

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 22nd JANUARY 2025
Held in the Town Hall, Market Square**

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

Apologies: **Pennie Brown (Strategy Manager for Sustainable Growth, EHDC)**

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

61 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.

The Chair introduced Kevin Ray who has joined Energy Alton as Project Manager and will replace Stuart Mills on the Climate Change Committee. John Hubbard has also joined the meeting to support Kevin but has offered to attend on a regular basis, which the Chair accepted. The Chair informed the Committee that Janos Huszar has stepped down as members of the Committee. Thanks to him for the work done on the Committee was recorded.

The Committee agreed to recruit to fill the Business Representative role, and an advert is to be drafted for the Altonian.

The vacant role for a Youth Representative was discussed and the Committee agreed that the candidate did not need to be under 18 years old but needed to represent the youth. The Chair included the job description for the Young ACAN Administrator in the papers, the Committee agreed that Scott Gudrich who currently hold the position would meet the criteria for the Youth Representative role on the Committee.

The Chair informed the Committee that all Councillors had been approached but most were involved with other projects at this time and did not have the ability to take on another role. The Committee agree to leave the fourth Councillor role vacant at this time.

62 Apologies for absence

Pennie Brown sent her apologies along with a report on activity at EHDC.

Harriet Coombes has left EHDC.

63 Declarations of Interest

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

John Hubbard and the Chair both declared that they are members of Cycle Alton and so would not be involved with the grant application made by them.

64 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2024 were agreed as a true record. Don Hammond proposed that they are approved, Rod Painell, seconded this, the Committee approved the minutes. The Assistant to the Clerk provided a set of minutes for signature.

65 Update from Dementia Friends

Karen Murrell joined the meeting to give an update on work at the Assembly Rooms. Dementia Friends moved to the Assembly Rooms from Edgar Hall on 2nd January 2024 and received a grant from ATC towards improvements to the building. They were also able to have a grant from EHDC of £305,000 reallocated from Edgar Hall to the Assembly Rooms.

An energy survey was completed in 2021 which identified a number of areas to improve the carbon footprint of the property including replacing the gas fired boilers a insulation. Dementia Friends have completed a number of projects to improve the venue, and secondary glazing is currently being install which will improve the insulation of the building. The gas boiler is not at end of life and so will not be replaced at this time, but solar panels are being investigated.

John Hubbard suggested that Energy Alton redo the survey including the Power Up tool which assesses the number of solar panels that could be used and the estimated energy generated. Energise South Downs may be able to offer a community funded proposal similar to Energique. Karen confirmed that the next faze of the plans for the Assembly Rooms will take 12 to 18 months.

66 Actions from the last meeting

Ref.	Action	Person responsible	Date due	Comments
Aim 1.2	Meeting with Clerk & Head Groundsman to discuss electric tools	Cllr Hammond	30.06.24	To be booked
Transport	Assistant to Town Clerk to update fuel consumption to 31 st Dec 24	Wendy	15.01.25	Completed
Jubilee Bungalows	Apply for grant for insulation	Wendy	11.12.24	Ongoing
Jubilee Bungalows	Allocation of funding for heat pumps at Jubilee Bungalows to be discussed at Budget Workshop	Wendy	11.12.24	To look at grants
Youth role	Speak to Young ACAN about promoting the role	Rod	31.10.24	Completed
Cllr role	Speak to all Councillors about role	Chair	22.01.25	Completed
Meeting attendance	Contact Janos Huszar about attendance	Chair	31.10.224	Completed
Action Plan	Include section 2 on January agenda	Wendy	22.01.25	Completed
Finnimore Pavilion	Contact Bradley Ransome to visit the site and report issues with heat pump	Wendy	31.10.24	ATC under contract with Rossair
Finnimore Pavilion	Assess possibility of solar panels for roof	Kevin – Energy Alton	31.12.24	In progress
16 Market Square	Replace insulation for door	Wendy	31.10.24	Ongoing
Hedging	Request for volunteers to help plant hedges in late November	Rod - ACAN	31.10.24	Completed
Grant paperwork	Amendments to be made and circulated to Committee for approval	Wendy	31.10.24	Completed
Water fountains	Identify units which are tamper proof to prevent vandalism	Rod	22.01.25	In progress
Kings Pond bungalows	Energy survey to be arranged with tenants	Wendy	31.10.24	Write to offer survey

67 Questions/Representation to the Committee

A grant application has been received from Cycle Alton for £200 to support Led Cycle Session in Alton to improve confidence to use a bicycle in the town instead of driving.

The funds are to be used to purchase Hi-Viz gilets, arm bands or gloves and to print marketing flyers. Initially 4 sessions are planned for Saturdays in March. There will be 6 people on each ride plus 2 leaders who will ride at the front and behind the group to keep them all safe.

Cllr Treacher proposed that the application be approved, Cllr Hammond seconded the motion. The application was approved by the Committee.

68 **Climate Change Action Plan**

All three section of the Action Plan are now on the Agenda, the Chair explained that Section One would remain the focus on the Committee as these were the areas in which the Committee could have greatest impact but it was important to review Section Two and Three.

Aim 1

ATC Transport & Carbon Emissions

Cllr Hammond agreed to arrange to meet with the Clerk and Head Groundsman to discuss electric tools.

The three vehicles used by the Grounds Team are all about 10-12 years old but are running well so these will not be changed until this is required. The Councillors will look at leasing as well as buying when the time comes to replace.

Retrofitting ATC buildings

Jubilee Bungalows – Assistant to Town Clerk to check if insulation was included in the roof work complete in 2024. The grants through Greater Southeast Net Zero Hub are currently not available but an application will be when the window next opens.

Solar Lighting – The Chair asked about the use of solar lighting and why it wasn't installed as part of the Jubilee project. The Assistant to the Clerk explained that the decision was made not to install flood lighting on the path as the light pollution would affect the homes in the area. The motion activated floodlights would highlight when someone was using the path which would potentially cause an issue.

Kings Pond Bungalows – The Assistant to the Clerk explained that the tenants were on a full repairing lease and so any actions identified by an energy survey would be at the tenants own cost but grants may be available. The Committee agreed that a letter be written to offer the energy survey and explain that this would be the case. Assistant to Clerk agreed to send the letter sent to residents who request an energy survey so this can be used as the basis for the communication.

Retrofitting properties – The Chair asked that each of the ATC properties be added to the action plan as a separate action.

Town Hall – the Chair, Cllr Hammond and Assistant to Town Clerk met with were Molly Gregory and Manali Kulkarni from the government funded Greater Southeast Net Zero Hub, along with Neil Appleton and John Ransford from the Infrastructure and Energy Team at Innovate Exchange UK.

Innovate Exchange UK seek to find innovative solutions to difficult requirements for reducing carbon emissions, so the aim of the meeting was to glean information needed to create a Challenge Statement for inviting bids for innovative retrofitting of Alton Town Hall bearing in mind it's grade II listed building status and setting. The building presents the challenge of being an 1871 listed building with solid walls, single glazing, some loft insulation, a 15 year old gas boiler, old style radiators and 2 electric heaters for hot water. The Conservation Officer at EHDC has already ruled out an air sourced heat pump being installed on the outside of the building and there appears insufficient indoor space for a pump room for a ground sourced heat pump. Innovation UK will invite bids from innovative companies to look at alternatives including the possibility of putting an air source heat pump in either of the 'loft' areas above the kitchen and toilets along with other options to reduce the carbon footprint of the building.

including underfloor heating in the chamber and offices upstairs, insulation between the ceiling of the retail units and the floor of the Town Hall, fans to drive the heat down towards the floor requiring electrical works and channelling of the walls. The on-site nature of the meeting allowed both the Hub and Innovate Exchange UK Teams to observe all the issues at first hand.

Rugby Club building – The Rugby Club were awarded £8,000 towards solar panels from the Community Climate Action Fund from EHDC. The Chair suggested that a representative be asked to attend the next Climate Change Meeting to give an update on the project.

Finnimore Pavilion – Kevin agreed to carry out an energy survey including the Power Up tool to assess the building for solar panels.

Energique – Energise South Downs sent the proposal to the owner of Energique on 1st November, however the use of the building has changed, and the energy consumption has decreased considerably so there is not requirement to pursue the project at this time. The Committee suggested that this is reviewed in 6 months to ascertain if the needs have changed.

Jubilee Pavilions – Cllr Hammond explained that the Deputy Clerk was working on designs, this project would start in the 2025/26 financial year.

Carbon Sequestration from planting trees and Hedges

Cllr Treacher updated the Committee on the tree planting work.

Hedging

Jubilee 420 (grounds team on 27th November 2024)

Whitedown 420 (grounds team on 11th December 2024)

Anstey Park 420 (to be planted by Eggars School on 28th January with Grounds Team support)

Kings Pond 120 (Friends of Kings Pond on 11th December 2024)

Trees

17 trees picked up 9th December 2024 to be planted:

- Jubilee - 6 (to form new small copse) planted before Christmas
- Anstey Park - 9 (to go along London Road railings) to be planted on 28th January.
- The Butts 1 (Hornbeam to replace the Horse Chestnut that is to be felled) – to be retained in compound until ready to plant 2025

40 feathers and an addition 6 standard trees to be collected on Tuesday 21st January for Flood Meadows, Will Hall Meadow & Windmill Hill.

The Assistant to the Clerk is working with HCC to access any additional trees when available.

Active Travel

A grant has been awarded from the Community Climate Action Fund for updating the Cycle Alton Map and for additional signage and cycle storage. A meeting is planned to look at the map and assess what is required and how to make best use of the document for a wide audience. The safest routes for cycling through the town particularly from the new estates needs to be reviewed along with positions for markers to direct cyclists. Cycle parking is also to be reviewed at the ATC properties and in the Town Centre.

Electric Car Use – at next meeting ask for an update on the survey complete by EHDC.

Aim 2

Promotion of waste reduction

ACAN are working with Surfers Against Sewage to look at reducing the volume of plastic waste which ultimately ends up in the sea. Part of Young ACAN Administrator Role will be promote waste reduction. The Eating for Tomorrow event is taking place on 25th January at Alton Maltings.

Alton in Bloom and Grow Up

Emily Messenger to be invited to next Climate Change Meeting to give an update on planting in the town and use of the polytunnel to reuse and grow plants.

Sustainability Hub

The Chair informed the Committee that prior to the pandemic funding was made available for the Community Centre to host a sustainable hub, this funding stopped during the pandemic and

the Town Council offered 16 Market Square as a venue in 2021. The facility was open for 2 years but wasn't well used due to the position. ACAN are investigating if there is an option to have a premises on the High Street.

Water Fountains

Rod has been looking for vandal proof models that can be used in the Public Gardens and at Jubilee Playing field. Currently there isn't a product available so the Chair asked that details of any models which may be suitable be brought to the next meeting.

69 Energy Alton Update

Energy Alton are currently applying to become a charity.

The Home Energy Support Team continue to complete home surveys, the new Power Up tool is being offered where applicable.

A new role as part of the Energy Redress Scheme is being created, this will be 3 days a week and will host events and contact residents about their needs. The role will be in conjunction with PeCAN and WeCAN.

Planning has just been requested for a new solar farm behind the lavender farm, it is 150-acre site and will generate 44 megawatts of energy. Energy Alton are hosting a consultation meeting at Selbourne Village Hall to allow the public to see plans and ask any questions.

70 District Council Update

Pennie provided the following update:

- 1) **Roadmap:** EHDC has completed its roadmap to net zero report.
 - EHDC set itself a target of reaching net-zero by 2035 across its operational activities (Scope 1, 2 and 3). It established its baseline in 2022/23 of 7423.12 tCO₂e. The report examined the potential "roadmap" of opportunities and options that EHDC could take to move towards and reach its net-zero target.
 - The Council's biggest areas of emissions sit outside of its direct control, within the two large external contracts of waste collection and leisure provision. Whilst some carbon savings can be made within these areas, reaching net-zero by 2035 within these contracts may not be possible.
 - The study shows that even with the delivery of all of the potential options the Council might only be able to reduce its carbon emissions by 70% by 2035. However, at the time of writing not all technological improvements and advances are fully realised, and some areas of reduction might increase and/or new opportunities may arise before 2035. Offsetting may also have to be considered.
- 2) **LCWIP:** The LCWIP currently remains on track to be considered for adoption at HCC's executive member decision day on the 6th March (and is therefore expected to be published online at the end of February on HCC's website). EHDC officers have worked closely with HCC to review the final post-consultation chapter and revised network, while prioritisation of the primary routes within the Plan has been completed.
- 3) **Air Quality** - EHDC are currently producing its Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) for DEFRA. It is anticipated an Air Quality Strategy will be developed in 2025.
- 4) **EV infrastructure** - High level feasibility has been carried out on EHDC car parks across the district. Proposals are being considered internally.
- 5) **Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF)** – 8 projects were successful in receiving a share of £70,000 which includes £43,000 of the Green Councillor Grant. This will be the last round of CCAF, where we have allocated £250,000 to community projects over the last two years: Press release: <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news>
- 6) **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>

71 Community Climate Action Fund

Over three rounds, EHDC has provided a total of £250,000 to support projects that help improve energy efficiency and educate local people about climate change.

15 applications were received for this round with a value of more than double the available budget (£158,000).

Grants allocated in this round are:

- £5,361 to Alton Climate Action Network for community outreach, guided walks and creative workshops to create a culture of action.
- £12,000 to Horndean Parish Council towards the Horndean Green Trail and Heritage Network which will create a network of footpaths and trails around the parish to encourage walking and cycling.
- £6,478 to Cycle Alton to improve their 'cycling in Alton' map and help fund a cycle shelter.
- £8,000 to Alton Rugby Club towards solar panels for their club house.
- £8,000 to Petersfield Community Association towards solar panels at Petersfield Community Centre.
- £8,000 to The Grain House Trust towards solar panels at Alton Maltings.
- £9,000 to Alton Men's Shed towards replacing single glazing on windows and doors of their headquarters.
- £12,500 to Petersfield Climate Action Network to support their continuing climate change community outreach programme.

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

Ref.	Action	Person responsible	Date due
Invitees	Include John Hubbard on invite list	Wendy	23.04.25
Business Representative	Draft advert for Business Representative role for Altonian.	Wendy	31.01.25
Youth Representative	Include Scott Gudrich on the invite list for future meetings.	Wendy	23.04.25
ATC machinery	Meeting with Clerk & Head Groundsman to discuss electric tools	Cllr Hammond	23.04.25
Green Audit	Review carbon use against baseline	Cllr Hammond	23.04.25
Assembly Rooms	Redo Energy Survey including the Power Up tool to look at solar opportunities.	Kevin & John	23.04.25
Jubilee Bungalows	Check if insulation has been fitted and if not apply for grant for insulation	Wendy	23.04.25
Jubilee Bungalows	Identify grants for heat pumps at Jubilee Bungalows	Wendy	23.04.25
Action Plan	Add action against all ATC properties	Wendy	23.04.25
Ruby Club	Invite representative to give an update on the solar panel project	Wendy	23.04.25
Finnimore Pavilion	Assess possibility of solar panels for roof	Kevin	23.04.25
16 Market Square	Replace insulation for door	Wendy	23.04.25
Energique	Offer a review of the Energise South Downs proposal to see if needs have changed.	Cllr Hammond	01.07.25

Water fountains	Identify units which are tamper proof to prevent vandalism	Rod	23.04.25
King's Pond bungalows	Draft letter to tenants to offer a energy survey	Wendy	23.04.25
Carbon Sequestration	Report to Committee any further tree and hedge planting opportunities	Cllr Treacher	23.04.25
Cycle parking	Review cycle parking at all ATC properties	Chair & Chris	23.04.25