



**Time and date**

6.30pm on Wednesday **18 March 2026**

**Place**

Upper Guildhall, Andover

<b>Councillors Present:</b>		Arrival time noted if after meeting start						
Cllr H Neate (Town Mayor)	P		Cllr T Burley (Deputy Town Mayor)	P		Cllr M Farren	P	
Cllr K Bird	A		Cllr J Cockaday	P		Cllr S Hardstaff	P	
Cllr J Goodwin	P		Cllr L Gregori	A		Cllr K Hughes	P	6.36pm
Cllr A Horsnell	A		Cllr J Hughes	P		Cllr R Meyer	P	6.31pm
Cllr R Hughes	P		Cllr R Kidd	X				
Cllr E Reynolds	P		Cllr G Walters	P				

<b>Officers Present:</b>	Tor Warburton (Town Clerk/RFO) Micha West (Deputy Town Clerk/Deputy RFO) Started at 6.30pm
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<b>Members of the Public:</b>	1
<b>County/Borough Councillors:</b>	Councillor D Drew and Councillor Z Brooks
<b>Members of the Press:</b>	0

<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>	
<b>C411/03/26</b>	<i>Cllr R Meyer arrived 6.31pm</i> There were no comments from the Members of the Public.
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
<b>C412/03/26</b>	Apologies were received from Councillors K Bird, A Horsnell and L Gregori.
<b>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	

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<p><b>C413/03/26</b></p>	<p><i>Cllr K Hughes arrived 6.36pm</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 4<sup>th</sup> march, I undertook Year End training for Councillors, provided by Hampshire Association of Local Councils, which was very helpful.</li> <li>• On 7<sup>th</sup> march, I opened a new business to Andover, High Score Arcades, along with Councillors Burley, Cockaday and Bird. This is one of several new businesses opening in the Andover Town area, which is very welcome to see.</li> <li>• On 9<sup>th</sup> March, I attended, along with Councillors Bird, Burley, Cockaday, Farren and Meyer, the Commonwealth Affirmation prior to the Commonwealth flag being raised at 10am on the Guildhall. This was part of the 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' initiative, which saw 500 Commonwealth Flags raised simultaneously throughout the United Kingdom at 10am. It was good to see Andover Town Councillors take part in this once again.</li> </ul> <p>We have some interesting items on the agenda tonight and item 13 has been withdrawn. We had all had the chance to read the papers and I draw your attention to our Standing Orders, especially on points of order and debating and please make sure only one person is speaking at a time. Just a reminder to those Cllrs who would like any reasonable adjustments to help with any disability, please contact the Town Clerk or myself in confidence. Let's continue to work at a timely pace and with civility and respect towards each other.</p> <p>We move on now to item no 4, external reports.</p>
<p><b>EXTERNAL REPORTS</b></p>	
<p><b>C414/03/26</b></p>	<p>Councillor D Drew spoke to his report:</p> <p>Hampshire Youth Parliament launches new term and sets priorities for 2026-2027.  <a href="https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260224YouthParliament">https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260224YouthParliament</a></p> <p>Hampshire County Council approves council tax increase to protect vital services and plan responsibly for the future.  <a href="https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260226Budgetdecision20262027">https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260226Budgetdecision20262027</a></p> <p>Helping Nature – Hampshire County Council set to examine Hampshire's Biodiversity Duty Report.  <a href="https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260220BiodiversityDutyReport">https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260220BiodiversityDutyReport</a></p> <p>Report highlights the harms from alcohol and the support available.  <a href="https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260212DiropPHreportalcoholharm">https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260212DiropPHreportalcoholharm</a></p> <p>Man fined after failing to cooperate with fly tipping investigation in Andover.</p>

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	<p><a href="https://testvalley.gov.uk/news/2026/feb/man-fined-after-failing-to-cooperate-with-fly-tipping-investigation-in-andover">https://testvalley.gov.uk/news/2026/feb/man-fined-after-failing-to-cooperate-with-fly-tipping-investigation-in-andover</a></p> <p>Test Valley nominated for award for transformational Andover Health Hub partnership.</p> <p><a href="https://testvalley.gov.uk/news/2026/feb/test-valley-nominated-for-award-for-transformational-andover-health-hub-partnership">https://testvalley.gov.uk/news/2026/feb/test-valley-nominated-for-award-for-transformational-andover-health-hub-partnership</a></p>
<b>INTERESTS</b>	
<b>C415/03/26</b>	<p>Non-pecuniary declarations were received from:</p> <p>1. Councillor E Reynolds, as a member of the Drove Association and as an allotment plot holder.</p>
<b>ANNUAL DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS CHECK</b>	
<b>C416/03/26</b>	<p>Councillors H Neate and K Hughes declared updates to their Declarations of Interest and it was noted that officers would provide revised Pecuniary Interest forms for completion.</p>
<b>MINUTES</b>	
<b>C417/03/26</b>	<p>It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor S Hardstaff and <b>RESOLVED: Unanimously</b>, that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 18 February 2026, be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>
<b>C418/03/26</b>	<p>The following Committee Minutes were received and noted:</p> <p>Planning Committee: <a href="#">26 January 2026</a> &amp; <a href="#">16 February 2026</a>.</p> <p>Community and Events: <a href="#">29 January 2026</a>.</p> <p>HR Sub-Committee: <a href="#">16 October 2025</a>.</p>
<b>CONTRACTUAL &amp; DELEGATED PAYMENTS</b>	
<b>C419/03/26</b>	<p>Members received and noted the contractual and delegated <a href="#">payments</a> that had been made in the period of from: 1 February 2026 to: 28 February 2026</p>
<b>PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL</b>	
<b>C420/03/26</b>	<p>It was noted that there was one payment above the <a href="#">RFO's delegated authority</a> for entertainment at Pride 2026 and that it remained within the agreed budget allocation.</p>
<b>CREDIT CARD</b>	
<b>C421/03/26</b>	<p>It was noted that there had been no spending on the Credit Card.</p>
<b>FINANCE</b>	

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C422/03/26	<p>It was proposed by Councillor T Burley and seconded by Councillor G Walters and <b>RESOLVED: Unanimously</b>, that the following reports be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Bank Statements &amp; Bank Reconciliation</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Cashbook</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Earmarked Reserves</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Financial Comparison</a> to date</li> </ul>
<b>COUNCIL INSURANCE</b>	
C423/03/26	<p>Members received and considered the <a href="#">renewal quote for ATC's insurance</a>. It was proposed by Councillor S Hardstaff and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and <b>RESOLVED: FOR – 9, AGAINST – 2, ABSTENTIONS – 1</b>, that Option 2 – Approve a One-Year renewal only and review again in 2027, be approved.</p>
<b>FULL COUNCIL MEETING</b>	
C424/03/26	This item was withdrawn from the agenda.
<b>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EXTENSION</b>	
C425/03/26	Members received and reviewed a report on <a href="#">Christmas Light extension</a> into the Town Mills Pocket Park. Members went into discussion.
C426/03/26	<p>It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor M Farren that the following be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option C per year (2 years left on the contract).</li> <li>• The Town Clerk be delegated to liaise with the supplier to confirm availability and finalise the details, following approval and liaison with Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) for permissions.</li> </ul>
C427/03/26	Councillor G Walters proposed and Councillor R Hughes seconded that the Town Clerk liaised with the town's business owners for donations toward the Christmas lights.
C428/03/26	Councillor M Farren proposed an amendment that the Town Clerk also approach all relevant authorities, as well as the BID, for donations.
C429/03/26	Councillor G Walters withdrew his proposal.
C430/03/26	<p>Members voted on the amended motion: That the Town Clerk liaise with the town's business owners, Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), and Hampshire County Council (HCC) to seek voluntary contributions towards the cost of the Christmas lights for 2026/2027. <b>RESOLVED: Unanimously.</b></p>

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C431/03/26	<p>Members voted on the substantive motion, and it was:  <b>RESOLVED: Unanimously</b> that the following be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option C per year (2 years remaining on the contract).</li> <li>• That the Town Clerk be delegated to liaise with the supplier to confirm availability and finalise the details, subject to approval and liaison with Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) for the necessary permissions.</li> <li>• That the Town Clerk liaise with the town’s business owners, Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), and Hampshire County Council (HCC) to seek voluntary contributions towards the cost of the Christmas lights for 2026/2027.</li> </ul> <p>This is to be brought back to Full Council for final approval.</p>
<b>WORKING GROUPS</b>	
C432/03/26	<p>Members noted updates from the following working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Website Working Group</a></li> <li>• <b>LGR/Devolution Working Group</b> – nothing further to report.</li> </ul>
<b>COUNCILLOR REPORTS</b>	
C433/03/26	<p><b>Councillor R Hughes</b>  A vehicle I reported 9 months ago has finally had its wheel clamped by DVLA. A reminder that the old O2 shop will be having a drop-in session relating to the Vigo Park progress next Saturday, 28 March 2026.</p>
C434/03/26	<p><b>Councillor M Farren</b>  I am gathering more information regarding the lack of bus routes within Andover and will be approaching TVBC and HCC about it.</p>
C435/03/26	<p><b>Councillor G Walters</b>  There is another Vigo Park progress drop-in session in the former O2 shop, Chantry Centre, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026, from 10.00am to 3.00pm. I’m skeptical but impressed and it will be a great amenity for the town.</p>
C436/03/26	<p><b>Councillor S Hardstaff</b>  Further to the debacle over the ownership of footpaths between Lillywhite Crescent and Witan Close, which floods every year and becomes impassable. Each year, I have to contact someone to come and dig out and clear the path, as it effectively turns into a moat.  After around six months of trying to establish responsibility, I have finally been informed that Hampshire County Council (HCC) manage the footpath itself, whilst Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) manage the banks. However, neither authority is currently taking full responsibility for resolving the issue.  In order for HCC to rectify the problem, the path would need to be raised above the level of the banks on either side. Fortunately, Kit Malthouse MP has now stepped in to support this matter and is working to get TVBC to dig two trenches either side of</p>

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	<p>the footpath to improve drainage. However, these trenches are likely to fill in again each year, so a longer-term roadmap is needed.</p> <p>I wanted to share my frustration, as this reflects the experience residents must face when trying to establish who is responsible for different areas. It has taken six months for someone to confirm ownership, which is clearly not acceptable.</p>
<b>C437/03/26</b>	<p><b>Councillor J Hughes</b></p> <p>I led an Andover Vision meeting, good attendance with great people about how to get young people involved. Councillor H Neate requested that Councillor J Hughes do a presentation for Full Council in the future.</p>
<b>FUTURE ITEMS</b>	
<b>C438/03/26</b>	<p>The following item was requested to be considered at the next Full Council meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference system proposal and quotes</li> </ul>
<b>TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b>	
<b>C439/03/26</b>	<p>It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor J Hughes and <b>RESOLVED: Unanimously</b>, that Members of the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting at agenda item 19, due to the confidential nature of the agenda and to comply with GDPR.</p>
<b>STAFFING</b>	
<b>C440/03/26</b>	<p>Members received and considered a staffing report. Councillor R Hughes expressed thanks to the Town Clerk for the effort put into preparing the report.</p>
<b>C441/03/26</b>	<p>It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor S Hardstaff and <b>RESOLVED: FOR – 9, AGAINST – 1, ABSTENTIONS – 2</b>, that the following be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The redesignation and regrading of the Administration Assistant to Committee and GDPR Officer.</li> <li>• The regrading of the Community and Events Officer.</li> </ul>
<b>C442/03/26</b>	<p>The ongoing recruitment for the Community and Events and Allotment assistant was also noted.</p>
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	
<b>C443/03/26</b>	<p>Members noted that the date of the next Full Council meeting would be <b>Wednesday 15 April 2026 at The Guildhall, Andover, at 6.30pm.</b></p>
<b>MEETING CLOSURE</b>	
<b>C444/03/26</b>	<p>The Town Mayor closed the meeting at <b>7.40pm.</b></p>

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