



Time and date

6.30pm on Wednesday **8 July 2026**

Place

Upper Guildhall, Andover

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

Officers Present:	Tor Warburton (Town Clerk/RFO) Leah Walsh (Committee Officer) Started at 6.30pm
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Members of the Public:	5
County/Borough Councillors:	Borough Deputy Mayor Cllr I Anderson. Councillor Z Brookes gave her apologies.
Members of the Press:	1

SPEAKER – SHARATH RANJAN POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER OF TEST VALLEY	
C 122/07/26	<i>(Councillor K Hughes arrived at 6.32pm)</i> The Mayor introduced the Test Valley District Commander, Sharath Ranjan, who in turn introduced Inspector Tyrone Tapper. Commander Ranjan delivered an informative presentation which outlined the local policing structure and provided an overview of the current crime picture across Andover and the wider Test Valley district. The presentation covered a range of policing issues, including anti-social behaviour (ASB), the misuse of e-scooters and drug-related crime. Crime trends were discussed, which highlighted increases in certain offence categories, alongside notable reductions in shoplifting and public order offences within Andover town centre.

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	Commander Ranjan explained that he chairs a monthly multi-agency meeting involving partners from across Test Valley and Andover. These meetings review intelligence, crime data, community concerns, and information received from the public to identify opportunities for coordinated action and targeted interventions. Two initiatives aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour in the town centre were highlighted: **Operation Safer Streets Summer** and **Operation Scrooge**. Both projects focus on partnership working to improve public safety and reduce ASB. The presentation also addressed the issue of cannabis factories being established in vacant buildings. Commander Ranjan outlined the collaborative approach that was being taken by the police and partner agencies to identify these properties, disrupt criminal activity, and prevent further occurrences. The presentation was well received and provided members with a valuable insight into local policing priorities, current crime trends, and the partnership work that was being undertaken to keep communities safe. Councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions following the presentation, which provided further discussion and clarification on a number of local policing matters. Further information, together with links to the resources provided during the presentation, would be added to the Town Council website in the coming days.
PUBLIC SESSION	
C 123/07/26	There were no comments from the members of the public present at the meeting.
APOLOGIES	
C 124/07/26	Apologies were received from Councillors K Bird and M Farren.
MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
C 125/07/26	The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Joe Hughes, and I visited Chapel Art Studio on Saturday 13 June, where we had the pleasure of viewing the wonderful artwork created by the children at Vigo School. The work displayed was both highly creative and impressive. On Saturday 20 June, I had the great pleasure of officially opening Pride 26. I must admit I felt a little nervous standing on the stage, but it was a truly wonderful event. I had the opportunity to speak with many attendees, all of whom were delighted to be part of such a positive and inclusive occasion. On Monday 22 June, I attended the Armed Forces Day flag-raising ceremony held outside the Guildhall.

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On Wednesday 1 July, accompanied by the Mayor's Consort, Mrs Burley, I attended the Borough Mayor Linda Lashbrook's Civic Service, held at Mount Abbey. It was a pleasure to meet and speak with many other mayors from across the county.

On Saturday 4 July, I attended a Burghclere Down summer fete as a board member representing Millway.

On Tuesday 7 July, once again accompanied by the Mayor's Consort, Mrs Burley, I attended a centenary event at Andover War Memorial Hospital, celebrating 100 years since its establishment.

On Wednesday 8 July, accompanied again by the Mayor's Consort, Mrs Burley, I attended Tea, Talk and Tag at Riverside Bowl. This was a wonderful opportunity not only to enjoy a cup of tea but also to meet and chat with some of our older residents. I also had the opportunity to play laser tag, which was great fun.

EXTERNAL REPORTS

Cllr I Anderson – Deputy Mayor of Test Valley:

Everyone will be pleased to know that Vigo Road is going to be resurfaced after a long drawn out effort. This will take place on 20 July, just after the Carnival, which is very welcome news.

I know we've just had representatives from the police here discussing community safety. I have also written to Test Valley Borough Council because I believe there are planning and enforcement powers available that could be used to put greater pressure on those responsible for properties being used for criminal activity. My main concern is for the vulnerable people who are being exploited to work in cannabis farms and other criminal operations. We have to ask ourselves how much of this activity is being directed from London and brought into our area. It is a worrying trend and one that should concern us all.

With regard to the cycling issues in the town, ward members are meeting to discuss the situation and consider what measures can be put in place. We are also looking at improvements within the Chantry Centre and I understand that further discussions are taking place.

Finally, you mentioned the hospital's centenary celebrations. I was pleased to attend. Having worked at Andover Hospital for 27 years, it was a particularly meaningful occasion and I thought it was an excellent event.

Councillor L Gregori:

First of all, I would like to say that I thought the PRIDE event was excellent. Congratulations to the organisers and staff. It was very well attended and a great success.

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	As for Test Valley, we're still working our way through the Local Plan. Hopefully, we'll make some progress soon, although it's difficult to know exactly where it will end up. Interestingly, this afternoon I attended the Police and Crime Panel, which scrutinises the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner. I was sitting next to a colleague from New Forest, and they are experiencing exactly the same difficulties with their Local Plan as we are. I also agree with Councillor Anderson. There seems to be a lack of understanding, or perhaps intelligence gathering, when it comes to county lines activity. We know that people often travel into the area by train carrying drugs. We've now had a second major cannabis factory discovered and both of these operations were uncovered largely by chance rather than through proactive policing. That raises an important question, as Councillor Walters pointed out: where are the police? While one of these operations was eventually dealt with by the police, another was only discovered because it was reported by members of the public.
	Given the amount of money being invested in policing, I think residents are entitled to expect a more proactive approach to identifying and disrupting this kind of organised criminal activity.
INTERESTS	
C 127/07/26	Non-pecuniary declarations were received from: 1. Councillor E Reynolds, as a member of the Drove Association and as an allotment plot holder.
MINUTES	
C 128/07/26	It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor A Horsnell and RESOLVED: Unanimously , that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10 June 2026, and the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 17 June 2026 be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
C 129/07/26	The following Committee Minutes were received and noted: • Planning Committee – 1 June 2026 • Community & Events Committee – 7 May 2026 • Allotments Committee – 4 February 2026 • Policy & Resources Committee – 29 April 2026
CONTRACTUAL & DELEGATED PAYMENTS	
C 130/07/26	Members received and noted the contractual and delegated payments that had been made in the period of: From: 1 June 2026 To: 30 June 2026
PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL	
C 131/07/26	Councillor R Hughes asked whether due diligence had been carried out on the two Elveden Farms invoices, as they had been submitted separately. The Town Clerk explained that the invoices had been split by the supplier when they were received by the Town Council. Ordinarily, purchases would not be split in this way, as this would not be considered best practice. Instead, they would be treated as a single

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	procurement. Taken together, the total value exceeded £5,000, which is above the Town Clerk's delegated authority. The Town Clerk confirmed that appropriate due diligence had been undertaken. Alternative suppliers were approached and it was established that there were four companies capable of supplying large Christmas trees. Of those, two were unable to supply the required size of tree and one did not respond to the request for a quotation. The remaining supplier submitted a quotation that was considerably more expensive than the Council's current supplier. Given the current supplier's proven track record, reliability and value for money, the Town Clerk recommended that the Council continue to use the existing supplier. Members were content with the recommendation and noted that the Council had complied with its Financial Standing Orders in relation to the procurement process for purchases of this nature.
C 132/07/26	It was proposed by Councillor A Horsnell and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and RESOLVED: Unanimously, that the following payments that exceeded the Town Clerk's delegated authority be approved. • Parish Online £1,500.00 + VAT • Elveden Farms £3,090.00 + VAT (tree + installation) • Elveden Farms Ltd £1,690.00 + VAT (tree removal)
CREDIT CARD	
C 133/07/26	Members noted the credit card payments up to 30 June 2026 .
FINANCE	
C 134/07/26	It was proposed by Councillor S Hardstaff and seconded by Councillor J Goodwin and RESOLVED: Unanimously, that the following reports be approved: A. Bank Statements & Bank Reconciliation B. Cashbook C. Earmarked Reserves D. Financial Comparison to date
DOWNLANDS WARD BY-ELECTION	
C 135/07/26	Members noted that the Town Council had been notified that two candidates had been nominated, resulting in a contested election. Polling day would take place on 30 July 2026. Further information, including details of the candidates and the election, was available on the Test Valley Borough Council website.
COUNCILLOR MOTIONS - MOTION ON PRESERVING OUR CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ASSETS: THE ANDOVER MUSEUM	
C 136/07/26	It was proposed by Councillor L Gregori and seconded by Councillor T Burley. Background The importance of cultural and heritage assets to a community cannot be overestimated. These assets come in many shapes and forms from buildings to key community elements ranging from choirs to history groups.

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	In the past the Andover Museum (including the Museum of the Iron Age) has played an important part in the cultural and heritage scene of Andover. To a large extent it still does, with exhibitions and talks, as well as hosting many schools visits. In the past years, Hampshire County Council, which funds the Andover Museum through the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT), has made significant budget cuts to the HCT. Furthermore, Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), unlike some other councils, does not make any direct financial contributions to their local museum. These cuts and lack of support by TVBC have led to serious consideration by HCT of options which involve closure of the Andover Museum. Councillors will wish to note that under unitary authorities many towns will often subsidize and also run the local museums as key cultural and tourist attractions. <u>Motion</u> Council: -Believes that the Andover Museum is a key cultural and heritage asset for Andover. -Directs the Town Clerk to investigate appropriate mechanisms to fund the Andover Museum and to report back to council.
C 137/07/26	<u>Museum Motion – Questions and Debate:</u> A question was raised about the museum building, specifically who owned it, whether it was fully utilised and whether it could be relocated to a more suitable site. In response, it was explained that the building was owned by Hampshire County Council and was leased to Hampshire Cultural Trust on a long-term peppercorn lease. The building was not fully utilised and whilst there was potential to make better use of the available space, this would require investment. The museum had been under significant financial pressure and concerns were noted about its future due to a lack of resources. The possibility of relocating the museum had been considered previously, including during discussions around the town centre masterplan. However, it was acknowledged that relocation was not currently financially viable. Members agreed that, although there might be more suitable locations, the priority was to preserve the museum rather than risk losing it altogether. Whilst introducing the motion, it was emphasised that the museum was an important cultural asset. In addition to telling the story of Andover, it housed the Museum of the Iron Age, which contained nationally significant archaeological collections and attracted visitors from across the country. It was explained that the motion did not commit the Council to any specific course of action but sought to explore future options for safeguarding and improving the museum, particularly in light of Local Government Reorganisation. Members spoke in support of the motion, highlighting the importance of preserving the museum for future generations and improving public access and engagement. It was suggested that the Town Council should take a leading role in protecting the museum and work closely with the curator, staff and volunteers to consider its long-term future, including whether a different location or improvements to the existing facilities would be beneficial.

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	The debate concluded with broad support for the motion, which recognised it as an important first step towards securing the museum's future.
C 138/07/26	It was RESOLVED: Unanimously , to approve the delegation of authority to the Town Clerk to investigate appropriate mechanisms for funding Andover Museum and to report back to Full Council.
SPEAKER SYSTEM	
C 139/07/26	Speaker system report Members received and considered a report on the recommendations for a speaker system and went into discussion. Clarification was sought on the differences between the two proposed systems. The Town Clerk explained that: Option A was a conference system offering enhanced functionality, which included integrated microphones, digital voting, meeting recording and accessibility features such as a hearing loop/infrared system. Option B was a hearing assistance system designed primarily to improve accessibility by transmitting meeting audio directly to hearing devices or headsets. It did not include conference management features. A question was raised regarding the procurement process, with concern expressed that members were being asked to compare two different types of systems without three quotations for each option. The Town Clerk advised that three quotations had already been obtained for the conference system, with the preferred supplier identified, however, the hearing assistance option was currently based on an indicative quotation only. Should members wish to pursue Option B, three quotations would be obtained and reported back to Full Council. Members also suggested that a clear statement of requirements should be prepared before seeking quotations to ensure suppliers were pricing against the Council's actual needs rather than specific products. Questions were also raised about the timescale for progressing the project, as it was noted that discussions had been ongoing for several years and concern was expressed that the current Council should reach a decision before the end of its term.
C 140/07/26	During debate, members acknowledged that the Council had delayed a decision on improving the chamber's audio and accessibility for some time. Some members felt that further procurement work was required before any decision could be made, arguing that both options should be supported by comparable quotations and assessed against an agreed specification. Other members considered that sufficient work had already been undertaken and urged the Council to progress the project without further delay, emphasising the need to meet accessibility requirements and improve the quality of meetings for members of the public and councillors with hearing impairments. It was also noted that the existing handheld microphone did not provide a suitable long-term solution, as it did not meet the Council's accessibility requirements or adequately support

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	debate. Members recognised that while the more comprehensive conference system offered additional functionality, its cost was difficult to justify at the present time. Several members expressed support for pursuing the more affordable hearing assistance system, subject to a compliant procurement process.
C 141/07/26	It was proposed by Councillor T Burley and seconded by Councillor R Hughes that Route A be approved in principle, authorising the Town Clerk to obtain three quotations for the Roger Phonak hearing assistance system (Option B), based on the Council's agreed requirements, with a report and quotations to be brought back to the next Full Council meeting for consideration before any purchase is made. It was RESOLVED: FOR: 9, AGAINST: 4, ABSTENTIONS: 0 MOTION CARRIED.
PRIDE	
C 142/07/26	PRIDE 2026 report Members received and noted a round up report from PRIDE 2026.
POLICES	
C 143/07/26	It was proposed by Councillor T Burley and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and RESOLVED: Unanimously, that the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee to adopt the following policies A to F and H to I, be approved: a. DBS policy (new) - report b. Data Breach and Disposal Incident procedure (new) c. Business Continuity Policy (new) d. Grievance Policy (rewritten) – update sheet e. Disciplinary Policy (rewritten) – update sheet f. Health and Safety Policy (rewritten) - update sheet h. Record Retention Policy (new) i. Risk Management Policy (new)
C 144/07/26	An amendment to agenda item g -. Information Policy (rewritten) – update sheet was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor L Gregori that the Information Policy be amended with the addition of the following section: 5. Publication Scheme 5.1 The Council adopts the ICO Model Publication Scheme. 5.2 Information will be routinely published in the following class: • Agendas, minutes and background papers for Council and Committee meetings, published in accordance with the ICO Model Publication Scheme, except where lawful exemptions apply. 5.3 Information will be made available via: • Agendas, minutes and background papers will be routinely published on the Council's website as part of the Council's commitment to transparency, unless an exemption under the FOIA, EIR or UK GDPR prevents disclosure. It was RESOLVED: Unanimously.

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C 145/07/26	Members returned to the substantive motion and approved Policies A to I, incorporating the approved amendment, en bloc. It was RESOLVED: Unanimously.
TO MOVE THE DATE 14 OCTOBER FULL COUNCIL	
C 146/07/26	It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and RESOLVED: FOR: 11, AGAINST: 2, ABSTENTIONS: 0 , that the Full Council meeting scheduled for the 14 October be moved to 8 October 2026, be approved.
COMMUNITY AND EVENTS RECOMMENDATION	
C 147/07/26	It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and RESOLVED: FOR: 12, AGAINST: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 1 , that the Community and Event Committee's recommendation, that £500 be taken from Operational Reserves to sponsor the 'Best Music Event of the Year' category at the Andover Music Awards, be approved.
POLICE YOUTH SURVEY	
C 148/07/26	Members noted that the QR code was circulated to Councillors by Councillor K Bird and the code was also put on the Council Website.
POTHOLE REPORT TO HCC	
C 149/07/26	Members noted that work was underway on the report to Hampshire County Council regarding potholes, as requested by Councillor G Walters at the previous Full Council meeting. A full report would be brought to the next meeting.
COUNCILLOR REPORTS	
C 150/07/26	<u>Cllr R Hughes:</u> I attended a one-day course on trauma-informed practice, which focused on trauma and the impact it can have on people's lives. The course provided a great deal of information about how experiencing different types of trauma can affect individuals in the long term. It explained that people who experience multiple forms of trauma are statistically more likely to become involved in the criminal justice system. When I first heard about this, I was sceptical, as I felt it could be seen as excusing the behaviour of young people who know right from wrong. I acknowledged that this view was influenced by my own upbringing, having grown up in the late 1950s and 1960s in a very different social environment. I found the course extremely worthwhile and would recommend it to any councillor if the opportunity arises. I believe others would be surprised by how much they could learn from attending.
C 151/07/26	<u>Cllr E Reynolds:</u> I attended PRIDE. Councillor T Burley added that Councillor E Reynolds didn't just attend but worked really hard.
C 152/07/26	<u>Cllr A Horsnell:</u> Along with Councillor J Cockaday and Councillor T Burley, I attended the Public Inquiry at the Test Valley Borough Council Offices from 30 June to 2 July 2026.

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	I have sent the Town Clerk the closing submissions from both parties, which can be circulated so that councillors can see what transpired over the three days. It was a lengthy and detailed process, involving extensive reports and evidence. I would also like to acknowledge the two members of Chantry Lodge who were instrumental in supporting and progressing the Public Inquiry. They, along with everyone at Chantry Lodge, deserve to be commended, as I know this has also placed a financial burden on them.
C 153/07/26	<u>Cllr L Gregori:</u> Although I did not attend the Public Inquiry, I would like to compliment those who represented the Town Council. It was one of the most detailed public inquiries I have known and I would like to thank everyone involved for the time and effort they gave in representing the Council. I would also like to remind councillors that Andover United Trees is holding a strategy session on Saturday 11 July 2026. Those who have received an invitation, either by being the Mayor, or a life time member, are encouraged to attend. I believe Andover United is one of the most important charities operating in Andover and I encourage everyone who is able to support the event by attending.
C 154/07/26	<u>Town Clerk:</u> I would also like to thank all the councillors who submitted their questions in writing before the meeting. This allowed officers to prepare full responses in advance, rather than answering questions during the meeting without prior preparation.
FUTURE ITEMS	
C 155/07/26	(Councillor R Meyer left the room at 8.08pm) Councillor G Walters: • under Future Items, the wording be amended from "at the next meeting" to "at a future meeting" • Council to consider a report on the provision of mature trees in built-up areas and locations with large amounts of paving and concrete. (Councillor R Meyer returned at 8.11pm) (Councillor R Meyer left the meeting at 8.12pm) Councillor L Gregori: • Council to consider a report relating to mature trees should have a broader focus on green infrastructure, including rain gardens and other sustainable measures that help absorb surface water, as planting mature trees alone can be challenging. • an update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), particularly regarding engagement with Test Valley Borough Council.
NEXT MEETING	
C 156/07/26	Members noted that the date of the next Full Council meeting would be Wednesday 9 September 2026 at The Guildhall, Andover, at 6.30pm.
MEETING CLOSURE	
C 157/07/26	The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8:15pm.

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