



NEW ALRESFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Alresford Recreation Centre, The Avenue, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9EP
Tel: 01962 732079 Website: www.newalresford-tc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Council Meeting of New Alresford Town Council held at Alresford Recreation Centre on Tuesday 30th June 2026 commencing at 7.00 pm

Name	Present	Apologies
Cllr Bean	✓	
Cllr Dalling	✓	
Cllr Evans (Chair)	✓	
Cllr Flood	✓	
Cllr Harrison Clow	✓	
Cllr Jeffs		✓
Cllr Jones	✓	
Cllr Lipton	✓	
Cllr Sprott	✓	
Cllr Weston	✓	

IN ATTENDANCE: Nineteen members of the public, County Cllr Porter, City Cllr Pinniger, City Cllr Gordon-Smith and Richard Doughty (Town Clerk)

26/021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: To approve apologies from Cllr Jeffs

26/022 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

- To receive Declarations of Interests - None
- To confirm any Dispensations – None

Councillor Sprott made a statement clarifying advice he received from the Monitoring Officer's team. The full statement is attached at the end of these minutes.

26/023 MINUTES

DEFERRED: To approve the Minutes 14th April 2026, 19th May 2026 and 23rd June 2026.

Chairman

Date:

26/024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the availability and cost of electric vehicle charging. He outlined the challenges for residents that do not have the ability to install vehicle charging points at homes. The Chair suggested that he visit the Council Office to discuss the matter further.

Several members of the public spoke regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. There was emphasis on need for the Council to conclude the plan including the allocation of housing.

A member of the public explained the reasons why they thought the Drove Lane site unsuitable for housing including issues relating to access, water, environment, the cycle plan and proximity to the water meadow.

A member of the public asked about the consultation in the Swan Hotel in November 2024 and the post it notes appended to posters at the event.

A member of the public commented that there did not seem to be any project management methodology applied to the Neighbourhood Plan.

26/025 COUNTY & CITY COUNCILLORS

The Council noted the reports from County and City Councillors.

26/026 GRANTS

RESOLVED: To approve a grant of £1,000 to the Watercress Way.

26/027 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

a. Project Overview

The Council noted, that having completed Stage 1 (Review and familiarisation), Stage 2 (Evidence, vision and objectives) and Stage 3 (Plan policy writing) with the exception of the Housing Allocation Policy of the Neighbourhood Plan project and recognising that the Plan has now progressed to Stage 4 (Revising and consulting on the Plan) that the primary focus of the project is now the completion, review and consultation of the draft Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan.

b. Recommendations agreed on 14 April 2026

It was noted that the “health check” had been completed; the arrangement with the existing consultant has been exited and that Advisory Committee activity had been paused.

Chairman

Date:

c. Consultancy Costs

The Council noted that it entered into two agreements for planning consultancy support with Troy Planning and Design. The figures of £39,500 and £41,500 mentioned in recent public discussions represented estimated levels of consultant time and resources and were not fixed-price contracts. Actual expenditure under the agreements was based on work undertaken and invoiced and was as follows:

- Agreement 1 – £17,417
- Agreement 2 – £22,436

d. Advisory Committee

DEFERRED: To consider dissolving the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee with immediate effect in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee.

e. Delegation to Town Clerk

DEFERRED: To consider delegating responsibility for administering and progressing the Regulation 14 process to the Town Clerk.

f. Delegation to Councillors

DEFERRED: To consider delegating to Councillors Bean, Dalling, Jeffs and Weston the conduct of business related to the preparation and consultation of the Regulation 14 Plan.

26/028 YOUTH FACILITY PROJECT

a. **RESOLVED:** To approve Invitation to Tender document and Form of tender document regarding installation of a Multi-Use Games Area and Youth Facility/ Seating at Arlebury Park.

b. **RESOLVED:** To approve inviting HAGS UK, Kompan, Playsafe Playgrounds and Sutcliffe Play to participate in a closed tender process in line with Financial Regulation 5.6.

26/029 ARLEBURY BARK EVENT 5TH JULY 2026

RESOLVED: To approve that any money generated via the fun dog classes and agility classes be donated to the chosen charity, Hampshire Paws.

26/030 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED: To approve payments for April 2026.

The meeting was closed at 8.52 pm

Chairman

Date:

Cllr Sprott made the following declaration:

There has been continued speculation in relation to my personal interests including misleading comments at the last council meeting I attended. Therefore, I would like to make a brief statement for the sake of absolute transparency.

As you are aware, I live close to Barn Meadow, which is being promoted as site NA07 in the SHELAA housing site allocation process of the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). I have taken advice from the Monitoring Officer's team at Winchester City Council that I do not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to site NA07, as my family home is not within the 'red line' boundary of that site.

However, I have declared an Other Registerable Interest in issues that directly relate to the promotion of site NA07 for development and/or its protection as Local Green Space under any future NDP, by virtue of my membership of the Friends of Barn Meadow.

I also believe that I have a Non-Registerable Interest in issues that directly relate to the promotion of site NA07 for development and/or its protection as Local Green Space under any future NDP. When discussions at this council have specifically related to those aspects of that individual site - as opposed to discussing, as we shall at this meeting, whether the council should follow any particular process - I have consistently declared an interest and left the room to ensure the integrity of the decision-making process. This is also the reason why I have excluded myself from membership of both the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee and Group.

It appears clear from the wording of agenda item 7 for this evening's meeting that we will not discuss issues that directly relate to the promotion of site NA07 for development and/or its protection as Local Green Space under any future NDP.

My interpretation of item 7 is that today's meeting will be focused entirely on the general process and methodology of stabilising the NDP and not any issues specific to site NA07. If this is the case, the advice I have taken from the Monitoring Officer's team is that as this is a policy discussion that applies to the whole council area, it does not directly relate to my property, nor does it affect my well-being or financial interests to a greater extent than those of the majority of other residents. Therefore, under the Councillor's Code of Conduct, I do not believe I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, an Other Registerable Interest or a Non-registerable Interest that prevents me from participating in this evening's debate and voting. I will continue to approach this discussion on the process and methodology of the NDP with a completely open mind. I am here to represent the interests of the community as a whole, without bias or predetermination.

I will confine all my contributions to item 7 entirely to the general process and methodology of the NDP and trust that the Chair will ensure that the debate remains firmly on this topic. Should the debate discuss specific individual sites, I will of course observe the Councillor Code of Conduct and take appropriate steps.

I note that despite the clearly stated requirements of paragraphs 2 and 6 of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference, paragraphs 3, 13 and 14 of the Council's Standing Orders and the provisions of Localism Act 2011 Section 27(4), as set out in the Definitions of the Council's Councillors Code of Conduct, and Section 13(4)(e) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and my repeated suggestions over the past three or four years that these basic

Chairman

Date:

governance safeguards were not being observed, no member of that committee has ever declared any interest whatsoever in the outcome of the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Chairman

Date: