

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON FRIDAY, 17th JULY 2026
Held in 16 Market Square, Alton Town Hall**

Present: Councillor Don Hammond (Chair)
Councillor Barbara Tansey
Councillor Lorna Woodcroft
Kevin Ray (Energy Alton)
Angus Berry (Energy Alton)
Rod Painell (ACAN)
Pennie Brown (EHDC)

Apologies: Scott Gudrich – (Youth Representative)
Chris Chappell (Active Travel Representative)
Wendy Simson (Assistant to Clerk)

In attendance: Tom Horwood (Town Clerk)
Hayley Carter (Deputy Town Clerk)

132 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.
There were no other announcements.

133 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Scott Gudrich, Chris Chappell and Wendy Simson.

134 Declarations of Interest

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

135 Minutes of the last meeting

On the proposal of Rod Painell, seconded by Councillor Tansey, with all voting in favour, the minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2026 were agreed as a true record.

136 Correspondence and Questions Received

A report was received from Rod Painell and circulated prior to the meeting regarding a Sustainable Alton Business Recognition Project.

A report was received on the morning of the meeting from Marcus VanHagen regarding the progress of the solar installation at the allotments, for which they had received a grant from the committee. The report was printed and circulated in the meeting by the Deputy Clerk. In summary the project is ongoing.

137 Update on actions from last Climate Change Meeting

The actions for the last meeting are:

Ref.	Action	Person responsible	Date due
Finnimore	Speak with Energise South Downs to progress this solar panel project	Kevin Ray	24.07.26

	Kevin reported that solar on the Finnimore Pavilion is not feasible this way as it will not pay for itself. Alternative suppliers / routes need to be investigated. Kevin to ask other local companies to quote.	Kevin Ray	23.10.26
Utilities	Consultant, Alan Williams, to audit and review action plan and carbon footprint data, if approved by Full Council. Completed. Wendy to keep up-to-date going forward.	Don	24.07.26
Allotments	Update on solar panels at Wooteys Allotments to be provided for July meeting Still in progress. Wendy to keep on top of.	Wendy	24.07.26
Access to drinking water	Investigate stickers for businesses to inform residents and visitors that they can fill their water bottles Completed but need to get stickers in more businesses. Barbara offered to go round and ask the businesses at the bottom of town. Hayley asked her to liaise with Wendy as she has already asked many of the businesses at this end of town.	Wendy	24.07.26
Access to drinking water	Directional signs and a sign on the Fountain for drinking fountain for Public Gardens. Hayley to get quote to add to blue finger post in Market Square	Wendy Hayley	24.07.26 23.10.26
Solar charging for Grounds EV	Meeting planned with TILE to look at possible solar and battery storage at the Barn in Jubilee, the Compound at the Public Gardens and the Enclosure at Anstey Park. In progress	Wendy	24.07.26

138 ATC Climate Change Action Plan

Energy Spreadsheet

Alan had made suggestions that energy use be split quarterly and by energy type. This has now been completed by Wendy and circulated. The spreadsheet was discussed.

Conversion factors that have been used to get the carbon footprint are now more accurate.

When energy contracts are up for renewal we need to be looking to use renewable sources which further reduces ATC's carbon footprint. Wendy to have conversation with Angus about this.

Pennie to get the contact for Laser to Wendy.

Tom pointed out that some companies include nuclear energy as 'green' energy so the council need to decide whether they are happy to include this.

ATC is trying to reduce heating and diesel / fuel usage. There is a big carbon offset from all the planting we have done. There was some question over how much this actually offsets it but it was agreed that if there is a national standard way of calculating it then this should be used (as we are doing). Where making additional electric through solar and selling back to the grid this creates a negative carbon figure which must be taken into account.

It was acknowledged that Wendy has a good grip on this and will keep it updated.

Action Plan

The new plan really clarifies the objectives and pulls out actions.

Quarterly updates for any changes or actions.

Traffic light system makes progress really clear.

"Per-user" data can be helpful in the narrative because it is not about just reducing the usage – we need to get the best community use out of buildings and such. For example, we could show that our energy consumption in the Finnimore pavilion has reduced but if it is because no one is using the building and they are using facilities elsewhere which use more energy that is actually a bad thing for the town.

There was discussion around the document and it was updated with who is responsible for each action and a few notes.

139 Update on Alton In Bloom

The Deputy Clerk said that this had been launched at the Spring Garden Fayre and lots of sunflower seeds had been planted there and then at the Community Big Lunch. There had been a few sign-ups for the competition but not many at this point. She had been discussing with Natalie whether to extend the deadline for entries as Natalie felt with the weather being so hot and dry people may have been put off entering if their gardens were not looking their best. It was agreed this would be a good idea.

Councillor Tansey questioned whether the vouchers would still be purchased for the Climate Change Gold Star awards. The Deputy Clerk said yes, officers had been planning gardening vouchers but the Climate Change Committee had said they wanted book tokens so officers would get these organised.

We will continue to publicise it in the Altonian, the notice boards and on social media and try to get more entries.

140 Electric Vehicles and Grounds Equipment

Hayley updated the meeting on the test drives Wendy had organised so far for Head Groundsman Martin. A report has been drafted to go to Full Council in September but is not finished as more test drives have been organised and Wendy is also getting quotes for smaller electric vehicles for use on the council's sites. The Committee asked that the report go to the Climate Change Committee first. Wendy therefore to put this on the agenda for the Climate Change meeting in October before taking to Full Council.

141 District Council Update

Pennie informed the Committee that:

- An Air Quality Strategy for East Hampshire was adopted at Cabinet on 9th July.
- The 2026/27 Community Climate Action Fund will launch in early September. There is a pot of £129,000 for capital projects. More information will be found in due course on the following webpage: <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/climate/community-climate-action-fund>
- A successful all-member briefing was held in May with river catchment partners, trusts and community groups to strengthen collaboration and support practical action for chalk rivers and streams.
- Parking strategy is being developed, and EV opportunities will be part of this work (EHDC are only implementing commercial ones, but Mid Hampshire might be more receptive to it in the future. We need to show there is demand in the town and the Town Clerk asked if ATC could write to support EV charging in Alton. He agreed to write a letter to EHDC to try to get Alton to the head of the queue for an EV charging facility)
- HCC LEVI funding work looks like it has been launched – request for areas. Please do register areas using this link: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/electric-vehicles>
- They are finalising their carbon audit - results show they are on track against their roadmap
- Still on track for food waste in October
- Green steps – please do sign up or send over things to be included

142 ACAN Update

Rod said they are going to try to do a “Sustainable Alton Recognition” award scheme.

They are proposing some kind of community farm and hoping that they could repurpose part of ATC's land at Northanger for this. There were concerns over fencing off part of a public open space and it was agreed a full feasibility study needs to be carried out. Full Council would need

to see a full proposal before they were asked to make a decision and the Deputy Clerk pointed out there could be legal implications around making areas no longer accessible to the public. Pennie said there was a scheme called ‘Tumbledown’ which is run by Weymouth Town Council, where they also have an outreach program. The Committee said they would be receptive to proper proposals so a feasibility study needs to be done.

143 **Energy Alton Update**

Angus said he has been doing some work researching car parks and whether there could be solar canopies. This had been done in Scotland on some that were community-owned. It was done by part-grant and part-community funding. Councillor Tansey suggested he speak to County Councillor Emily Young about it.

They are continuing with energy surveys.

They are looking for more trustees.

They are looking at ‘solar kits’ and the possibility of giving out vouchers for them. This has apparently been done elsewhere by Town Councils. The Town Clerk said he would be interested to know what powers had been used to give out vouchers.

A discussion about greening and regeneration opportunities in Alton are to be discussed at a meeting on Monday.

144 **Cycle Alton Update**

Councillor Tansey said this should be an ‘Active Travel Update’.

She said the repairs to paths in Flood Meadows had raised the issue of making footpaths fit for dual walking and cycling when making repairs and asked that this could be considered in future. The Deputy Clerk pointed out that the money to repair a footpath would not cover widening it to 3m and we would possibly need to look at serious fundraising to cover this. For health and safety reasons essential repairs could not be delayed in order to carry out a major project such as this. Councillor Tansey said that Cycle Alton are continuing to respond to planning applications as many of the large ones are not coming in with active travel plans.

145 **Active Travel Update**

Chris informed the Committee that two new signs have been requested from HCC for the Ridgeway and Gilbert White Way.

The launch of the website, cycle/walking map and safer cycling routes went very well; the police marked 37 bikes to ensure they can be identified if stolen. Sponsorship was given by local businesses to provide refreshments.

146 **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Friday 23rd October 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, at 9:30am to 11:30am.

Future meetings will be:

- Friday 22nd January 2027
- Friday 30th April 2027

The meeting closed at 11:40am.

Minutes signed as a true record of the meeting _____ 23.10.26

Ref.	Action	Person responsible	Date due
Finnimore	Speak with other local solar providers for quotes to install solar panels on the Finnimore Pavillion	Kevin Ray	23.10.26

Utilities	Quarterly utility use and carbon emission data to be presented at every Climate Change meeting.	Wendy	23.10.26
Allotments	Update on solar panels at Wooteys Allotments to be provided for October meeting	Wendy	23.10.26
Access to drinking water	Most businesses on the High Street asked to display a sticker but many said that their water quality was poor and not fit to drink so declined. Refresh asking all businesses every quarter.	Wendy	23.10.26
Access to drinking water	Quote to add direction to Miss Bell's fountain in the Public Gardens to blue finger post in Market Square	Hayley	23.10.26
Solar charging for Grounds EV	Get three quotes for solar and battery storage at the Barn in Jubilee, the Compound at the Public Gardens and the Enclosure at Anstey Park as part of paper for Full Council.	Wendy	23.10.26