



Time and date

6.30pm on Wednesday **19 February 2025**

Place

Upper Guildhall, Andover

Councillors Present:		Arrival time noted if after meeting start					
Cllr H Neate (Town Mayor)	✓		Cllr K Bird (Deputy Town Mayor)	x			
Cllr J Cockaday	✓		Cllr M Farren	✓		Cllr J Sangster	✓
Cllr S Hardstaff	✓		Cllr A Horsnell	✓		Cllr J Hughes	✓ 6:31
Cllr K Hughes	x		Cllr R Hughes	✓	6:52pm	Cllr R Kidd	✓
Cllr R Meyer	✓		Cllr E Reynolds	✓		Cllr T Burley	✓
Cllr G Walters	✓		Cllr L Gregori	✓			

Officers Present:	Tor Warburton (Acting Town Clerk) Leah Walsh (Admin Assist/Committee Officer in training) Started at 6:30pm
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Members of the Public:	6
County/Borough Councillors:	1
Members of the Press:	0

PUBLIC SESSION

C357/02/25

A member of the public spoke to A-Fest.

The notes below are a precis of statements/questions. They are not recorded word for word.

"I feel it is important to set the record straight regarding the origins of A-Fest. The history of this event dates back to the early days of the Andover Town Council in 2013, when Councillor Andy Fitchet and I conceived the idea of establishing an Andover Youth Council.

Our vision was supported by Sarah Jane Partner, the TVBC Youth Services lead (who is sadly no longer with us). Her invaluable contributions were instrumental in forming the Youth Council. Well connected and highly motivated, Sarah brought together many young people to share this initiative,

(<https://andover-tc.gov.uk/news/archive/new-andover-youth-council>).

Once the Youth Council was established, their first priority was to survey young people across Andover to identify their needs and aspirations. With our guidance, the youth

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council members engaged with local youth communities through leafleting, online campaigns, workshops and even a radio appearance.

The results of the survey revealed a clear desire among Andover’s young people for a festival tailored specifically for them, particularly for 16-year-olds.

With the Youth Council leading the charge, the Town Council, Chris Gregory (Town Centre Manager), myself, Andy, Sarah, and other volunteers began to develop the concept for A-Fest. Andover College joined the effort, generously offering to organise the music aspect of the festival. They coordinated auditions, live performances and ensured that young people handled both the music and the technical aspect of the show.

The first A-Fest was launched and proved to be a success, with everyone involved enjoying the event. It continued to grow over the following years and by the third year, Katherine Bird stepped forward to take over its management. She later formalised the event by establishing A-Fest Andover CIC, a Community Interest Company in 2019. Since then, A-Fest has been run as a commercial venture. (For context, I served as a Director of the CIC From February 2022 to November 2024).

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the young people who were the true pioneers of this event – they are the real heroes and founders of A-Fest. I am also deeply grateful to the staff and volunteers and the Andover Town Council who supported this initiative over the years. Finally, I wish the very best to those who continue to carry A-Fest forward into the future.”

APOLOGIES

C 358/02/25 Apologies had been received from Councillors K Bird and K Hughes.

CO-OPTIONS

C359/02/25 The candidates left the room at 6.45pm and were invited back into the meeting room separately, to speak to their applications.

Tony Burley spoke for 3 minutes.
 Robert Hickman spoke for 3 minutes.
 Mick James spoke for 3 minutes.

The vote was taken as follows:

	Tony Burley	Robert Hickman	Mick James
Cllr H Neate		✓	
Cllr S Hardstaff	✓		
Cllr E Reynolds	✓		
Cllr R Meyer	✓		
Cllr L Gregori	✓		
Cllr G Walters	✓		
Cllr R Kidd	✓		
Cllr J Sangster	✓		
Cllr A Horsnell	✓		
Cllr M Farren	✓		
Cllr J Cockaday	✓		

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Cllr J Hughes			✓
Total	10	1	1

C360/02/25 The winning candidate, Mr T Burley, was duly elected and signed his Acceptance of Office before taking his place at the table.

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

C 361/02/25 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) public consultation for strengthening the standards and conduct for local authorities England, was published just before Christmas when we were unable to draft a Council response. If you haven't already done so, I suggest you do respond. Along with many other councillors - and thank you to them - I attended our first councillor tea and biscuits event at P20 Community Centre on 8 March. Although attendance was low for this first event, we did receive some helpful feedback on our draft business plan. The next session is on 15 March 2025 at Augusta Park in the afternoon. On Ward business, I have been dealing with an unexpected road closure on Locksbridge Road and helping to expedite installing speed indicator device on Walworth Road.

EXTERNAL REPORTS

C362/02/25 Councillor L Gregori
Local Plan, lots of work.
Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) are trying to find enough land for new required buildings.

INTERESTS

C363/02/25 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 H Neate, as a plot holder at Ox Drove allotment site.
 3. Councillor M Farren declared an interest in item 21.

MINUTES

C364/02/25 It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor S Hardstaff and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the [Minutes](#) of the Town Council Meeting held on 15 January 2025, be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

C365/02/25 The following Committee Minutes were received and noted:
 • [P&R Committee](#): 6 November 2024
 • [C&E Committee](#): 14 November 2024
 • [Planning Committee](#): 2 December 2024
 • [Planning Committee](#): 13 January 2025
 • [Allotment Committee](#): 30 October 2024

MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

C366/02/25 [Motion](#) - Local Bus Services
 Proposed by **Councillor R Kidd** and seconded by **Councillor J Sangster**
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“Council requests that the Town Clerk writes to Stagecoach to request that they send a representative to the next Full Council meeting to discuss local bus services.”

The motion was debated.

Councillor J Sangster spoke to the motion.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

CONTRACTUAL & DELEGATED PAYMENTS

C367/02/25 Councillors received and noted the contractual and delegated [payments](#) that had been made in the period of from: 1 January 2025 to 31 January 2025.

FINANCE

C368/02/25 It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor M Farren and

RESOLVED: Unanimously, that the following reports, be approved:

- Payment to be made above the RFO’s delegated authority – No payments were made above the RFO’s delegated authority.
- [Bank Statements](#) & [Bank Reconciliation](#)
- [Cashbook](#)
- [Earmarked Reserves](#)
- [Financial Comparison to date](#)

EARMARKED RESERVES

C369/02/25 It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor S Hardstaff and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the following Earmarked Reserves budget lines, that have been at £0 for a minimum of 2 years, be removed:

- Noticeboards
- Section 106
- A-Fest
- Civic Regalia
- Bus Shelters
- Vigo Park
- Public Convenience
- Contribution to Tourism

BUSINESS PLAN

C370/02/25 Members received a [Business Plan report](#) noted the actions from the Business Plan Working Group.

C371/02/25 Members reviewed the recommendations regarding activities and council performance measures that fell under the remit of the Full Council.

It was proposed by Councillor H Neate and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the following be approved:

- The council performance measures be accepted.
- The Freedom of Information (FOI) requests be amended to reflect the statutory time line.
- The difficulties about Councillor attendance at training and meetings be noted.
- The articles in the press are to be qualified.
- A matrix of information be created and include value for money as a PI.

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DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION

- C372/02/25** Members received and considered a [Devolution report](#). An amendment to the motion was sent via email three working days before the meeting as the landscape regarding devolution had already changed.
- C373/02/25** It was proposed by Councillors E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor H Neate and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the creation of a Devolution working group which consisted of Councillors, be approved. That the working group would be responsible for fact finding, gathering of details and information about both the potential benefits and risks to Andover residents of devolution and make recommendations for the full council to be able to consider.
- C374/02/25** It was proposed by Councillor H Neate and seconded by Councillor S Hardstaff and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the Devolution working group would also draft a formal joint Council response to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), to any public consultation about devolution in Hampshire, on behalf of Andover Town Council. That this would ensure that all Councillors had the opportunity to review the draft response by email, if deadlines are critical, before it is submitted.
- C375/02/25** It was proposed by Councillor H Neate and seconded by Councillor S Hardstaff and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that two Councillors would be named from the Devolution working group and have delegated authority to meet with HCC/TVBC/MHCLG, on Devolution issues in Hampshire, on behalf of Andover residents and with the Acting Town Clerk as and when appropriate.
- C376/02/25** The following Members requested to join the Devolution Working Group: Councillors S Hardstaff, H Neate, J Hughes, T Burley, M Farren, A Horsnell, G Walters, E Reynolds and R Kidd.

The Acting Town Clerk would send an invitation to join the Devolution working group, to all Councillors via email.

- C377/02/25** Members voted on two members to be delegated to oversee the fact finding as follows:

Nominee	Proposer & Seconder	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
Cllr T Burley	Cllr M Farren/Cllr T Burley	3	3	4	7
Cllr M Farren	Cllr M Farren/Cllr J Cockaday	0	n/a	n/a	n/a

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Cllr S Hardstaff	Cllr H Neate/Cllr G Walters	5	5	5 (Town Mayor's casting vote used)	n/a
Cllr J Hughes	Cllr R Meyer/Cllr J Hughes	3	3	4	6
Cllr H Neate	Cllr H Neate/Cllr S Hardstaff	2	2	n/a	n/a

Councillor S Hardstaff and Councillor T Burley were voted as the delegated members of the Devolution Working Group to action the fact finding.

JERK JAM

C378/02/25 Members received and noted the 'wash up [Jerk Jam report](#).

CLIENT CARE CONTRACT

C379/02/25 Members considered the reinstatement of the Customer Care Contract with Surrey Hills Solicitors, at a cost of £290 +VAT per month, for small bits of ad hoc advice. Larger works e.g. contract production and litigation would be charged separately.

C380/02/25 An amendment was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor H Neate and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that a six month Customer Care contract be accepted initially and be brought back to Full Council for a review at the 6 month point.

Members voted on the substantive motion.

C381/02/25 It was proposed by Councillor H Neate and seconded by Councillor S Hardstaff and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that a Customer Care Contract with Surrey Hills Solicitors, at a cost of £290.00 +VAT monthly for small bits of ad hoc advice, be reinstated, on the basis that it is reviewed after a six month period.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

C382/02/25 It was proposed by Councillor H Neate and seconded by Councillor L Gregori and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that £12,000.00 be transferred from the General Reserve into the Grants Budget (2024 /2025) as per Minute No. PR 062/11/24, be approved.

COMMUNITY & EVENTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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C383/02/25

Members noted that the Community & Events Committee had resolved the following, which fell within the budget line as per the Committee Terms of Reference:

Christmas Lights: that it be delegated to Officers to purchase new bright white sheet lighting for the front of the Guildhall, as per the quote of £1,304.00 + VAT received.

PRIDE 2025

C384/02/25

It had been agreed that Andover Town Council would lead on Pride 2025 (**CE 072/01/25**) and a budget line of £7,500 had been approved (**CE 028/08/24 & C 339/01/25**).

C385/02/25

It was proposed by Councillor M Farren and seconded by Councillor T Burley and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the quote of £2,892.50, for the provision of the infrastructure for Pride 2025, which falls within the budget line, be approved.

C386/02/25

It was proposed by Councillor M Farren and seconded by Councillor R Kidd and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that Officers be instructed to accept the quote on behalf of the Andover Town Council.

ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

C387/02/25

It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor R Hughes and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the Allotment Committee's recommendation (AC327/02/25) that the Old Winton Road Allotment site fence be the next fence to be replaced, be approved.

C388/02/25

Members noted that Officers would provide 3 quotes at the next Allotment Committee meeting for recommendation to Full Council.

COUNCIL CORPORATE RISK ASSESSMENT

C389/02/25

Members reviewed the amendments to the [Corporate Risk Assessment](#). The following amendments were requested:
Section 'Result' - Remove the word 'physical' and leave the sentence to start with 'assault' (page 4)
The mitigations should be more about what we have done to address this threat. Written instructions had been given out to the Councillors, should this threat happen. Training is available for Councillors in defusing situations.
Notify the police.

C390/02/25

It was proposed by Councillor H Neate and seconded by Councillor S Hardstaff and **RESOLVED: FOR - 12, AGAINST - 0, ABSTENTIONS - 1**, that Corporate Risk Assessment with the amendments, be brought to Full Council meeting as part of the May meeting process to note.

BURGHCLERE DOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

C391/02/25

It was proposed by Councillor G Walters and seconded by Councillor M Farren and **RESOLVED: FOR - 1, AGAINST - 7, ABTSENTIONS - 4**, that a Millway Ward Councillor

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be allowed to become a member of the Burghclere Down Community Centre Board of Trustees, be approved.

Motion failed.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

C392/02/25 It was proposed by Councillor L Gregori and seconded by Councillor J Cockaday and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that Councillor G Walters' membership onto the Planning Committee, be approved.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

C393/02/25 **Councillor E Reynolds**
Attended the Tea and Biscuits on 8 February 2025 and it was very successful.

C394/02/25 **Councillor G Walters**
Received a query from a resident regarding an overgrown hedge. It was not clear who owned the hedge, therefore I will take it up with the relevant authorities.

C395/02/25 **Councillor M Farren**
A potholes review took place in Millway. There were 60 potholes and 1 abandoned car. Lots of other issues and road safety has continued to be a problem on Salisbury Road. Weyhill Road is still in need of resurfacing.
In Romans Ward, a gentleman had fallen over on loose paving. Only response he received was an anonymous email with Councillor M Farren's telephone number on it.

FUTURE ITEMS

C396/02/25 Councillor G Walters – Membership of Policy and Resources Committee
Councillor T Burley - Membership of Planning Committee
Councillor R Kidd - send a Christmas card to Andover Massachusetts.

NEXT MEETING

C397/02/25 Members noted that the date of the next Full Council meeting would be **Wednesday 19 March 2025, at The Upper Guildhall, Andover, at 6.30pm.**

MEETING CLOSURE

C098/02/25 The Town Mayor closed the meeting at **8.24pm.**

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