

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL  
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021 AT 9.30 AM  
Held in the Town Hall, Market Square**

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**Present:** Councillor Ginny Boxall  
Councillor Graham Hill  
John Hubbard (Energy Alton) – arrived at 9:50  
Philippa Brealey (ACAN)

**In attendance in person:**

Leah Coney - Town Clerk  
Wendy Simson - Assistant to Town Clerk

**01 Election of a Chair**

Councillor Boxall confirmed that she would be happy to Chair the sub-committee having chaired the previous Task and Progress group. Councillor Hill said he would also stand. Councillor Boxall responded that if that were the case she would cede and take on the vice chair role. It was therefore:

**RESOLVED to  
Appoint Councillor Hill as Chair and Councillor Boxall as Vice Chair.**

**02 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Pam Jones.

**03 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded members of their obligation to disclose any pecuniary interest in items on the agenda. None were declared.

**04 Sub-Committee Terms of Reference**

The Committee agreed the minutes from the Climate Change Sub Committee would be tabled at Policy and Resource Committee with Full Council approval sought for major items including expenditure over £10,000. No changes were requested to the draft Terms of Reference as tabled. It was therefore:

**RESOLVED to  
Approve the Terms of Reference**

**05 Update on Current Projects**

**Town Hall**

Two external sockets have been installed to allow residents to access a trickle feed for electric charging emergencies ( eg bikes, cars, phones). Work to install insulation in the loft space is being booked, as is the draft excluding work on the windows. The tender for heat exchange

units in the two toilets has not received any responses, however Martin Heath (Basingstoke Energy Services Co-operative) has created a detailed installation guide to allow a local electrician to complete the work.

The Clerk has contacted the Planning Team at EHDC to discuss the application for Listed Building Consent for the External Air Source Heat Pump and double glazing for the windows, however there has been no response. Officers will therefore apply for Listed Building Consent and keep the Committee informed of progress.

Councillor Hill asked if the windows would have secondary double glazing or be replaced with double glazed units. Councillor Boxall explained that secondary double glazing would allow for the windows to be insulated during the winter period but the units removed during the summer when not required. Councillor Hill recommended replacing the windows and installing new fully double-glazed units. Officers to obtain prices for both.

### **Anstey Park**

The floodlights at the Muga are currently halogen bulbs and would cost approximately £350 in electricity a month to have on each evening. The Council would like to change these to LED bulbs as they could be activated by a motion sensor in the same way as the lights at Jubilee Skate Park. The monthly cost of the lights at Jubilee are about £50 so there would be significant cost saving in addition to the environment impact.

The Town Council would also include changing the lights in the public gardens to LEDs as part of any tender process.

There are currently no individual thermostats in the changing rooms at the Finimore Pavilion. These could be installed so that only those facilities being used can be heated. The Rugby Club have approached the Council about creating larger changing rooms by combining spaces so new thermostats are on hold until a final decision is made by the Rugby Club.

The Council did apply for additional funding to have a Detailed Decarbonation Plan created for the Finimore Pavilion but this application was not successful. The Committee suggested that costs be taken to the Budget Workshop for 2022/23, to ensure the Council have a full understanding of the issues with the building.

### **Tree Planting**

The Council has been awarded a grant of £500 for tree planting at Lower Field from the Alton Buildings Preservation Trust. Alton Lions have made an approach to the Council with an idea to plant basket willow to create a living fence to divide the Council part of the land from that retained by the developer allowing a corridor for wildlife. Jim Dickinson's advice is being sort about if willow or hazel would be best for this site. The area does get very wet in the winter so it was suggested that new whips be planted in the spring.

The tree planting at Barley Fields by the WI has agreed on a Heritage Orchard with traditional species being grafted onto Crab-apple root stock. Dr June is advising on species to use and planting ins due to start this year with additional planting next year.

Councillor Hill asked if additional trees could be planted as part of the refurbishment work at Holybourne Play area. The Clerk advised that this would not be possible as the lease for the land precluded any permanent additions except for that associated with the use of the site as a play area. A representative from the landowner is due to talk at the Holybourne Village Association AGM, so it was suggested they be approached for a view as ultimately the decision would rest with them.

## **06 East Hampshire District Council COP26 participation**

John Hubbard gave members of the Committee a copy of the Energy Alton booklet. 500 hard copies are being printed. Energy Alton have a stall at the COP26 conference in Alton on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October and will also include a copy in each delegates information pack. Hard copies will

be available in specific locations including the library but residents will be encouraged to read the information online. An additional budget for further print runs can be accessed from EHDC. The booklet includes one of the Town Council's properties at Jubilee, no. 5 – a semi-detached bungalow, the Committee asked that provision be included in the Budget Workshop to complete insulation work in the lofts, walls and suspended floor. Improvement could also include Air Source Heat Pumps to replace the oil-fired heating system. John explained that the tenants would not see a huge reduction in utility costs but the energy used would be clean. It was agreed that it was important that the tenants be taken through the reasons for the changes and understanding the benefits to the environment.

A number of other buildings in the Town Council's portfolio were discussed:  
Kings Pond Bungalows – these are considered “end of life” in building terms so no retrofitting is proposed as the bungalows may be demolished within the next 15/20 years.  
Assembly Rooms including flat – there is due to be a public consultation in early 2022 to agree future use of the building, so no retrofitting is proposed until the outcomes and way forward are known.  
Pavilions at Jubilee Playing Fields – the Council plans to build a new Pavilion to replace these within the next 5 years so no retrofitting is proposed.

The Clerk is part of a Panel of local government officers at the COP26 Conference ( 5pm slot) with each member of the Panel having 5 mins to present the work currently being undertaken to support the Climate Change Emergency. There will then be a short Q&A session.

#### **07 Cycling update and future maintenance of Cycle Planters**

The Cycle Planters in the Town are filled with herbs which die back in winter. The Committee asked if evergreens could be mixed in to prevent them from looking tatty during the colder months. The Clerk agreed that the Grounds Team would take on the maintenance of the planters moving forward.

The Committee discussed the Safer Routes to Schools project and the addition of new Cycleways in the town. Councillor Hill informed the Committee that funds had been set aside for a new route on Montecchio Way but that initial plans show the pathway crossing the road which Councillor Hill is looking to amend to ensure it runs along the Lidl side of the road for the entire length.

The Clerk informed the Committee that Network Rail/ SWT have confirmed that as part of the Station Forecourt upgrades there will be no parking for e-scooters at the station.

#### **08 Action Plan Update**

The Clerk had updated the Action Plan for the meeting including all the changes. The Committee asked if the Plan was in the public domain, the Clerk explained that it was but a new folder on the Town Council website had been created for Climate Change to make the plan easier to locate.

#### **09 Submission for ATC Budget Workshop**

The Clerk confirmed that Budget Workshop was planned for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January. It was agreed that a meeting of the Climate Change Sub Committee be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December to identify the items to be suggested for the Budget.

10 **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 9:30am in the Town Hall.

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