

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD JULY 2025
Held in the Harry Baker Pavilion, Jubilee Playing Fields**

Present: **Councillor Barbara Tansey (Chair)**
 Councillor Don Hammond
 Councillor Janice Treacher
 Scott Gudrich – (Youth Representative)
 Kevin Ray (Energy Alton)
 Pennie Brown (EHDC)
 1 member of the public

Apologies: **Rod Painell (ACAN)**
 Chris Chappell (Active Travel Representative)

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

The Deputy Clerk gave the Climate Change Committee a tour of the Harry Baker Pavillion and explained the work planned. This may include solar panels if the survey finds that the roof structure is strong enough to hold the panels. It may also include a heat pump, water harvesting system and improved insulation.

82 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.
Scott Gudrich joined the meeting and gave the Committee a brief introduction of his work with schools through Young ACAN.
The Business Representative advert was approved, the Chair asked that this be posted on the Town Council website and in the on-line Altonian.
The Committee asked that thanks to John Hubbard be recorded for the work done to support the Climate Change agenda in Alton.

83 Apologies for absence

Chris Chappel and Rod Painell both sent apologies prior to the meeting.

84 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded members of their obligation to disclose any pecuniary interest in items on the agenda.
Scott declared his interest in ACAN and would not vote on the grant application by ACAN.

85 Minutes of the last meeting

On the proposal of Don Hammond, seconded by Janice Treacher, with all voting in favour, the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 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
Clubs with premises	Draw up and circulate a list of clubs in the town with their own premises for approaching about solar panels - completed	Wendy	23.07.25
Business Representative	Draft advert for Business Representative role for Altonian. - completed	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. - completed	Wendy	24.07.25?
Trees	Circulate monitoring forms sent to HCC for information and confirm where all planting done - completed	Hayley	23.07.25
Carbon Sequestration	Report to Committee any further tree and hedge planting opportunities for when free trees are next available – on agenda	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. - completed	Kevin	23.07.25
Finnimore Pavilion	Obtain quotes for solar panels – included with Energise South Downs list of possible buildings.	Wendy	23.07.25
16 Market Square	Replace insulation around the door - completed	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. - ongoing	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 streetlamps etc - ongoing	Hayley & Chris Chappell to meet	23.07.25
LCWIP	Get quotes for feasibility studies and look for funding – funding identified for cycle routes and project details to be sketched ready for funding streams open.	Wendy	23.07.25

86 Questions / Representations to the Committee

Grant to Treloar's for a contribution towards solar panels

The Committee discussed the application and agreed that support should be given in the form of an introduction to Energise South Downs. At a recent meeting Catriona asked about other building in Alton where energy use was high and Treloar would meet these criteria. The Chair agreed to arrange an introduction between Karen Dawson from Treloar and Energise South Downs.

Grant to ACAN for a survey of small businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.

The Committee agreed to support the project with the follow provisos:

- An estimate of number of business to be contacted to be provided.
- Report on survey findings within 6-12 months of grant being claimed.
- Written report to be acted on within 12 months of completion of survey.

- Share the findings with Economic Development Team at EHDC, Climate Change Committee and Energy Alton.

[Resolution: The grant was proposed by Janice Treacher and seconded by Don Hammond once actions completed.](#)

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

87 Actions of Climate Change Action Plan

The Chair explained that she had meet with Wendy to update the action plan after the last meeting. She reminded committee members to update completed tasks directly onto the Action Plan.

Aim 1

Review carbon use against baseline – this has been completed and the buildings occupied by the Town Council are continuing to decline or remain stable. The Town Hall electricity use has decreased every year from 2019.

Report on electric tools for Grounds Team – A list of tools and batteries has been created from Stihl. The Head Groundsman recently attended a meeting where electric tools were demonstrated and plans to pilot the electric blower, brush cutter and hedge trimmer in the Public Gardens where noise and fumes can be an issue. The Committee agreed on this course and asked that an order be placed for the new items.

Insulation for door to 16 Market Square – The Assistant to the Clerk informed the Committee that this has been done where possible. The door is a tight fit, so it was not possible to install on all sides.

Energy Survey for the Assembly Rooms – The survey has been completed and shared with the tenant. The Chair asked that a feedback meeting to discuss next step be booked with the tenant, Energy Alton and the Chair agreed to attend on behalf of the Town Council.

Challenge Statement for replacement boiler for Town Hall – The Chair informed the Committee that the presentations for four of the thirteen solutions are taking place on Thursday 24th July.

Refurbishment of the Town Hall – The Assistant to the Clerk explained that Mitchell and Dickinson have started work on the secondary glazing at the Town Hall. The external decoration work has also started. While the scaffolding is in place repairs to the roof and guttering will be completed.

Insulation at Jubilee Bungalows – Work started on Monday 21st July and is due to take a week. Additional insulation and a decking area for storage are being installed.

Jubilee Pavilion Project – This was covered as part of the tour at the beginning of the meeting.

Solar Panel for Finnimore Pavilion – The Chair, Energy Alton and the Assistant to the Clerk informed the Committee that she had met with Catriona from Energise South Downs to discuss all the buildings the Town Council own. The Finnimore is one of the highest energy consumption properties and so a good opportunity for a similar model to Energique. Energy consumption figures have been sent to Catriona for all the Town Council buildings.

Solar Panels for Energique – Energise South Downs have raised the funding required for the project. The lease between the Town Council and Energise South Downs is being completed and it is believed that the agreement between Energique and Energise South Down is in place. Install is planned for week beginning 15th September.

List of other buildings owned by the Town Council as potential solar sites – A list of all the buildings owned by the Town Council was discussed with Catriona from Energise South Downs. The model for the project is that most of the energy produced is used by the building is produced from. Most of the properties do not have high energy use so would not suit the model.

The Scouts had asked if they could be included in the project but their energy use if not high enough. Chawton Park Indoor Bowls potentially would be suitable along with the British Legion.

Carbon sequestration through tree and hedge planting – Janice Treacher provided a report on where additional trees and hedges could be planted. The Assistant to the Clerk explained that there weren't any offers for trees at this time of year but would make the Committee aware if any were offered in the Autumn. The Assistant to Clerk also reminder the Committee that the ongoing maintenance of trees and hedges is high and this needs to be considered when looking at additional planting.

Sites for additional benches were discussed. The Assistant to the clerk asked that these be forwarded to be kept on file as the Town Council are often approached about memorial benches. At Will Hall Meadow the start of the River Wey is not marked, and it was agreed that some information about this and the fauna and flora there are be installed. The Suds (pond) could also be marked once it has had time to establish.

Wildflower Meadows and the cutting regimes were discussed. Will Hall Meadow is planned to be cut in July, but this has been moved to September following a discussion with the Chair and Deputy Clerk. A more detailed and timed cutting regime for Will Hall Meadow to be written for 2026.

Replacement of Alton in Bloom – The Chair circulated some information about pollinator plants to use in the Town Centre planters. The Assistant to the Clerk agreed to provide to the Deputy Clerk to be included with the planting plans for 2026.

Update map and signage for walking and cycling – The Chair gave the Committee an update that the map is ready to go to print. Permissions for the stickers on lampposts through the town are being sorted. The cycle planters in the town are being faded out and the Chair has identified locations on the High Street where cycles are regularly stored with a view to installing permanent cycle hoops. Permission for the cycle hoops will need to be approved by HCC.

88 Update from Young ACAN

A new project has been launched looking to encourage children to see items as treasure not trash and use less and appreciate more. All 12 schools in Alton are signed up to be involved with the initiative.

Primary children have been in looking at the “wastebeast” and how to defeat it. This work is being made into an animated film and will be voiced by the children who contributed. Scott is also creating a rap for the project.

Food waste in schools is being researched as all schools now can choose the catering providers. EHDC are also launching food waste collections in March/April 2026, these will form part of the bin collection activity.

All schools are now required to have a sustainability plan. ACAN are providing support for the school to write and monitor the plans.

Scott mentioned the large number of hedgehogs which are killed on the roads and asked if signs could be installed to warn drivers. The Committee agreed this was a great idea and suggested that one of the schools take the lead on it when the schools go back in September. The Chair suggested that Scott contact Cllr Andrew Joy to get behind the project and Hugo at the Herald to promote the project.

89 **District Council Update**

The Community Climate Action Fund will open in September 2025. It is funded through Councillor Grants and £129,000 will be available to bid for. This will be a collective funding pot, with grants awarded to the strongest proposals based on the assessment criteria. Further details, including examples of previously funded projects, here:

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/climate/community-climate-action-fund>

EHDCs carbon audit for 2024/25 is now being finalised, and early results indicate a decrease of 1.06% in our carbon footprint compared to the previous year. This is in line with the trajectory set out in our Roadmap to Net Zero.

EV infrastructure - There are currently no plans for EHDC to install EV chargers in EHDC car parks in Alton. The council carried out high-level feasibility last year on EHDC car parks across the district and this does not show viability. We are trying to understand Hampshire County Council plans on the LEVI funding where there will be more opportunity for installation of EV charging points, HCC have received over £6million to increase EV charging across the Hampshire. The decision details are here:

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=3893>.

The Climate Change Scorecards, produced by Climate Emergency UK (CE UK), were released on Tuesday 17th June. These scorecards measure performance on the actions councils have taken towards net zero. Our Total Score is 40% - this places EHDC slightly above the 35% average for district councils in England. EHDC has improved by 17 % since the last scorecard in 2023.

Grow Up - the Rural Grants scheme was launched last week. For more information on:

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/grow-up/rural-grants-third-round>

Food waste – this will be launching next year. For more information:

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news/2025/food-waste-collections-launch-2026>

Local Government Reorganisation – please do take time to comment on the future of local government:

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news/2025/your-councils-better-future-have-your-say-simpler-stronger-secure-local-government-our>

Warmer homes – residents can sign up here:

<https://www.warmerhomes.org.uk/register-interest>

90 **Energy Alton Update**

Kevin gave a short update on the other projects Energy Alton are involved with, these include:

- My Home Made Better

- The Solar Farm at Caker Stream, Farringdon where Energy Alton are leasing between residents and the developer.

The meeting closed at 11:35am.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 22nd October 2025 at 9:30am to 11:30am

Minutes signed as a true record of the meeting _____ 22.10.2025

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.	Rod to provide details of the tamper-proof tap, Hayley to look at locations	23.07.25
Wayfinding	Identify licences and permissions required to affix signage to streetlamps etc	Hayley & Chris Chappell to meet	23.07.25
Business representative	Post advert in on-line Altonian and on website	Wendy	31.07.25
Treloar Grant	Introduce Energise South Downs to Karen at Treloar's	Barbara	22.10.25
ACAN Grant	Additional questions to be supplied by Energy Alton and the Chair.	Kevin Ray	22.10.25
ACAN Grant	Agreement confirmed to share data	Barbara	22.10.25
Assembly Rooms Survey	Arrange feedback meeting with tenant, and ATC to discuss next steps.	Kevin Ray	22.10.25
Finnimore	Liase to with Energise South Downs to progress this solar panel project	Kevin Ray	22.10.25
Will Hall Meadow	Information board for start of river Wey being funded by CIL grant through Residents of Amery Hill	Janice	22.10.25
Cycle storage	Positions of cycle hoops to replace the cycle planters on the High Street to be agreed	Barbara	22.10.25
Cycle storage	Permission to install cycle hoops on the High Street from HCC	Wendy	22.10.25
Hedgehog signs	Speak to Cllr Andrew Joy and the Herald about signs to indicate hedgehogs crossing	Scott	22.10.25