

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 26th JULY 2023
Held in the Town Hall, Market Square**

Present: Councillor Barbara Tansey (Chair)
Councillor Matthew Kellermann
Councillor Janice Treacher
Stuart Mills (Energy Alton)
Phinna Brealey (ACAN)

Apologies: Councillor Don Hammond

In attendance: Leah Coney (Town Clerk) – present to 10am
Wendy Simson (Assistant to Town Clerk)

The meeting is quorum.

1 Chairman's Announcements

Councillor Tansey welcomed the new members to the meeting, Phinna is the only remaining member of the Committee from the last meeting.

The Committee was reminded that at least three Councillors needed to be present to vote on any financial matters and only Councillors were authorised to agree any payments.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Hammond sent his apologies.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

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

4 Declarations of Interest

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

5 Questions/Representations to the Committee including those received in writing (Public Speaking)

The Clerk confirmed that no questions have been received.

6 Committee Terms of Reference

An updated version of the Terms of Reference had been circulated prior to the meeting which recorded the changes in the status of the Committee. The number of Town Councillors had increased from 3 to 4, the role of Youth Representative and Local Business Representative are vacant.

Cllr Kellermann suggested that the Local Business representative should offer a balanced perspective of how any actions by the committee would affect their organisation. Stuart suggested that Julie McLatch, Business Development Lead at EHDC, be asked for suitable candidates.

Cllr Kellermann asked what age the Youth Representative should be, given that the meetings were during the school day, the Clerk explained that the candidate should be able to reflect the views of the youth.

The Clerk suggested that an advert be included in the Altonian to fill both roles.

Cllr Tansey suggested that a representative for Active Travel, to champion cycling and walking, be included and recommended Chris Chapel from Cycle Alton for this role. It was suggested that the role be offered to other groups including Walk Alton for recommendations. Cllr Tansey asked that Treloar's be included, the Clerk asked how they would help the Town Council active their goals.

The Committee agreed that a representative from East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) be included.

On the proposal of Councillor Tansey seconded by Councillor Treacher it was:

RESOLVED to approve:

The revisions to the Committees Terms of Reference with the addition of an Active Travel Representative and an EHDC Representative, were approved by Councillor Tansey, Councillor Treacher, Stuart and Phinna, Councillor Kellermann abstained. This will be referred to Full Council for ratification.

Youth representative & Local Business representative roles to be advertised in the Altonian.

7 Climate Change Strategy Review

The Strategy and Action Plan were included with the agenda.

The Clerk informed the Committee that Winchester City Council have updated their strategy to include five areas which can be controlled by the City Council, they are:

- Energy in buildings (mainly retrofitting existing buildings)
- Energy in transport
- Renewable energy (using and buying more)
- Nature based solutions (agriculture and land use)
- Offsetting/Green Investments (where funds are invested)

Task and finish teams have been set up for each area to understand what can be achieved and is within the county control.

Councillor Kellermann asked that point 1 of the vision should be amended to say “wherever practical”, the Committee disagreed and confirmed that the Vision should remain as written.

Phinna commented that the action plan should include areas where the Town Council can't achieve a target but will lobby for higher levels of Government to act. It was agreed that the plan should be divided into two areas, those targets which the ATC would achieve and those that ATC would lobby to be achieved.

Stuart explained that calculating the reduction in carbon emission was complicated and ATC may not have access to the base data, so any targets in the action plan needed to be mindful of this.

All members of the Committee agreed that there were too many items on the Action Plan.

Councillor Kellermann asked who would be reviewing the Strategy and Action Plan, the Assistant to the Town Clerk explained that this would be completed by the Officers but asked that the Committee forward any comments.

On the proposal of Councillor Kellermann seconded by Councillor Treacher it was:

RESOLVED to approve:

The review of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the next meeting.

The Committee agreed to send any comments to the Assistant to the Town Clerk by Friday 1st September.

8 ATC Climate Change Small Grants Fund

Stuart gave the Committee summary of the application made by Energy Alton.

Councillor Kellermann asked how the funds from the Climate Change Fund would be spent as they could not be used to pay salaries, Stuart explained that he was not aware of this criteria but would forward the Committee an amended report of how funds would be spent.

Councillor Kellermann asked about the status of Energy Alton, Stuart explained that they were currently a not-for-profit Community Benefit Company but had applied for Charity status which was hoped would be in place for the new financial year.

On the proposal of Councillor Kellermann seconded by Councillor Tansey it was:

RESOLVED to approve:

Support the grant on condition of the approval of the EHDC grant and the revision of how the funds were to be spent.

9 ACAN Eco Streets – Project pression update

Phinna gave an overview of the original project which concentrated on the Whitedown Estate, a presentation was given on Friday 21st July and the Assistant to Town Clerk agreed to ask for the link to this recording and circulate to all Committee members.

Phinna explained that the next stage of the project would focus on the new estates and would use the lessons learnt from the initial project.

Councillor Kellermann asked about the project focus on youth mental health and the expertise within ACAN to support this work. Phinna explained that the Chair of ACAN, Jenny Griffiths, had a professional background of working with this area, and that she leads this part of the project.

Councillor Kellermann asked how the project success was assessed, Phinna explained that volunteers had visited homes on the Whitedown Estate and asked a series of questions at the start of the project and again at the end, responses were then compared. Phinna confirmed that it was not possible to ensure that the same people were spoken to on each occasion and some of those questioned for the end survey were disappointed that they hadn't been aware.

10 EV Charging – Instavolt

The Committee agreed that additional charging points should be created in the town.

On the proposal of Councillor Tansey seconded by Councillor Treacher it was:

RESOLVED to approve:

Officers to approach Instavolt to identify preferred locations for installation of additional EV charging points.

11 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 18th October at 9:30am in the Town Hall.