

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD APRIL 2025
Held in the Town Hall, Market Square

Present: **Councillor Barbara Tansey (Chair)**
 Councillor Don Hammond
 Councillor Janice Treacher
 Rod Painell (ACAN)
 Chris Chappell (Active Travel Representative)
 Kevin Ray (Energy Alton)

In attendance: **Hayley Carter (Deputy Clerk)**

72 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.
Due to connection problems the meeting were unable to launch Zoom in order for Pennie Brown to join the meeting. Pennie had emailed to say she had tried to join and sent her report through in writing (see item 6 below) and Hayley replied to offer apologies and explain the connection problems.

73 Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received in advance of the meeting.

74 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded members of their obligation to disclose any pecuniary interest in items on the agenda.
No declarations were made.

75 Minutes of the last meeting

On the proposal of Don Hammond, seconded by Kevin Ray, with all voting in favour, the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2025 were agreed as a true record. The Deputy Clerk provided a set of minutes for signature.

Ref.	Action	Person responsible	Date due
Invitees	Include John Hubbard on invite list	Wendy	Completed
Business Representative	Draft advert for Business Representative role for Altonian.	Wendy	WS sent to chair for comment.
Youth Representative	Include Scott Gudrich on the invite list for future meetings.	Wendy	Completed
ATC machinery	Meeting with Clerk & Head Groundsman to discuss electric tools	Cllr Hammond	Completed
Green Audit	Review carbon use against baseline	Cllr Hammond	In progress

Assembly Rooms	Redo Energy Survey including the Power Up tool to look at solar opportunities.	Kevin & John	Report with Karen (DFA) – HC to request copy and circulate.
Jubilee Bungalows	Check if insulation has been fitted and if not apply for grant for insulation	Wendy	In progress
Jubilee Bungalows	Identify grants for heat pumps at Jubilee Bungalows	Wendy	On hold
Action Plan	Add action against all ATC properties	Wendy	In progress
Rugby Club	Invite representative to give an update on the solar panel project	Wendy	See note below
Finnimore Pavilion	Assess possibility of solar panels for roof	Kevin	See note below
16 Market Square	Replace insulation for door	Wendy	Awaiting door lock replacement. 23.07.25
Energique	Offer a review of the Energise South Downs proposal to see if needs have changed.	Cllr Hammond / WS	Progressing with Wendy
Water fountains	Identify units which are tamper proof to prevent vandalism	Rod	See note below
King's Pond bungalows	Draft letter to tenants to offer a energy survey	Wendy	Letter sent. No reply.
Carbon Sequestration	Report to Committee any further tree and hedge planting opportunities	Cllr Treacher	HC to circulate locations of trees planted. Further applications can be made later in the year.
Cycle parking	Review cycle parking at all ATC properties	Chair & Chris	No update

76 Questions / Representations to the Committee

Grant to Alton Allotments Association

Marcus Van Hagen, Chair of the Alton Allotments Association, came to speak about their grant application. He explained that the environment is very important to them and as equipment is necessary for working the allotments and many people who, due to age, ability or fitness are unable to use many manual tools, find power tools a necessity. In order to reduce the environmental impact of these, they would like to look at how they can provide an alternative and implement a solar energy power source on each site for people to charge batteries for electric tools. The idea is to trial it on one site, with a view to rolling out to all sites if it is successful.

Cost varies from £1,200 for a very basic solution, to £15,000. The very simple solution would maybe charge one or two batteries at a time and could take around 2 hours to charge. This

would not meet the needs of a site where multiple people may want to use it at any one time. They need to be able to manage the batteries and charging capacity.

The solution they have found would cost £2,500, which would be solar panels on top of a shipping container – 5 charging points would be inside the container, so that tools are secure while charging. Towards the project they have requested £1,000 from the Climate Change Committee, and have match funded £1,000. They are £500 short but believe they could raise this from coffee mornings and so on.

Thus, on the proposal of Rod Painell, seconded by Chris Chappell and with all voting in favour, it was agreed to grant £1,000 towards the project.

Powers for the grant come from S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Grant to Alton Social Bowling Club

On the proposal of Chris Chappell, seconded by Don Hammond, with all voting in favour, it was agreed to grant £1,000 towards a £10,870 solar panels project for Alton Social Bowling Club.

Powers for the grant come from S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

77 District Council Update

Report submitted via email:

1. **Air Quality** – EHDC is still producing its Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) for DEFRA. An Air Quality Strategy will be developed this year
2. **EV infrastructure** - High level feasibility has been carried out on EHDC car parks across the district. Proposals are being considered internally. No further action to report on this. High level indication does not show much viability in Alton carparks from the private sector partner we have engaged with. We are trying to understand HCC plans on the LEVI funding where there maybe more opportunity for installation of EV charging points.
3. **Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF)** – Over the past two years, the Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF) has allocated £250,000 to support 29 community-led environmental projects. A new round of funding, supported by Councillor Grants—with £3,000 allocated per councillor in this year's budget for green initiatives—will be launched in Autumn. For further details about CCAF, please visit: <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/climate/community-climate-action-fund>. To be notified when the fund reopens and to receive updates on climate and environmental initiatives, sign up to our mailing list: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UK EHDC/signup/38081>
4. **Communications:** We continue to progress on our climate change communications plan with our Green Steps bulletins - residents can sign up to these monthly bulletins on this link: <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/climate/green-steps-bulletins> – if Alton TC or other stakeholders have any points they think will be useful to be included, please let Pennie Brown know. We are keen to link local action to wider climate and environment messages

With regard the 20mph limit extension in the town, the Deputy Clerk confirmed that an informal chat between Cllr Hill, County Councillor Joy, herself, members of the former Community Speedwatch committee and members of the Holybourne Village Association was scheduled to take place on Friday to take the first steps on progressing this. It was the opinion of Cllr Hammond that this should not be a project for the Climate Change Committee, but the Chair requested that it remain an item on the agenda so the committee be kept updated.

78 Actions of Climate Change Action Plan

The Chair explained that she would meet with Wendy to update what they could, including the initials of people with responsibility for each task. She reminded committee members to update completed tasks directly onto the Action Plan.

Aim 1**ATC Transport & Carbon Emissions**

Cllr Hammond met with the Clerk and Head Groundsman to discuss electric tools and was impressed that the Head Groundsman was more open to the idea than expected. He had done his homework and sought quotes for electric equipment that would meet their needs. There is still some scepticism that the battery power is not there, but it was agreed that ATC would purchase a hedge trimmer, a blower and a strimmer along with two battery packs. The batteries would be carried in a backpack and each piece of equipment would plug into it. The idea is to trial it in areas where smaller amounts of work are required and the reduction in noise would be a benefit, such as the Public Gardens. Evaluation of the trial will enable decisions to be taken as to whether battery operated equipment can be used elsewhere.

Retrofitting ATC buildings

Jubilee Bungalows – The insulation has not yet been fitted due to the roof repairs being undertaken first, but approval to fit it was given at Full Council on 4th September 2024. The Assistant to the Town Clerk has obtained updates to quotes and is in the process of arranging the work.

Kings Pond Bungalows – A letter was sent to offer the energy survey but there has been no response. The Chair indicated that she knows the tenants and would have an informal chat.

Retrofitting properties - Town Hall – an application for Neighbourhood CIL was successful at the beginning of the year and so the project to fit secondary glazing, new thermal blinds, roof and guttering repairs and repainting the building is going ahead over the coming months.

Challenge Statement issued by Innovation Exchange – this was issued, inviting bids for innovative renewable energy solutions to replace the boiler at Alton Town Hall bearing in mind its grade II listed building status and setting. Solutions should be presented on 24th July. Kevin Ray asked to be invited to hear the solutions. Chris Chappell asked that heat be set to 21°C rather than 22°C as that saves money and energy.

Rugby Club and community buildings – The Rugby Club were awarded £8,000 towards solar panels from the Community Climate Action Fund from EHDC but need to find more funding. It was suggested they be invited to be part of a bigger project to install solar on various buildings around the town as part of a bigger project for Energise South Downs. Kevin agreed to invite Catriona from Energise South Downs to a meeting with representatives of each building that may be interested, including Finnimore Pavilion, with other possibles being Men's Shed (although they may already have it in hand), Indoor Bowls, Hawkins HQ (Guides), Scout huts, Royal British Legion and the Cadets building. Once that has been done Wendy should get three quotes for solar panels as appropriate (definitely for Finnimore) – Energy Alton will send contact details for companies to quote.

Energique – Solar panel installation going ahead through Energise South Downs – the project is currently at the investigation stage, working out if the roof is robust enough to take them, etc.

Jubilee Pavilions – The Deputy Clerk gave an update on the pavilion refurbishment, highlighting that solar panels, rainwater harvesting and possibly heat pumps had been included in the plans, as well as better insulation through the recladding and lining of the walls.

Carbon Sequestration from planting trees and Hedges

Cllr Treacher asked that full information on what had been planted so far be circulated and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that photos and What3words locations of all trees had been sent to HCC as all the trees had been received free of charge from the Hampshire Forest Partnership. She agreed to circulate the forms to the Climate Change Committee for information.

Hedging

- Jubilee 420 (grounds team on 27th November 2024)
- Whitedown 420 (grounds team on 11th December 2024)
- Anstey Park 420 (planted by Eggars School with Grounds Team support)
- Kings Pond 120 (Friends of Kings Pond on 11th December 2024)

Trees

- Jubilee - 6 planted to form new small copse adjacent to skate park planted before Christmas
- Anstey Park - 9 planted along London Road railings.
- The Butts 1 (Hornbeam to replace the Horse Chestnut that has been felled) – yet to be planted.
- 40 feathers and an additional 6 standard trees were collected on Tuesday 21st January for Flood Meadows, Will Hall Meadow & Windmill Hill.

Replacement of ‘In Bloom’ schemes with environmentally sustainable alternatives around the town

Postponed due to the resignation of Emily Messenger, as the Deputy Clerk confirmed any recruitment would not take place until after the new Town Clerk starts at the end of June.

Aim 2

Wayfinding

Hayley agreed to meet with Chris to go through what permissions / licences would be required to affix signage to street lamps.

Promotion of waste reduction

ACAN is not currently pursuing ‘Plastic Free Alton’ in collaboration with ‘Surfers against Sewage’ as previously discussed.

Community Events

Energy Alton would like to increase their presence and would therefore like to have a stall at any events they can. Hayley agreed to organise for a stall at the Spring Garden Fayre and would advise what other events are going on in the town that they might like a presence at. These events include:

- 8th June – Community Big Lunch, Public Gardens (ATC event)
- 14th June – Pirates in the Park (Alton Lions)
- 6th July – Thank You Day – Anstey Park (Third party event)
- 13th July – Vehicle Show and Family Fun Day – Anstey Park (Third party event)
- 1st August – Vegan Princess Festival – Public Gardens (Vegan Sparkle Events)

Water Fountains

Rod has been looking for tamper-proof models that can be used in the Public Gardens and at Jubilee Playing field. Hayley agreed to investigate the possibility of including in the project

plans for the refurbishment of the pavilions at Jubilee Fields, whether one could go at Finnimore Pavilion and if there was a suitable location near the Public Gardens. Any taps would need to turn themselves off and be vandal-proof to prevent people jamming them on in order to waste water. They would need good signage and publicity.

79 Updates on Climate Change Action Plan

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) – Chris shared that maps have been produced showing where they would like to put the cycle routes but there is still research needed to see if they are feasible. If not other routes will need to be found. ATC to explore feasibility studies and get quotes. Contacts are in Cycle Alton's report.

80 ACAN Update

Waste reduction

As they felt the 'Plastic Free Alton' was far too limiting, ACAN are therefore looking at a far broader spectrum, engaging with businesses in the town to agree to reduce waste and reduce their carbon footprint. It was felt the bigger chains already have some kind of strategy in place so the priority should be the smaller independent businesses. They were in discussions with Pennie Brown to look at getting a paid consultant to take this forward. They are currently looking at what funding is available to pay for 15 hours of consultant time.

81 Review of Terms of Reference

On the proposal of Barbara Tansey, seconded by Don Hammond, with all voting in favour, it was agreed not to make any amendments to the Terms of Reference for the committee.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 23rd July 2025 at 9:30am to 11:30am

Minutes signed as a true record of the meeting _____ 23.07.2025

Ref.	Action	Person responsible	Date due
Clubs with premises	Draw up and circulate a list of clubs in the town with their own premises for approaching about solar panels	Wendy	23.07.25
Business Representative	Draft advert for Business Representative role for Altonian.	Wendy to chase response from Chair	23.07.25
Town Hall boiler	Kevin Ray to be invited to hear the presentations when solutions are being presented.	Wendy	24.07.25?
Trees	Circulate monitoring forms sent to HCC for information and confirm where all planting done	Hayley	23.07.25
Carbon Sequestration	Report to Committee any further tree and hedge planting opportunities for when free trees are next available	Cllr Treacher	23.07.25
Energise South Downs	Invite Catriona to assess selected buildings in the town and attend a meeting with representatives as appropriate.	Kevin	23.07.25
Finnimore Pavilion	Obtain quotes for solar panels	Wendy	23.07.25
16 Market Square	Replace insulation around the door	Wendy	23.07.25

Water fountains	Identify units which are tamper proof to prevent vandalism. Taps must not be able to be left turned on either. Look at possibility of getting one placed at Jubilee pavilions, Finnimore and see if there is a suitable location near the Public Gardens.	Rod to provide details of the tamper-proof tap, Hayley / Wendy to look at locations	23.07.25
Wayfinding	Identify licences and permissions required to affix signage to street lamps etc	Hayley & Chris Chappell to meet	23.07.25
LCWIP	Get quotes for feasibility studies and look for funding	Wendy	23.07.25