

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 22nd June 2022 AT 9.30 AM
Held in the Town Hall, Market Square**

Present: Councillor Ginny Boxall
Councillor Graham Hill
Councillor Graham Titterington
John Hubbard (Energy Alton)
Phinna Brealey (ACAN)

In attendance: Leah Coney (Town Clerk)
Wendy Simson (Assistant to Town Clerk)

Apologies: None

01 Apologies for absence

All members of the Committee were present.

02 Declarations of Interest

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

03 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record.

04 Town Hall Retrofitting Update

The Town Clerk circulated a report prior to the meeting updating the Committee on progress with the current projects.

- a) **Town Hall Retrofitting Update** - The loft insulation work is completed and the mechanical extractor fans for the toilet facilities are due to be fitted. A building survey is being completed on the Town Hall. It is agreed that the invitation to tender for the windows wait until the survey report has been received as some of the window sills may need replacing.
- b) **EV Charge Points at Anstey Park and Jubilee Fields** – The supplier identified to install the charge points has not returned the calls. A trickle charge point is being installed at the Finnimore Pavilion which will allow drivers to access a small charge and allow them to get to a main charging point.
The Clerk also raised a new initiative which encourages the purchase of personal electric vehicles through a salary surrender scheme. Councillor Hill asked if the Town Council fleet of tractors and mowers could be transferred to electric but the Clerk explained that while the technology was available that large vehicles were still prohibitively expensive. The Clerk confirmed that it was the preferred option for the vans that are used by the Grounds Team when replacement is required.
- c) **E-Cargo Bike demonstrator and “Recycle your Bicycle” scheme** – The Clerk showed the Committee the new electric bicycle, which will be loaned out to residents

for a 10-day period. The Town Council have T&Cs set out and had looked at taking a deposit which the Committee agreed would be a good idea.

- d) **Cycle Hoop installation ATC Public Open Spaces** – All cycle hoops have been installed.

Councillor Hill informed the meeting that EHDC had set aside £300,000 for Climate Change Projects. A similar sum had been included in the budget for 2021/22 and very little of this had been spent but had been rolled into the current year. The fund is open to anyone but partnership bids are preferred and can be for capital or revenue support. A Panel of ten people including Cllr Hill, Cllr Burns and Cllr Boxall award the funds.

05 **Update from Energy Alton**

Energy Alton have three main projects in process under the “Powering Up” banner, these are:

- Ground source heat pumps being installed at Feddon Grange which is an old building containing 7-8 homes.
- Solar Panels on the roof at Coomers in Alton and Bordon & Whitehill
- Eggars School

The first two of these projects have limited investment from the owner of the property but are owned and managed by Bencom who then sell the electricity to the host at a cheaper rate. The third project is part of an EHDC Energy Fund and the school has contributed £40,000 for a system which produces 50KW of energy. This is part of a pilot which is being rolled out to various schools across the county.

Cllr Hill asked if solar panels could be added to the Finnimore Pavilion but the difficulty is storing the electricity once it is generated.

As part of the “Powering Down” initiatives Energy Alton are continuing to offer home surveys with 6 trained surveyors and a 7th being trained currently. A new role of Retrofit Assessor is being developed and this person would work with home owners to look at their homes at a cost of £500 per house.

Community Energy South have some funding which is to support small businesses to ensure they are energy efficient. Energy Alton are looking to start delivering this service in the Autumn and are currently looking at advertising the service and admin support.

06 **Update from ACAN**

Philippa updated the Committee on the event held recently at which 71 members of the public attended, however 80% were already known to the group and they admit that they need to identify how to get new people engaged the projects.

The Eco Streets Project has recruited Scott Gudrich who is very engaging and is helping to publicise the work being done. The work is being funded by HCC and is identifying new projects to save carbon across the town.

Young ACAN are promoting the “Back on the Rack” campaign to recycle clothing. They have also conducted a survey of attitudes about saving the environment and have identified that the young like to see tangible actions.

ACAN have applied for a grant for admin support from the Postcode lottery for £14,100 to pay for a person 20 hours a week for the next 18 months, but have not yet had a response

The Clerk had discussed the possibility of a pop-up shop/Energy Advise shop in one of the Town Council’s units. The units could be used to give information, conduct training, lend tools and equipment.

07 **Public Water Station at Jubilee Fields**

The Clerk had sent round information about free standing water stations and a design which was attached to a building, both were expensive and the Clerk suggested that a tap with a press and release button could do the same job. The committee approved this solution.

08 Other ATC Properties - 13 Market Square and 16 Market Square

The tenant at 13 Market Square has asked about installing double glazing in the unit, the Clerk has suggested that as they are not on a long lease that this is not a viable suggestion but would like to ask Energy Alton to use the business as a pilot for the small business advise support.

The tenant at 16 Market Square has given notice so the Town Council will have a vacant unit. As part of the support given by the Resilience Fund the Town Council was looking to offer advise about energy saving for those in fuel poverty. Foodbank and Citizen's advice currently rent units 15 and 17 but they will both move to the new Community Building in 18 months when it is completed so the pop-up shop would be offered for a similar timeframe. The Committee agreed this was a good use of the space and that ACAN and Energy Alton could both support the project.

09 Clean Heat Guide and Resilience Fund Leaflet (Fuel Poverty)

The cost of getting this distributed at all homes in the GU34 postcode area is £1,041, the Resilience Fund can support up to £500 and the Committee agreed to contribute the remainder. John agreed that Energy Alton could provide content.

10 Feedback from Councillor Hill Zero Carbon Britain Seminar (26th/27th May)

Cllr Hill informed the Committee that the dates had been moved to 29th and 30th June and he would report back at the next meeting.

21 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 28th September at 9:30am in the Town Hall.