

# Kinver Climate Action Group



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

24 April 2025

### **1. Present:**

Cllr Steve Anderson (Chair), Cllr Eunice Lord (Vice-Chair), Kathryn Clark, Phil Jones, Peter Barber, Nick Pearson, Sally Harris

### **2. Chairman's report.**

The chair reported on the year's work. The group has had a very busy year, carrying out a number of successful projects. The report is appended to these minutes.

### **3. Financial report**

The main income this year was from a grant for the 'Home Energy MOT' project. The accounts for this project are presented separately. Other income was mainly from donations; expenditure was for room hire for talks, and publicity for the EV show; and supporting wild-flower verges. Residual funds are now low. During the year, the group bank account was transferred from Lloyds to Metro Bank, because Lloyds started to charge for non-for-profit group accounts.

Details are appended to these minutes.

### **4. Election of Committee and Officers:**

The Chair thanked the outgoing Treasurer and Publicity Officer for their valued, enthusiastic and efficient contributions.

The following appointments were agreed by vote:

Chair: Cllr Steve Anderson

Vice Chair/ Secretary: Cllr Eunice Lord

Membership secretary: Cllr Christine Allen

Treasurer: Kate (Catherine) Byford

Publicity/Social Media: Dan Allen

General members: It was agreed that all current members of the committee should continue unless they request to leave.

### **5. Cheque signatories**

It was agreed that the following 3 named officials should have full authority to operate the bank account; and that the signature of any one of them should be sufficient to authorise transactions and other actions. The named officials are: Kate (Catherine) Byford as Treasurer; Steve Anderson as Chair; and Eunice Lord as Vice Chair. Kate Byford will replace Sally Harris as Treasurer, and Sally Harris will therefore no longer be a signatory official.

## **6. Review strategy and set goals for year ahead**

A general discussion agreed that the achieving success for the group would include: a wider reach ie greater engagement with local people; a wider range of issues addressed to broaden interest; and continuing to increase public awareness and actions around climate change issues.

It was agreed to

- Continue with the Market stall/ Recycling project, the Home Energy MOT project, and the Stour project.
- Develop a programme of public talks
- Consider how far we broaden the scope of the group, to facilitate engagement, without losing the focus on climate impact

Further discussion of the detail of these aims was deferred to the subsequent general monthly meeting.

## **7. Any other business**

There was no other business.

The AGM was closed.

## Kinver Climate Action Group AGM 2024



### Chairmans Report

The Group's aims continue to be encouraging those changes which reduce our energy use and carbon footprint, or in other ways prepare us for the low-carbon future by making local, practical changes. It has been a busy and successful year, with some new ventures and a substantial grant.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to two members who are stepping back from their roles: Lindsey Davis, who has established and grown our social media presence with excellent, engaging posts; and Sally Harris who as Treasurer has masterminded the transition from Lloyds Bank to Metro Bank, and managed the day to day accounting needs with unfailing efficiency and cheer.

The main activities of the year included:

**EV event: June 2024:** In June we held an amazing gathering of locally-owned electric vehicles, with their owners, at Kinver High School. Visitors could quiz owners on their real-life experience of running an EV.

EVs on site, ranging from brand new to several years old, included: Cars: Hyundai Ioniq, Nissan Leaf, Renault Zoe, 4 Teslas, Kia E NIRO, Polestar, BMWi4 e-Drive 40, Mercedes AQA350 2023, and a brand new Volvo EC40 ; Vans: the Parish Van Vauxhall Vivaro-E 3100 Dynamic, and VW van ID Buzz; and Bikes: Rapido Meteor Ridgeback e-bike, a Specialized light-weight e-bike, and an e-bike adapted from a standard bike by adding a battery and wheel kit.

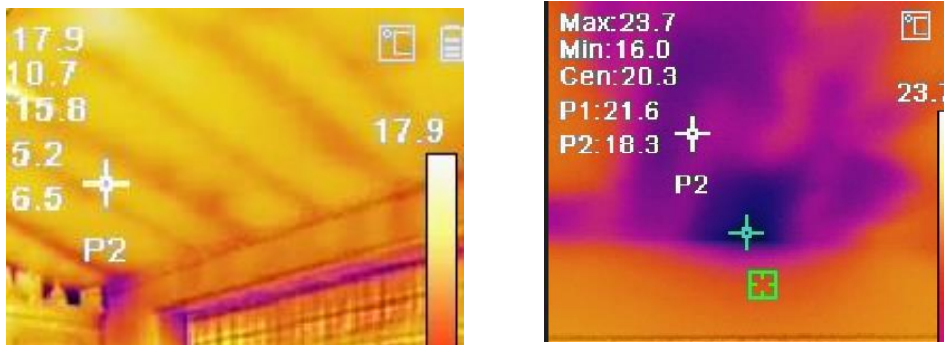
**Home Energy MOT:** We were fortunate to receive a grant via South Staffordshire Council of £11,000, under their Community Wellbeing Funding 2. Health Inequalities, for the project "Home Energy MOT and reducing energy bills". This enabled us to continue and enhance our previous work with the thermal camera. We increased the focus on contacting and helping people most in need, and to this end have worked closely with Community Home Solutions, who facilitate the roll out of grants to residents in this area. We identified additional clients to CHS, who are now being taken forward with fully-funded upgrades to their insulation and heating. We have also through our own grant been able to fund small works for people on limited means, who cannot carry out jobs for themselves.

Over the winter we visited 33 clients. At each visit, we discussed with the client what energy-saving measures they already had in place and what their concerns were; we used the thermal camera to assess where heat was being lost; and then discussed the 'next steps' they could take. A follow-up report was sent summarising recommendations, including the thermal camera pictures, and enclosing a sheet of useful information and links.

Thanks to the grant, we have been able to offer all clients small free items including draught proofing, radiator foil, LED bulbs and door 'dogs'. These, along with the thermal camera pictures, help to create interest. They also provide easy, cheap ways of cutting energy use.

A majority of homes visited had inadequate loft insulation by current standards – usually just between the joists. Quite a few also had missing or misplaced insulation (picture

below). We offered up to £200 subsidy towards loft insulation materials (which is enough to 'top-up' and average semi), to make the job more cost-effective, and several residents took us up on this.



*Loft insulation: Left: Insulation only between the joists, needs topping up. The joists show as cooler stripes (red). Right: Cold gaps (purple) where loft insulation has been displaced or not laid*

Another problem encountered has been 'always on' or excessive ventilation installed when upgrades to e.g. loft insulation have been done under grant funding. Conversely, some homes had problems with mould, for example because they were keeping bedrooms cooler than the rest of the house, to reduce bills. We therefore decided to encourage active control of humidity, by offering free humidity meters to all; and a subsidy on electric dehumidifiers.

Some funding was allocated to supporting the energy management and insulation of community buildings (see below). Sufficient remains to fund the project for another year.

**Community Buildings:** We are working with the managers of community buildings to help them reduce their energy bills and carbon footprint. These include Parish Council offices (Insulation improved, solar panels installed, heating controls improved), Senior Citizens (heating controls improved, LED lights, considering cavity wall insulation), St Peter's Church Hall (investigating solar panels) and the Methodist Church Hall (review of options for reducing energy bills and carbon footprint). The reviews have been provided pro bono by a local professional. We have provided some funding, and help with seeking grants.

**Repurposing Electricals: Market Stall:** This project started in summer 2024, and has evolved and grown in popularity. We invited local people to bring in electricals that were 'too good to throw away' to our stall at Kinver Market. Staffs CC / Waste Savvy Staffs have developed a network of outlets to test and repurpose such goods wherever possible; and to make use of the results.

We've been overwhelmed with the response in Kinver – a vanload of goods every time. We added medicare goods (crutches etc) to the request, with success. And in March, we were joined by Waste Savvy Staffs with a range of other good-as-new goods rescued from the recycling centre, and invited residents to take home any items in return for a donation to the local Food Bank. Between the electricals and other goods (including a unicycle), £150 was raised, and the volume of goods returning for triage at the recycling centre was halved. This project is set to continue until demand tails off.... There's no sign of that so far. The

stall also provides an excellent, 'feel-good' platform for engagement with local people.



**River Stour:** Our public meeting with Severn Trent “Towards a healthy River Stour” in March drew an interested audience of over 60 people. The talk discussed sewage treatment and raw sewage overflows, and also highlighted what citizens can do – including the fact that wet wipes are responsible for over 90% of unlicensed raw sewage overflows, because they don’t degrade, and therefore block pipes. A follow-up river walk was arranged by S-T for Friday 11 April.

We participated in the Citizen Science project ‘Great UK Water Blitz’ in September 2024, by sampling the Stour for nitrate and phosphate. Our recent data show very high P in the Smestow, which we are investigating with Severn Trent.



**Publicity and Awareness:** We have kept up a lively social media presence, bringing climate change and sustainability into the foreground. Maintaining this flow of ideas has taken a great deal of time and imagination. It’s an essential part of our reason for existing – to bring the lifestyle we need for low-carbon living into the sphere of the normal.

### Looking Ahead

The UK, and Kinver, continue to have a high carbon footprint, and the UK lags behind targets set by our own government. Our next challenges include:

- Growing and reaching out to other nearby groups, to help amplify our efforts;
- Finding further regular activities to maintain impact and presence
- Developing a programme of talks/discussions to reach a wider audience

## Kinver Climate Action Group

### Finance Report 2024/5 for year ending 31/03/2025

#### ***Non-Grant items***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Carried forward	627.12	
Donation MG	20	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>647.12</b>	

Wildflower verges		298.00
EV event		274.94
Hire Senior Citizens: NT talk		36.00
Hire Senior Citizens: Stour talk		30.00

<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>638.94</b>
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**Balance 31/3/25** **8.18**

#### ***Home Energy MOT grant***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Grant payment	11,000	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,000</b>	

Engagement		136
Free items		1338.89
Insurance		113.91
Small jobs		84
Subsidy		695.99

<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>2,368.79</b>
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**Balance on Grant 31/03/25** **8,631.21**

**Account balance total 31 /03/2025** **8,639.39**