

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 22nd OCTOBER 2025
Held in the Chamber, Alton Town Hall

Present: Councillor Barbara Tansey (Chair)
Councillor Don Hammond
Councillor Janice Treacher
Scott Gudrich – (Youth Representative) - remotely
Kevin Ray (Energy Alton)
Pennie Brown (EHDC) - remotely
Rod Painell (ACAN)

Apologies: Chris Chappell (Active Travel Representative)

In attendance: Wendy Simson (Assistant to Clerk)

91 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.
Scott Gudrich and Pennie Brown joined the meeting via Teams. Pennie explained that she would need to step away from the meeting to join a meeting at EHDC. Scott explained that he was unwell so decided to join remotely.

92 Apologies for absence

Chris Chappell sent apologies prior to the meeting.

93 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded members of their obligation to disclose any pecuniary interest in items on the agenda.

94 Minutes of the last meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Treacher, seconded by Cllr Hammond, with all voting in favour, the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2025 were agreed as a true record. The Assistant to the Clerk provided a set of minutes for signature.

Ref.	Action	Person responsible	Date due
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 - to be included in Jubilee Pavilion project as test.	Rod Painell.	Complete
Wayfinding	Identify licences and permissions required to affix signage to streetlamps etc	Chris Chappell	Completed

Business representative	Post advert in on-line Altonian and on website – completed, no responses	Wendy	Complete
Treloar Grant	Introduce Energise South Downs to Karen at Treloar's	Barbara	Completed
ACAN Grant	Additional questions to be supplied by Energy Alton and the Chair.- on agenda as part of ACAN update	Kevin Ray	Completed
ACAN Grant	Agreement confirmed to share data – Update at next meeting	Kevin Ray	21.01.26
Assembly Rooms Survey	Arrange feedback meeting with tenant, and ATC to discuss next steps.	Kevin Ray	Completed
Finnimore	Speak to Energise South Downs to progress this solar panel project – Catriona has been unavailable so carry forward	Kevin Ray	21.01.26
Will Hall Meadow	Information board for start of river Wey being funded by CIL grant through Residents of Amery Hill – carry forward	Janice	21.01.26
Cycle storage	Positions of cycle hoops to replace the cycle planters on the High Street to be agreed	Barbara	Completed
Cycle storage	Permission to install cycle hoops on the High Street from HCC – Hayley emailing Alexa Rees, Highways Support Officer (Highwaylicences.and.encroachments@hants.gov.uk) Update at next meeting.	Hayley	21.01.26
Hedgehog signs	Speak to Cllr Andrew Joy and the Herald about signs to indicate hedgehogs crossing – carry forward	Scott	21.01.26

95 Questions / Representations to the Committee

There were no questions from the Public.

96 EHDC Update

The Community Climate Action Fund

Application for the fund closed on 13th September: Total applications received: 29, Total Funding Requested: £285,234, Total to allocate: £129,000. Successful projects will be announced in November.

LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) Funding

HCC received just over £6 million from Department for Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund. HCC are currently out for contract for one operator for charging network across the county. They could be install by May next year but to be confirmed.

More information and the contact at HCC can be found on this link: <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=3893>.

The Chair asked if the project covered on street, residential and high streets with EV travel hubs in community car parks? Pennie confirmed that all these sites were included and that they would not need to be on Council owned land.

Local Government Reorganisation

EHDC submitted a proposal to create a Unitary Council with Hart, Basingstoke & Deane, Rushmore and Winchester to Central Government on 26th September. Feedback is expected in March 2026. More information:

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation>

Warmer homes

Residents can sign up here: <https://www.warmerhomes.org.uk/register-interest>

97 Young ACAN Update

Scott gave an update on the Community Engagement meeting it was well attended but most were already involved with ACAN on some level.

The film about waste created by Young ACAN is being shown at Goldfinches on Thursday 23rd October. All 70 tickets have been sold.

The new Young ACAN Project is called “All About Food” and this will be the main focus of the Conference at the end of January 2026. All schools have changed their catering suppliers, and the new companies are engaged to ensure the food they provide is more sustainable.

98 Actions of Climate Change Action Plan

The action plan has been updated.

Aim 1

Report on electric tools for Grounds Team – Cllr Hammond informed the meeting that he had met with the Head Groundsman who explained that the team who work in the Public Gardens used the tool regularly and were happy with the performance. Some of the tools are more efficient than others and there may an opportunity to purchase different tools in the future. All tool currently being piloted are only suitable for light work in the Public Gardens.

Insulation for door to 16 Market Square – The Assistant to the Clerk informed the Committee that Mitchell & Dickinson had installed insulation on all the doors as part of the refurbishment.

Challenge Statement for replacement boiler for Town Hall – The Chair informed the Committee that 2 of the companies who presented on 24th July had been invited to tender for the project. Responses were due to be received by the end of October ready for Budget Workshop. It is planned that budget provision be allocated in the 2026/27 financial year. The Chair asked if the quotes could be circulated to the Climate Change Committee when received.

Refurbishment of the Town Hall – The Assistant to the Clerk explained that the new thermal blinds are being fitted on Friday 24th October, with blackout in the Chamber and paler versions in the office to allow light but reduce glare.

Insulation at Jubilee Bungalows – This has been completed including a small deck area to allow the residents to store items in the loft.

Jubilee Pavilion Project – The plans are in place, and the Deputy Clerk is applying to access the £288,000 S106 funding allocated to support the project.

Solar Panel for Finnimore Pavilion – Kevin explained that this building fits the Energise South Downs model with all the solar energy produced being used in the building. Catriona has been unavailable recently so progress with this building has not been made.

Solar Panels for Energique – The lease between Energise South Down and Alton Town Council has been approved, and fitting was due to start on Monday 20th October.

List of other buildings owned by the Town Council as potential solar sites – The list of the other buildings owned by Alton Town Council which do not currently have solar panels was circulated and discussed.

The Chair approached the Bowls Club in the Public Gardens, they will contact Energy Alton for an energy survey and funding option to purchase solar panels.

Chawton Indoor Bowls Club and Esteem Ironing were identified as possible candidates for ESD as they both have high energy use. The Assistant to the Clerk agreed to contact both and ask for annual energy use to follow up with Energise South Downs.

The solar panels at the Rugby Club are being fitted on 24th October.

The Assistant to the Clerk asked for an update on the solar panel at Wooteys Allotments, following the meeting a report was received and has been forwarded to all members of the Climate Change Committee, an overview of the reports is:

The Alton Allotment Association (AAA) are grateful for the £1,000 grant and have been successful in match funding of a further £1,000. The allocated funds for this project are £2,000. We have two quotes (attached) from local sources and unfortunately the costs are far higher than anticipated. We are seeking a third quote, and the overall view is that most organisations deem the project too small for interest. The impact has caused delay as we consider the options to allocate further funds and obtain a third quote. There may be a consideration to review the equipment needed as we progress and learn through this project. The capacity of the allocated members of the AAA working on this project is limited as they have other commitments. It is our intention to have a decision on the appropriate supplier in time to fully bring a working solution in time for spring 2026.

Carbon sequestration through tree and hedge planting – Cllr Treacher informed the Committee that Hampshire Forestry Partnership are offering up to 20 Disease Resilient Elm across 6 varieties Ulmus adamuz, lutece, rebona, new horizon, fiorente and wingham. The Woodland Trust are also offering hedging plants. The Committee agreed that all 20 Disease Resilient Elm and three packs of hedging would be sufficient.

Cllr Treacher would like a willow to add to Will Hall Meadows and the Chair suggested that an East Hampshire District Councillor Grant could cover the cost of this. Three picnic benches and two normal benches are also required for Anstey Park, Cllr Treacher suggested that the Climate Change Committee take this as a project and fund from the allocation made in the budget.

Management of Will Hall Meadow with cattle – The Chair informed the Committee that there had been concerns raised by the residents of Hopfield's about this project. Cycle Alton were working on how to ensure that the path through Will Hall Meadow could remain a cycle route.

Update map and signage for walking and cycling – Copies of the new walking & cycling map were available at the meeting.

The Assistant to the Clerk had received the samples of the stickers which are to be used to direct walkers and cyclists through the town, these were given to the Chair.

The Chair explained that the launch of the new map would be in the spring once the stickers have been installed.

Additional and replacement cycle hoops are being installed in the town. Most are on Alton Town Council and will be installed by the Grounds Team. Three sets are on the High Street and require a S115 agreement from Hampshire County Council at a cost of £750 to locate the hoops on the pavements. A S171 agreement is required to cover the installation. Hampshire have explained that both these agreements take some time to process. These costs are covered by the grant.

Promote Electric vehicles

Kevin informed the Committee that the Classic Car Show had been a success and there was lots of interest particularly in the electric motorbike.

99 Update from ACAN

Rod informed the Committee that the Coming Together Event was a success and new projects including rebranding and a new logo are being discussed.

All the “CANs” from across Hampshire are looking to join to create a “Voice of Climate and Nature” group. This new group will create a 5-year strategy for across the County.

The Chair asked for an update on the survey of small businesses for which a grant of £1,000 was given by the Climate Change Committee. Rod shared the Terms of Reference for the project and explained that they were looking to recruit a consultant to complete the 40-50 hours required for the task. ACAN’s next meeting is on 19th November, and a full update will be given at the next Climate Change meeting in January.

100 LCWIP Update

The Chair informed the Committee that two routes are being focused on, the Basingstoke Road route which Chris is heading up and the High Street which the Chair is looking at.

Cycle Alton are looking to reduce the vehicles on the High Street and previous engagement with the public indicated support to trailing this.

101 Energy Alton Update

Kevin asked the Committee for support with marketing Energy Alton and in particular the Energy Surveys that they offer to the community. The group had several marketing options which Kevin agreed to follow up and report at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11:30am.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 9:30am to 11:30am

- Rod sent his apologies for the next meeting but agreed to get another member of ACAN to attend in his place.

Minutes signed as a true record of the meeting _____ 21.01.26

Ref.	Action	Person responsible	Date due
ACAN Grant	Update on Energy Alton Survey results	Kevin Ray	21.01.26
Finnimore	Speak with Energise South Downs to progress this solar panel project	Kevin Ray	21.01.26
Will Hall Meadow	Information board for start of river Wey being funded by CIL grant through Residents of Amery Hill	Janice Treacher	21.01.26
Cycle storage	Permission to install cycle hoops on the High Street from HCC - Hayley emailing Alexa Rees, Highways Support Officer (Highwaylicences.and.encroachments@hants.gov.uk) Licences to be purchased the grant expires at end of December 2025.	Hayley & Barbara	30.11.25

Hedgehog signs	Speak to Cllr Andrew Joy and the Herald about signs to indicate hedgehogs crossing	Scott	21.01.26
Solar Panels	Contact Chawton Indoor Bowls and Esteem Ironing for annual energy use for discussion with Energise South Downs	Wendy	21.01.26
Trees & benches	Order 20 free Disease Resilient Elm and three packs of hedging	Wendy	21.01.26
Trees & benches	Confirm planting locations for trees and sites for benches with Head Groundsman	Cllr Treacher	21.01.26
Trees & benches	Price up a willow tree and benches	Chair & Cllr Treacher	21.01.26
Water Fountains	Talk to Binstead Parish Council about the tap they have installed and if it is tamper proof	Wendy	21.01.26
Committee vacancy	Discussion with any suitable candidates about joining the Climate Change Committee as the business Representative	Sll Committee Members	21.01.26
ACAN Grant	Update on grant for next meeting as Rod is not able to attend	ACAN Rep	21.01.26
Solar Panels	Update on fitting of Solar Panels at Energique and Rugby Club	Kevin & Wendy	21.01.26
Allotments	Chairman of Allotment Association to be invited to join the April meeting	Wendy	22.04.26