

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 7th FEBRUARY 2024
Held in the Town Hall, Market Square**

Present: Councillor Barbara Tansey (Chair)
Councillor Don Hammond
Councillor Matthew Kellermann
Councillor Janice Treacher
Stuart Mills (Energy Alton)
Phinna Brealey (ACAN)
Erdogan Ornek (Youth Representative)
Janos Huszar (Potential Business Representative)

Apologies: Chris Chappell (Active Travel Representative)

In attendance: Wendy Simson (Assistant to Town Clerk)
Jenny Griffiths (Chair of ACAN)

The meeting is quorum.

23 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting and asked that each member introduce themselves and what their vision for the Committee was.

24 Apologies for absence

Chris Chappell sent her apologies.

25 Declarations of Interest

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

26 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2023 were agreed as a true record. Cllr Kellermann proposed that they are approved, Cllr Hammond, seconded this, the Committee approved the minutes.

27 Questions/Representation to the Committee

The Assistant to the Clerk informed the Committee that there had been no questions received prior to the meeting.

28 ACAN Update

Biodiversity presentation, AVALN's Greening Project.

The Chair welcomed Jenny Griffiths, Chair of Alton Climate Action Network (ACAN) to the meeting.

Jenny gave a presentation detailing the work of Alton & Village Local Action for Nature (AVLAN) and the plans for the Alton Greening Project which looks to encourage residents to add their open spaces to the map with a pledge to improve the biodiversity. AVLAN are looking to link these open spaces to improve the nature corridors.

Cllr Treacher asked how AVLAN planned to encourage residents to plant hedges to form the corridors for wildlife?

Jenny explained that as part of the “Fruit tree for every garden” project in conjunction with PeCAN, 3110 hedging plants were being distributed on 24th February. Phinna suggested that where it wasn’t feasible to take out fences that shrubs should be planted against the fence to facilitate the movement of wildlife.

Eco Street Project Update

Jenny gave a summary of the work carried out as part of the Eco Streets Project which include:

- Engaging with residents
- Creating wildflower verges
- Talks
- Litter picks
- Swift nesting boxes
- Listen to the Children Project
- Green benches

Jenny thanked the Town Council for their support with the ongoing project which is continuing to develop onto the new estates including the brewery site.

29 Climate Change Action Plan

Cllr Hammond circulated a new version of the Action Plan which removes the history of actions, this will be kept on the old format for reference where needed. It was suggested that the person who will be responsible for keep any actions up to be added, this was approved.

The Committee asked if the plan could be kept somewhere where all Committee members could have access to it.

Action: WS to investigate with IT provider.

a. ATC Transport and carbon emissions

Chris was not at the meeting but had sent a report detailing the current annual carbon emissions from the three vehicles, two tractors and various pieces of machinery used by the Town Council Grounds Team. The fleet current produces 19 tons of carbon a year. The report investigated transferring diesel to HVO, this was concluded to be a red herring and would not be pursued.

The three vehicles (two vans and a pickup) will be due to be replaced in the next 3-5 years. The cost of electric replacements was estimated at £50,000 and was predicted to save 10 tons of carbon each year.

The remainder of the carbon emissions was to be offset planting trees and hedges; this would then allow ATC to become carbon neutral for its vehicles by 2030.

NEXT STEPS: The Climate Change Committee agreed to meet with other Councils who have already purchased similar electric vehicles to understand any issues, the example given was Eastleigh which has just purchased two electric vans.

b. Retrofitting Town Hall and Assembly Rooms

Cllr Hammond informed the Committee that all the properties owned by ATC have been divided into three categories, they are:

- Category 1: **Buildings and Installations under the direct control and management of ATC and/or where ATC is responsible for the fabric of rented properties.**
- Category 2: **Buildings leased so not under the direct control of ATC. Tenants are responsible for repair and maintenance of the fabric.**

- **Category 3: These are buildings near the end of their life and due for replacement. Energy improvements would not be cost-effective.**

It is suggested that the Climate Change Committee concentrate on the category 1 buildings using the information in the Carbon Footprint Assessment completed in 2018/19 by Expert Energy and in the 2021 report prepared by Basingstoke Energy Services.

A phased approach is suggested with the following actions:

Town Hall

- Wall insulation – this is not permitted.
- Secondary glazing across the whole building including retail units – this should reduce energy consumption by 10%, the Mitchell & Dickinson quote will give detailed breakdown of savings.
- Heating system – this is currently a gas boiler and will not be replaced until needed. However, a ground source heat pump is the best option for replacing and investigation work to be started to ensure when needed the Town Council have information.

Assembly Rooms

- Wall insulation – to investigate as one of the reports shows there is a cavity.
- Windows – as above
- Heating system – this is a newish gas boiler, so no action currently required.
- Replacement lighting to LEDs – Dementia Friends have a grant to complete this work.

Finnimore Pavilion

- Heating system - Stuart explained that he has details of a specialist company who can look at the heat pump as this has never worked effectively.
- Hot water – this is currently produced by a gas boiler, this needs to be reviewed when need to replace.
- Insulation – a few small areas can be upgraded plus there are some pipes which can be insulated.

Jubilee Bungalows

- Heating system – currently oil fired boiler system but change to air source heat pump, this would be eligible for the Government grant (£7,500 for each heat pump) and so total estimated cost of all proposed works, including insulation, would be approximately £8,500 for each property.
- Insulation – for loft, floor and wall cavities

Kings Arms

- The current tenant has had an Energy Alton survey completed and is working on actions and accessing grants where needed.

Edgar Hall

- The tenants (Mens Shed plus new co-tenant) are motivated to follow the same route as the Kings Arms, ie applying for funding to upgrade energy efficiency of the building.

Energique

- The business owner is reluctant to put solar panels on the roof despite high electricity costs. A self-funded model would take 5 years to pay back but a Community Energy option would be free to the business owner and allow energy to be purchased at a reduced unit rate (around 20p/unit, current rate around 28p/unit).

NEXT STEPS:

- ATC to request formal meeting with Business Owner at Energique.
- Meeting heat pump specialist at Finnimore Pavilion.
- Identify drawings, manuals, etc for heat pump at Finnimore Pavilion.

- Quotes for loft and wall insulation at Jubilee Bungalows.
- Investigate ground source heat pump for Town Hall.

c. VCSE Energy Efficiency Grant

The links to the VCSE Energy Efficiency grant are:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vcse-energy-efficiency-scheme> - gov't info
- <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/vcseenergyefficiency/> - criteria and application etc

d. Retrofit of 3 retail spaces and refurb of No. 16 as community space.

Cllr Tansey updated the Committee that Mitchell and Dickinson have visited the three units and are going to provide a quote for the secondary glazing.

The ATC Neighbourhood CIL funding includes £5,000 for the secondary glazing in unit 16 which is planned to be a community space.

e. EV charging Update

Cllr Kellermann informed the Committee that he had spoken to four companies, and none were interested in installing at the two locations identified. They would like to talk to EHDC about the opportunity to install stations in the car parks in town.

The new Lidl is installing charging stations in their carpark.

Cllr Tansey has been approached by the Alton Maltings about installing charging points in their carpark, it was agreed that the information gathered could be passed on.

30 District Council Update

EHDC are refreshing its Climate and Environment Strategy. At the moment it is proposed to go to Full Council on 21st March. This strategy will set out the council's vision and approach to climate change action and identifies five strategic priorities, focussing on where we can locally make the biggest impact collectively. This includes working with stakeholders such as yourselves and ACAN. The five *proposed* Strategic priorities are below. A key piece of evidence that has supported these was the impactful report from PECAN and ACAN developed on district wide emissions, this highlighting where we should prioritise action to reduce GHG emissions.

1. Net Zero Council – By 2035 to be a Carbon Zero Council with climate and environment priorities embedded across all council services.
2. Green Communities and Resilience – Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from our communities with strengthened community climate resilience.
3. Travel and Transport – Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from transport in East Hampshire
4. Energy – Reduced energy consumption from the built environment. Increased renewable energy generation and storage.
5. Natural Environment – Conserved and enhanced natural environment.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 29th May 2024 at 9:30am