HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 15 APRIL 2026

Cllrs. Present: Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Tonia Craig, Cllr Keith House, Cllr John Jupe (Chair), Cllr James Paine, Cllr John Shepherd

In attendance: Nigel Paterson, Kings Community Church, PC Amanda Turner and PCSO Tracey Chilcott

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, it was resolved that Councillor John Jupe take the Chair for the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Helen Corben, Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr Rupert Kyrle, Cllr Cliff Morris**,** Cllr Ron Nichols, Cllr Derek Pretty

2. **Public Questions not on the Agenda**
   A member of the public enquired about the Local Government Reorganisation boundary announcement and how the proposed changes would operate with the Southampton expansion.

   Councillor House explained that the new authority would be established with revised boundaries as a new legal entity, rather than representing an expansion of Southampton's existing area.

   A follow-up question was raised regarding whether Southampton would continue to exist as a city under the new arrangements.

   It was noted that, for Southampton to retain a Mayor, a new Southampton Parish Council equivalent would need to be created. Under the proposed structure, the unitary authority would not have a mayoral role but would instead be led by a chair.

3. **Declarations of Interest**
   None were declared.

4. **To Receive a Police Report**
   PC Amanda Turner and PCSO Tracey Chilcott were in attendance, and previously circulated statistics were reviewed.

   There were 69 reported incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) during the last quarter (January to March), with a noticeable increase in March, largely attributed to incidents of criminal damage.

   Shoplifting offences have risen compared to the same period last year; however, it was noted that many of these incidents involve offenders travelling from outside Hedge End and targeting larger retail outlets. Facial recognition technology is being utilised to assist in identifying those responsible.

Councillor Tonia Craig enquired whether there had been any further incidents of "boy racing." PC Turner advised that there have been relatively few recent reports, although activity appears to be increasing again. Residents are encouraged to report incidents to enable the police to effectively target specific locations and times.

It was also noted that the police motorbike unit has been deployed across various locations to monitor vehicle speeds and to inform decisions on areas requiring further enforcement.

PC Turner advised that, when reporting incidents via 101, it is preferable to report as ASB rather than vehicle crime.

Councillor Ian Corben commented that police intervention appears to be having a positive impact, noting a reduction in complaints about speeding while undertaking door-to-door engagement.

Councillor Jupe thanked the officers for their attendance.

5. To receive the Speedwatch results

Councillors noted that the SID data is of limited usefulness, as the summary figures are averages and do not show excessive speeds, thereby providing a potentially misleading representation of actual issues. It was also noted that the SID only records vehicles travelling in excess of 27 mph. Concerns were raised regarding a recorded top speed of 75mph, with the acknowledgement that this may have been attributable to an emergency service vehicle.

6. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18 March 2026.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

7. Chair's Remarks

Councillor Jupe noted that it was pleasing to see the Police in attendance at the meeting.

8. Resolved Items for NOTING Only:

(a) Highways & Planning Committee – 4 March and 18 March 2026 (Minute H884, H885 and H889)
That the Minutes of the meeting of the 4 March and 18 March be received.

(b) Policy & Resources Committee – 7 April 2026 (Minute P1537 and P1540)

That the Minutes of the meeting of the 7 April be received.

(C) Recreation & Amenities Committee – 8 April 2026
(Minute R610, R611, R612i andR612ii)
That the Minutes of the meeting of the 8 April be received

9. Borough and County Reports

Councillor Ian Corben reported that HEWEB had not met since the previous update and, as such, there was no further business to report. He added that there had been effective collaboration between the Clerk and the Police in facilitating the removal of the unauthorised encampment.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20:03pm.