

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 18th JANUARY 2023
Held in the Town Hall, Market Square**

Present: **Councillor Graham Hill
John Hubbard (Energy Alton)
Phinna Brealey (ACAN)**

In attendance: **Wendy Simson (Assistant to Town Clerk)**

The meeting is quorum however, for the items for decision relating to funding will be an indication of intent and will be taken as a delegated decision.

21 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Boxall and Titterington sent their apologies.

22 Declarations of Interest

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

23 Minutes of the last meeting

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

24 Updates:

a) **EV Charge Points at Anstey Park and Jubilee Fields** – There is no update currently.

b) **Alton Energy Advice Café** – ACAN & Energy Alton have decided to create a new branding to include the environmental information and advice being offered. A new logo has been created along with a flyer and Energy Alton have approved payment of the following items from their funds:

- A5 two-sided flyer (300)
- A1 laminated poster for A frame
- Bus shelter posters
- Vinyl wrap for hanging sign

Cllr Hill asked where the marketing materials were going to be used, the Town Council noticeboards would be used for the posters and flyers distributed at the markets, along with the library, community cupboard, through social services, medical centres and the social prescribers.

Three teracycle boxes have been installed in the Café to collect specific items which can be sent for recycling and a small refund is given for each kg returned. ACAN are looking for other locations in Alton to locate the bins and it suggested that one large bin be used, and items sorted for dispatch by volunteers. It is hoped these will drive additional footfall into the Café. The Café is also being used for other activities including a sewing group, Young ACAN meetings and training sessions.

The opening times have been amended to 10am to midday from Tuesday until Saturday each week as it believed that a consistent opening time will be earlier to communicate. Cllr Hill asked about the footfall, the numbers have been collected along with details of the reason for the visit, but this data has yet to be collated.

Cllr Hill informed the meeting that EHDC have received a letter from Veolia about installing an anaerobic digester at the site on the A31, this is to support the Government bill requiring the collection and disposal of food waste separately from general household rubbish. The change will not require any tall chimneys which did form part of the plan for incinerators on site and will reuse the existing buildings.

- c) **Hedge & Tree Planting** – ACAN have been allocated 70 fruit trees as part of a PeCAN initiative and they have been purchased at a price of £12 each by members of the public. Collection has been delayed to 11th February due to the cold conditions and will take place at Anstey Park.

ACAN are planting hedging plants at Will Hall Meadow on Saturday 28th January and 11th February, along with at Greenfields on Sunday 5th and 19th February.

25 **Small Project Funding Town Hall Shops Secondary Glazing**

Cllr Hill informed the committee that he has £650 left in his District Councillor Environmental Grant and had agreed for to allocate £1,000 to support the installation of secondary glazing in the two shop units below the Town Hall, with match funding being given from the Climate Change cost code allocated for 2022/23. Cllr Hill explained that he had also been asked by Treloar's to support a programme of buying bicycles for members of staff to get to work planned to give the £650 to this project. Cllr Hill suggested that the full £2,000 be allocated from the Climate Change Fund, both members of the Committee agreed to the action. This will therefore be recorded as an indication of intent and will be taken as a delegated decision.

26 **Update from ACAN**

In summary:

- Two Mayoral fund-raising events are being organised, they are:
 - Quiz evening – Friday 10th February
 - Vegan Food Tasting – Friday 31st March
- Eco Street Project – wildflower/bee friendly verges on Bolle Road
- Listen to the Children Project (see attached file) – launched at Community Centre on Sunday 29th January before going on tour to Guildford Zero, Petersfield Library, etc.
- Eco Fayre – Sunday 16th July in the Public Gardens
- Carr Boot Sale (with 3 Rs standing for reclaim, reuse, and recycle) at Anstey Park – possible date in September.
- Meeting with Pennie Brown and Harriet Combes on Friday 20th February to discuss Climate Community Action Funding.

27 **Update from Energy Alton**

In summary:

- The Micro Business Energy Surveys have been launched for businesses with up to 5 members of staff.
- Energy Alton are attending a Business Breakfast with EHDC
- Landlord support for actions from Energy Surveys – Energy Alton asked if the Town Council could be used as a pilot. Energique has been surveyed and there are a number of suggestions including solar panels and additional insulation. Energy Alton have identified funding from Energise South Downs, Cllr Hill agreed that the Town Council should be leading by example. The Town Hall windows, for example, needed to be

replaced with double glazed units and the funds have been allocated for the project but the Conservation Officer at EHDC had refused the plans due the building being Grade II listed and in a conservation area, it was agreed that this was counter to EHDCs Green objectives and needed to be challenged at a higher level. Cllr Hill agreed to speak to his colleagues at EHDC.

- An application has been made by Energy Alton for £60k over 2 years from the Energy Redress Fund, this is to be used for the following project which come from the home surveys:
 - A handyman to help those less able to clear lofts and lay insulation.
 - Technical help to ensure heating controls are set up correctly.
 - Project Management support for households to set up projects identified through surveys.

A summary of the support on offer is to be forward to the Clerk by 31st January and it was asked that a letter of support be written by the Town Council.

Cllr Hill asked where these funds were generated, it was explained that they came from the fines paid by large energy providers and administered by the Energy Saving Trust.

28 **East Hampshire DC Climate Change Strategy**

Councillor Hill gave a short update on the East Hampshire Local Plan, the consultation period closed on 16th January, the data will be analysed over the next 6-8 weeks. The allocation of additional sites for housing will be included in Part 2 of the process later in the year. A new approach to allocating sites is planned with a “tilted” balance towards approving sites used. The Committee asked of the Town Council response was in the public domain, Cllr Hill agreed to investigate.

Cllr Hill then gave an update on his meeting with the Green Team at EHDC, the notes circulated are:

Our new environmentally focused Green Team has announced its top ten targets to boost our battle against climate change.

As a council, we are determined to reduce our carbon emissions and limit our impact on the environment.

To help us achieve these goals we have set up a “Green Team”, a group of officers embedded across the council, and they will be working on a check list of ten top priorities.

The Action Plan, to be discussed at EHDC’s cabinet meeting on Thursday 19th January, ranges from reducing the council’s carbon footprint to zero, to helping residents and businesses with their own environmental standards.

Cllr Robert Mocatta, EHDC Portfolio Holder for the Climate Change, said: “There is so much that can be done to improve environmental performance it can feel like a daunting task. That’s why it is important to focus on the issues closest to home that we have control over and that can make the biggest difference in the shortest time. As a Council we must concentrate on our own situation, we must provide an example for others, and we must support our residents and businesses in their efforts to cut carbon and tackle climate change. This ten-point action plan doesn’t cover everything that could be done but clearly sets out our priorities and how we intend to achieve them.”

Here is the full list:

1. Support Local Action – Launch our Community Climate Action Fund and run a “Let’s Talk” community event focusing on green issues.
2. Increase East Hampshire sustainability and recycling – target waste contamination and promote recycling.
3. Help East Hampshire households increase energy efficiency – help residents find grants and provide interest-free loans for energy saving home improvements.

4. Help East Hampshire businesses increase energy efficiency – help businesses achieve net zero and become more sustainable.
5. Our Greenest Local Plan – work on zero carbon homes and encourage sustainable travel through our planning system.
6. Enhance our natural environment and improve biodiversity – develop biodiversity projects through our proposed community farm project, called Grow Up! And continue our plan to see 120,000 trees planted in East Hampshire.
7. Encourage sustainable and active transport – develop walking and cycling routes and promote electric vehicles and charging networks.
8. New, environmentally-friendly head office at New Barn – including solar panels, electric vehicles, and a workplace travel plan for staff.
9. Reduce our own carbon footprint to achieve net zero by 2050 – measure our carbon footprint, set realistic targets on carbon emissions, and ensure our leisure facilities are net zero by 2030.
10. Ensure that climate Change is embedded within the council – embed the Green Team across the council.

The Committee discussed the update and the launch of the funding to support this work. Cllr Hill informed the committee that the protocol was in place and the paperwork should be available at the end of January, applications will be open for 1 month and then reviewed and a decision made within 1 week. Energy Alton suggested an application be made to provide free insulation for homes, this has been done in the past with 5,000 rolls distributed to 500 homes. ACAN have a meeting with Pennie Brown and Harriet Combes to discuss an application to support the Energy Advice Café.

29 ATC Climate Change Small Grants Fund 2023/24

The Committee discussed the proposal at the Town Council budget workshop to allocate £10,000 to the Climate Change Sub Committee to be given as grants to support local initiatives, this was approved by the committee and recorded as an indication of intent and fed back to the Council budget setting process.

30 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 15th March at 9:30am in the Town Hall.

- A review of the Climate Change Action Plan to be included on the agenda.
- It was suggested that Pennie Brown be invited to the next meeting.