning Committee: [3 November 2025](#)
- Allotment Committee: [29 October 2025](#)

CONTRACTUAL & DELEGATED PAYMENTS

C297/12/25 Members received and noted the contractual and delegated payments that had been made in the period of from: [1 November 2025 – 28 November 2025](#)

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL

C298/12/25 It was noted that there were no payments above the RFO's delegated authority.

CREDIT CARD

C299/12/25 It was noted that there had been no spending on the Credit Card.

FINANCE

C300/12/25 It was proposed by Councillor S Hardstaff and seconded by Councillor K Bird and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the following reports, be approved:

- [Bank Statements & Bank Reconciliation](#)
- [Cashbook](#)
- [Earmarked Reserves](#)
- [Financial Comparison to date](#)

MOTION 1 - RANGERS

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A [Motion](#) was proposed by Councillor M Farren and seconded by Councillor A Horsnell, to provide funding to enable re-instatement of full 7 day a week Town Centre Ranger patrols for the whole of 2026, to enhance safety and reduce Anti-Social Behaviour.

C301/12/25

Members went into discussion and raised their concerns regarding the motion.

Councillors felt that they did not have all the necessary information to make a decision on the motion. They agreed that the matter should return as a grant application, so that the financial and legal aspects, as well as associated risks and potential liabilities, could be fully addressed. Additionally, the process for employing the rangers would be clarified.

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor M Farren.

A vote was taken by a show of hands as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
Cllr M Farren	Cllr H Neate	Cllr T Buley
Cllr A Horsnell	Cllr J Hughes	Cllr J Goodwin
	Cllr E Reynolds	
	Cllr L Gregori	
	Cllr R Hughes	
	Cllr G Walters	
	Cllr R Kidd	
	Cllr K Bird	
	Cllr S Hardstaff	
2	9	2

MOTION FAILED due to a requirement of more information.

MOTION 2 - LGR/DEVOLUTION

C302/12/25

A [motion](#) was proposed by Councillor H Neate and seconded by Councillor T Burley, to Andover Town Council's response to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) public consultation on proposals on local government reorganisation in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Members went into discussion.

C303/12/25

Councillor S Hardstaff proposed and Councillor K Bird seconded an amendment to the motion, that option 2 to be voted on.

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Councillor S. Hardstaff gave a brief overview of why he believed Option 2 would deliver the strongest outcome for the people of Andover. He explained that Option 2, a Mid Hampshire Unitary comprising Test Valley, Winchester and East Hampshire, would be a significantly better fit than Option 1.

Councillor Hardstaff outlined the following key reasons in support of Option 2:

- forms a genuinely coherent mid Hampshire of Andover's economic transport and Hampshire links that run north and south (A34 , M3 corridors) which are not toward the New Forest.
- keeps us alive with the places that we naturally work with, travel to and share services to and an infrastructure challenge with as with Winchester and East Hampshire.
- Gives Andover a stronger voice.
- The unitary is much smaller and more focused. Andover becomes one of the major population centers that gives us more influence over the decisions on regeneration infrastructure, housing and public service.
- Provides us a better strategic match parishes that matters most to us locally the challenges we face from transport connectivity to the town center. All closely share with Winchester and east Hampshire.
- Cleaner simpler more consistent with the government criteria around forming functional locally recognised areas it represents our communities identity it supports effective service delivery and avoids unnecessary complexity.

Councillor Hardstaff concluded that Option 2 would keep Andover at the heart of a Mid Hampshire authority, reflect who we were as a community and best met our needs. It would provide Andover with the strongest possible local voice.

Colleagues were therefore urged to support Option 2.

C305/12/25 Councillor K Bird also spoke to the amendment proposal.

The LGR Working Group had met and the general agreement was that option 2 would be a better option due to geography, service delivery practically and future population growth. What we need is what is best for Andover and not necessarily TVBC.

Members then went into discussion.

Members voted on the proposed amendment, that Andover Town Council:

C306/12/25

1. Supports option 2 in the public consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – Citizen Space, which proposes a new Mid Hampshire unitary authority, encompassing the existing footprints of Test Valley Borough Council, Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council; and
2. Instructs Officers to:
 - a. Complete a response supporting option 2 for all councillors to review by 15 December 2025.
 - b. To submit the reviewed response on behalf of the Town Council, by midday on Thursday 9 January 2026, prior to the closing deadline of 23:59hrs on Sunday 11 January 2026.

Councillor A Horsnell requested a recorded vote.

A vote was taken by show of hands as followed:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
Cllr S Hardstaff	Cllr J Goodwin	Cllr H Neate
Cllr K Bird	Cllr A Horsnell	
Cllr R Kidd		
Cllr M Farren		
Cllr G Walters		
Cllr R Hughes		
Cllr L Gregori		
Cllr J Hughes		
Cllr E Reynolds		
Cllr T Buley		
10	2	1

C307/12/25 Members then voted on the substantive motion by a show of hands, as followed:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
Cllr S Hardstaff	Cllr J Goodwin	Cllr H Neate
Cllr K Bird	Cllr A Horsnell	
Cllr R Kidd		
Cllr M Farren		
Cllr G Walters		
Cllr R Hughes		
Cllr L Gregori		
Cllr J Hughes		
Cllr E Reynolds		
Cllr T Buley		
10	2	1

RESOLVED: that option 2 be supported in the public consultation.

LADBROKES SCAFFOLDING

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C308/12/25 It was noted that letters had been sent to the building's agents and owners, Entain. Hampshire County Council (HCC) and TBVC had also been copied in.

ANDOVER ROAD SCHEME

C309/12/25 Members received a report from Councillor E Reynolds and noted the recommendation of the Planning Committee regarding the proposed reduction of the speed limit on Walworth Road from 40mph to 30mph along its entire length.
Councillor E Reynolds spoke to the report and members discussed the matter.
It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor L Gregori and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that Officers be instructed to approach HCC to progress the request.

ALLTOMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

C310/12/25 It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by L Gregori and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the updated allotment rules and regulations as recommended by the Allotment Committee, be approved.

BUSINESS VIEWS ON TVBC BUDGET

Members reviewed the [report from Test Valley Borough Council](#).

Officers were instructed to respond with the following feedback;

C311/12/25

- Satisfied by the process but not happy that they still had the anomaly of special levy going forward.
- Test Valley Borough Council pay for the Rangers.
- Andover Town Council to be a mandatory consultee on areas that involved Andover.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT POLCIY

C312/12/25 Members received and reviewed the [Training and Development policy](#).

C313/12/25 It was proposed by Councillor H Neate and seconded by Councillor K Bird, that the Training and Development Policy be approved.

Members went into discussion.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor H Neate and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and

C314/12/25 **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that point 3 was altered to read "All elected and co-opted members will be encouraged to complete induction and appropriate training, to ensure legal compliance and effective governance."

Members then voted on the substantive motion.

C315/12/25 It was proposed by Councillor H Neate and seconded by Councillor K Bird and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the Training and Development policy with the amendment, be approved.

REVENUE FUNDING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

C316/12/25 Members noted the [Public Sector Equality Duty Assessment](#), at Annex A.

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Councillor H Neate spoke to the revised [Draft Revenue Funding Policy and Procedure](#), set out at Annex B. It was proposed by Councillor H Neate and seconded by Councillor K Bird and **RESOLVED: FOR - 12, AGAINST - 1, ABSTENTIONS - 0**, that the following be approved with immediate effect:

- The draft Revenue Funding Policy and Procedure.
- Officers to be instructed to promote the Revenue Funding Policy and Procedure to targeted local voluntary sector groups.
- The draft supporting application and monitoring paperwork to deliver the procedure.

(Councillor G Walters left at 8.03pm and returned at 8.04pm)

(Councillor J Hughes left at 8.05pm and returned at 8.06pm)

C318/12/25 It was proposed by Councillor K Bird and seconded by Councillor H Neate and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the meeting be extended.

LGR/DEVOLUTION WORKING GROUP

C319/12/25 Members received an update from Councillor S Hardstaff on the LGR/Devolution Working Group and reviewed the [paper on LGR](#).

C320/12/25 Officers and the LGR working group were instructed to continue to have discussions with HCC and inquire further information on the various services and assets.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

C321/12/25 Councillor M Farren:

Following instruction from Councillor Z Brooks, I will be undertaking a fence-finding exercise. I have also been promoting the forthcoming carol service and been receiving an increasing number of comments from residents, regarding potholes.

C322/12/25 Councillor E Reynolds:

I attended the TVAPTC meeting at King Sombourne Village Hall on Thursday 20 November 2025. When the meeting began, the general consensus was that the TVBC Association and the Planning Borough Councils would be disbanded, pending discussions with all parish councillors. However, after further consideration, it was felt that proceeding in this way would leave parishes isolated and "out on a limb". As a result, many councillors expressed discomfort with this potential outcome.

C323/12/25 Councillor T Burley:

I attended the same meeting on 20 November 2025.

C324/12/25 Councillor J Goodwin:

I had a pothole fixed and I also met Donna Jones whilst she was out fundraising.

FUTURE ITEMS

C325/12/25 There were no items requested to be added to the next agenda.

NEXT MEETING

C326/12/25 Members noted that the date of the next Full Council meeting would be **Wednesday 14 January 2026**, at the **Upper Guildhall, Andover, at 6.30pm**.

MEETING CLOSURE

C327/12/25 The Town Mayor closed the meeting at **8:35pm**.

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