

Yateley Town Council
Minutes of the Town Council on Monday, 8 June 2026, 7.00pm
held at The Oak Room, Council Offices, Reading Road, Yateley, GU46 7RP

Present – Councillors:

Cllr Graham Cockarill (Chairman)
Cllr Gerry Crisp
Cllr Mark Griffin
Cllr Pam Phelps-Jones
Cllr Tony Spencer
Cllr Mark Vernon
Cllr Julia Wedlock

Absent Councillors

Cllr Stuart Bailey
Cllr Alex Drage
Cllr Greg Easterbrook
Cllr Bob Harward
Cllr Mark Higgins

In Attendance – Officers, District & County Councillors and Public

Julie Routley (Town Clerk)

C6706 Welcome & Apologies for Absence

Cllr Cockarill welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bailey, Drage, Easterbrook, Harward and Higgins.

C6707 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cockarill declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item C6714, Hart Local Plan, noting for transparency that he holds responsibility for this matter in his role at Hart District Council.

C6708 Minutes of the Last Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on 11 May 2026 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 1 June 2026.
The Chairman duly signed the minutes as an accurate record.

C6709 Public Participation

No public were present.

C6710 District & County Reports

County

Apologies were received from Cllr Quarterman (HCC), who advised that, due to difficulties attending Monday meetings in person, he will provide written reports going forward.

Apologies were also received from Cllr Bailey (HCC).

In their absence, Cllr Cockarill provided a brief update on behalf of Hampshire County Council.

Elections It was reported that the recent Hampshire elections have taken place, with the Conservative Party remaining the largest group, followed by Reform and the Liberal Democrats. The Conservative administration continues to lead the County Council; however, it operates as a minority administration and has not formed any formal coalitions.

It was further noted that Reform members now hold all committee chairmanships, while the Cabinet remains entirely Conservative.

Local Government Reorganisation Significant work is currently underway at Hampshire County Council in relation to Local Government Reorganisation.

District

Cllr Cockarill (HDC)

Local Government Reorganisation Hart District Council is currently considering the implications of Local Government Reorganisation, with further discussions ongoing.

It was further noted that the District Council is in the process of developing a Community Asset Transfer Policy. This will consider whether certain district-owned assets may be more effectively managed by Town and Parish Councils, should they wish to take them on in the future. The policy is due to be presented to Cabinet in July.

C6711 Clerk's Report

Members noted the Town Clerk's report.

The Town Clerk also noted that she would be attending the Hampshire Association of local Councils Local Government Reorganisation Summit in Southampton on Thursday 11 June 2026.

C6712 Review of Terms of Reference for Committees

It was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference for Committees be approved as presented, including the updated provisions relating to the Community and Environment Committee to reflect its expanded remit incorporating community matters, in accordance with the recommendation of the Community & Environment Committee.

C6713 Purchase of Bus Shelters

Members considered a report regarding the purchase and installation of two replacement bus shelters, to be located at Firgrove Road (opposite St Swithun's) and Darby Green Road (opposite Globe Farm Lane). It was noted that the Town Council had been awarded a grant of £23,020 from Hampshire County Council to fully fund the supply of the shelters.

Members were advised that, following public feedback, the shelters would be of a timber construction to align with existing Town Council shelters and would incorporate

an end panel with a viewing window to improve visibility of approaching buses. The quotation from Littlethorpe, which formed part of the successful grant application, was recommended for acceptance, with installation to be undertaken by K.N. Property Development.

It was **RESOLVED** that, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations:

- the expenditure of £23,020 + VAT for the purchase of two bus shelters from Littlethorpe be approved, to be funded in full by the Hampshire County Council Parish Council Bus Shelter Grant Scheme; and
- the installation costs of £2,080, to be undertaken by K.N. Property Development, be approved, to be funded by the Town Council.

C6714 Hart Local Plan – Scoping Consultation

It was **RESOLVED** that authority be delegated to the Planning & Licensing Committee, at its meeting on 15 June 2026, to consider the Hart Local Plan Scoping Consultation and to prepare and submit a response on behalf of the Council by the deadline of 19 June 2026.

C6715 Building Lease – Tythings Buildings

Members considered a proposal to lease part of The Tythings Buildings for use as a café. It was noted that a prospective tenant had expressed interest, including a willingness to undertake significant capital investment in the premises. Members also noted that, although there had been previous interest from other parties, this had not progressed where capital investment was required. The detailed terms of the proposed lease, including rent, lease length and repairing responsibilities, remain under negotiation.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- i) agreement in principle be given to the lease of part of The Tythings Buildings for café use, subject to satisfactory legal agreements and final approval by Full Council;
- ii) authority be delegated to the Finance & Policy Committee to agree and enter into an interim “working under licence” arrangement, if required; and
- iii) authority be delegated to the Finance & Policy Committee to negotiate the detailed terms of the lease, with the final terms to be reported to Full Council for formal approval prior to completion.

C6716 Schedule of Accounts

It was **RESOLVED** to approve:

The list of payments emailed to the Committee prior to the meeting:

Page 2088 - May invoices

C6717 Town Mayor's Announcements

Since the last meeting, the Mayor had attended the following events:

- Yateley 10K Road Races – 1 June 2026
- 100th Birthday Party for WWII Veteran Dennis Thatcher – 6 June 2026

It was noted that Cllr Griffin deputised at the latter event, which coincided with the 82nd anniversary of D-Day, and presented Mr Thatcher with the Freedom of the Town.

Mayoral Charities Former Town Mayor, Cllr Griffin, reported that he had raised £2,693.26 during his 2025/26 Civic Year. Cheques in the sum of £897.75 were presented to each of the following organisations:

- Cornerstone Counselling
- Daisy Chain (Dementia) Café
- Vision 4 Youth

The incoming Town Mayor, Cllr Cockarill, announced that his chosen charities for the 2026/27 Civic Year will be the two local food support organisations within the parish: Yateley Community Pantry and the Darby Green Community Larder. These nominations align with the Hart District Chairman's focus on addressing food poverty.

C6718 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies & Local Updates

Cllr Phelps-Jones -
Vision 4 Youth

Members were advised that Vision 4 Youth will be hosting a "Seeing is Believing" visit on 23 June 2026 at The Tythings, organised by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation. The event will showcase the work of Vision 4 Youth, alongside Fellowship Educational Society and Hounds for Heroes.

It was further noted that the High Sheriff of Hampshire has expressed an interest in attending a future visit to meet representatives of Vision 4 Youth, with the assistance of the Town Council.

Members were also informed that the local Neighbourhood Police Officer, PC Ben Blundell, will be running the London Marathon next year in support of Vision 4 Youth.

Cllr Griffin –
Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership

Members were advised of increasing concern regarding sewage pollution in the River Blackwater. It was noted that, while water quality and biodiversity had previously shown signs of improvement, there is now uncertainty as to whether these gains can be maintained, with local wildlife and habitats potentially under threat.

Cllr Crisp –

Yateley United Football Club

The Council extended its congratulations to Yateley United Football Club on their promotion to Step 5 of the non-league football pyramid, at a level eligible to participate in the FA Cup. This was recognised as a significant achievement for the club.

C6719 Police Matters & Community Safety

It was reported that the meeting held on 1 June 2026 was well attended. The newly appointed Sergeant and PCSO were also in attendance and introduced themselves to those present.

Members will be advised once a date for the next meeting has been confirmed, which is anticipated to take place in early October.

C6720 Committee Minutes & Recommendations from Other Committees

The minutes from the following Committees and Working Parties were noted:

Committee	Date	Minute Nos.	Recommendations
Community & Environment	01.06.26	1893-1901	
Finance & Policy	Has not met		
Personnel	Has not met		
Planning & Licensing	18.05.26 01.06.26	3425-3433 3434-3441	

C6721 Information Items

- i) Date of next meeting – 14th September 2026, 7.00pm at The Oak Room, Council Offices.
- ii) Forward Plan
The items on the Forward Plan were noted.

Meeting closed at 8.07pm