NEW ALRESFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Alresford Recreation Centre, The Avenue, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9EP
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Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of New Alresford Town Council held at Alresford Recreation Centre on Monday 7th September 2026 commencing at 7 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: Eighteen members of the public, City Cllr Claire Pinniger, Richard Doughty (Town Clerk), Sarah Johnson (Deputy Town Clerk)

26/048 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: To approve apologies from Cllr Weston

26/049 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

a. To receive Declarations of Interests – None
Cllr Sprott referred the Council to his statement of interests of the 3rd August 2026

b. To confirm any Dispensations - None

26/050 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public asked questions on:

a. the timeline of the project. It was confirmed this would be determined by the reorganised Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee.
b. If the Chair should be a Councillor or non-Councillor. This will be investigated in advance of the next meeting

Chairman ……

Date: ……

c. Inaccurate information or errors in the plan documents. It was confirmed that the evidence base would be reviewed by the reorganised Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee.
d. Community Infrastructure Levy payments and rates.
e. How the project team will work.
f. If the meeting had been sufficiently publicised. It was confirmed it had been advertised on the Council website and social media.
g. It was suggested that new timelines for the Plan will need to fit into the updated National Planning Policy Framework
h. How Cllrs will put themselves forward to be on NPAC. It was confirmed that Cllrs would put themselves forward at this meeting and be voted in by Council

26/051 NPAC COUNCILLOR AND NON-COUNCILLOR MEMBERS

a. **RESOLVED:** To amend NPAC Terms of Reference membership section as follows:
"The Advisory Committee will consist of five Councillor members and a minimum of five and a maximum of thirteen non-Councillor members having regard to the effective operation of the Committee and the desirability of securing broad community participation."
Resolved by seven Councillors - Cllrs Flood and Sprott opposed.

b. **RESOLVED:** To appoint all thirteen applicants as non-Councillor members of NPAC.
The Council appointed Cathryn Allison, Lorraine Bailey, Howard Boardman, Michael Byrne, Mike Clayton, Ian Diver, Jan Field, Tessa Harding, George Homes, Lucy Maggs Krebs, Brigid Taylor, John Theophilus and Paul Winstanley.
Resolved by eight Councillors - Cllr Sprott abstained

c. **RESOLVED:** To appoint five Councillor members of NPAC.
The Council appointed Cllrs Bean, Dalling, Flood, Harrison-Clow and Jeffs
Resolved by eight Councillors - Cllr Sprott opposed

26/052 NPAC CHAIR

DEFERRED: To elect a Councillor Chair of NPAC.
The item was deferred following a point of order relating to Standing Orders

26/053 TERMS OF REFERENCE

DEFERRED**:** To consider amendments to the Terms of Reference reflective of the project stage
The item was deferred to allow Cllrs to submit proposed amendments

Chairman …….

Date: ……

26/054 PROJECT DOCUMENTS

a. The Council noted the first draft of the Register of Potential Planning Interests
b. The Council noted the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan Stakeholder List

26/055 NPAC PROJECT PLAN

a. The Council noted the first draft of the project plan Gantt chart based on the Health Check, for consideration and agreement with NPAC
b. The Council noted the proposed project workstreams:
    i. Governance and Project Management
    ii. Plan Structure and Layout
    iii. Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment
    iv. Policy Review
    v. Site Allocations
    vi. Regulation 14 Submission

The meeting was closed at 20:21 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 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 the agenda 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 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 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: ……