



# Kinver Climate Action Group

## Minutes of the Meeting on 2 April 2026

**Present:**

CLlr Eunice Lord (Chair), Kathryn Clark, James Bundred, Amanda Coffey, Nick Pearson, Cate Waymouth, Cllr Andy Hughes

| 1. | <b>Apologies for absence:</b><br>Christine Allen; Phil Jones; Sally Harris; Peter Barber.  | <b>Decisions/Actions</b>   |
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| 2. | <b>Minutes of previous meeting:</b><br>Agreed.   |  |
| 3. | <p><b>Group Admin:</b><br/>Election of Chair – acting chair is Eunice but it was agreed that we will try it as a rotating role for meetings.</p> <p>It was agreed that Steve Anderson should be replaced by Andy Hughes as signatory to the group account, since Steve is no longer an active member. The other two signatories remain Eunice Lord and Kate Byford. All signatories shall have full authority to operate the bank account; and the signature of any one of them shall be sufficient to authorise transactions and other actions.</p>   | <p>All roles to be reviewed at AGM on 7 May 2026</p> <p>Andy to be registered on the account as signatory</p>                                  |
| 4. | <p><b>Future directions: follow-up to Feb meeting</b><br/>The chart of ideas from the February meeting, split by important/not so important for climate change and easy/hard to achieve, identified 3 main areas as important/easy: (see <b>Appendix A</b> for full chart)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ‘voluntary promoters’, ‘if you’re thinking about x we can put you in touch with someone who’s done it’</li> <li>- Home Energy MOT</li> <li>- Electricals collection has captured people’s imagination</li> </ul> <p>Further discussion raised also</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Community compost (tricky to manage, so a talk was agreed, see below)</li> <li>* Car share</li> <li>* List of tradespeople (We cannot ‘recommend’ but we can say we know xyz has done decent work in Kinver)</li> <li>* Tiny forest</li> </ul> <p>- The issue of our purpose came up, see extract from our Constitution (2024) at <b>Appendix B</b>, as basis for discussion.</p> | <p>To be reviewed at a future meeting.</p> <p>Use Electricals stand to collect views on potential projects/ topics – as well as promotion.</p> |

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| <p><b>5.</b></p> | <p><b>Update on projects:</b><br/> Electricals collection restarted at EMC on the last Saturday each month (Mar to Oct) between 10am and 1pm.<br/> On 28<sup>th</sup> March the stand received 142 items which made 3 car loads! This will continue at EMC</p> <p>River Stour – Update and Outlook attached. Amanda updated the group on sampling and that the sub group had lost 1 member but gained 3 new recruits. Amanda has arranged a talk/meeting with EA and South Staffs Water to discuss recent vegetation removal adjacent Stour/Mill Lane, apparently relating to flood defences. (16<sup>th</sup> April at 10am) to discuss:<br/> Full report is on the website at <a href="https://kinverclimate.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/05-River-Stour-update-for-KCAG-2-Apr-26.pdf">https://kinverclimate.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/05-River-Stour-update-for-KCAG-2-Apr-26.pdf</a> and an extract below (<b>Appendix C</b>)</p> <p>Home energy MOT – there were 19 home visits with advice given this winter. We have sufficient funds to continue next year, and this was agreed in principle. See <b>Appendix D</b> for report. An article is in preparation for Kinver News.</p> | <p>Aim for 3 volunteers each time: EL, KC and LD for 25 April.</p> <p>Anyone interested in meeting EA/SSW on 16<sup>th</sup> April at 10am, contact Amanda</p> |
| <p><b>6.</b></p> | <p><b>Energy Group: Community Solar</b><br/> National Grid connection estimates have been received– see <b>Appendix E</b>. Capacity is limited locally, and connection charges/works add ca 25% to costs.</p> <p>Support Staffordshire have approached Kinver as part of a new “Energetic Communities” initiative: EL, CW, PB, AH have talked to them about what this means. EC aims to help 6-10 places come up with a Community Energy Plan by October, through a series of public consultations and feasibility study. The group felt this could only be a positive assistance.</p>   | <p>Eunice, Andy and Cate to monitor and assist where needed.</p>   |
| <p><b>7.</b></p> | <p><b>Programme of talks/activities:</b><br/> The Senior Citizen’s hall is no longer available on a Thursday evening but can do Tuesdays.</p> <p>Following on from future directions, Amanda suggested a talk on composting which could incorporate the imminent roll out of food waste kerbside collection service. Cate is passionate about composting and agreed it was a good subject which could include the Kinver Garden Club.</p>  | <p>Eunice to book for June.</p> <p>Amanda and Cate to investigate possible talkers.</p>  |

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|    | A new film is about to be released called People's Emergency Briefing which is a public information initiative being screened by local groups and could be presented with a discussion afterwards.  | Amanda to review the film and confirm if recommended.                               |
| 8. | <p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p>It was noted that a row of beech trees have been cut down along with the usual tree thinning on Enville Estate. The group wondered what their plan was and if they have contravened any regulations by removing mature beech trees.</p> <p>Phil reported Sustrans are about to start their feasibility study on the Kinver Connections walk/cycle route.</p> | Andy to investigate. Steve W to send letter to Enville Hall expressing our concerns |

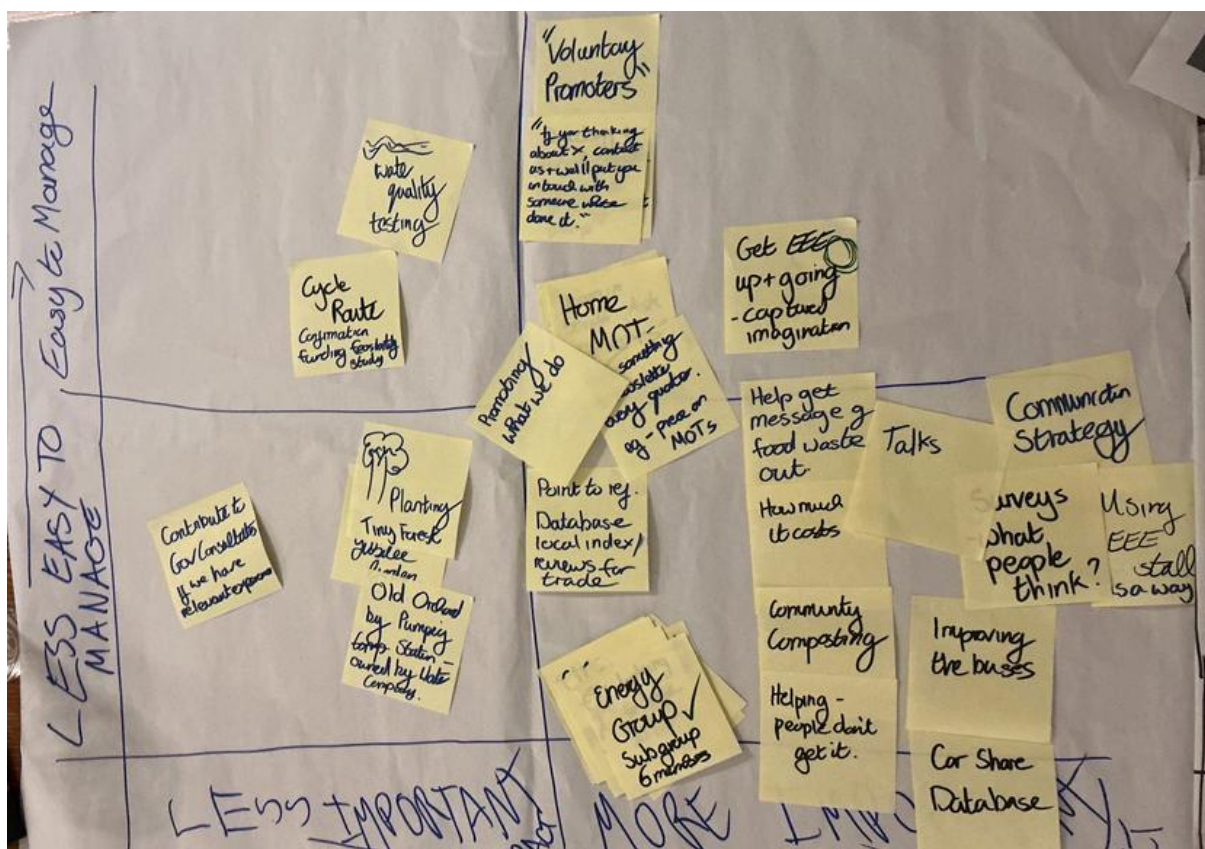
### Dates of next meetings:

Committee meeting: Thursday 7 May, 7pm, Kinver Con Club

Committee meeting: Thursday 4 June, 7pm, Kinver Con Club

Possible talk on home composting: Tuesday 9 June , 7pm, Senior Citizens Club

### Appendix A – Chart of ideas from Feb meeting



## Appendix B : Extract from the KCAG constitution 2024 regarding our 'aims'

### "1. Purpose:

*To support, facilitate and encourage changes which reduce carbon emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change within the local area*

### 2. How we will do it (Group objectives):

*2.1. Focus on actions which people can take locally, and which will have greatest impact on mitigation of climate change, or resilience to climate change.*

*2.2. Promote and facilitate specific actions aimed at tackling the climate emergency, through topic-based projects.*

*2.3. Hold events to communicate, listen, engage, inform, enthuse and educate local people.*

*2.4. Work with local people to identify barriers to change, and seek to overcome them (whether through communication, information, advice, funding or other means)*

*2.5. Work with local businesses and organisations, local councils, and other bodies to encourage and publicise their sustainability efforts; and enhance our capability by collaborative working*

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## Appendix C: River Stour: Update and Outlook April 2026

Full report at [https://kinverclimate.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/05-River-Stour-update-for-KCAG\\_2-Apr-26.pdf](https://kinverclimate.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/05-River-Stour-update-for-KCAG_2-Apr-26.pdf)



### Activity & Engagement

Jan – Mar 26



#### River sampling

- 3 sampling rounds: January, February & March
- We're integrated into Severn Rivers Trust's Survey 123 App for live data entry to their Stour Dashboard (but this is currently offline & in need of development)
- We've said goodbye to two volunteers
- We've welcomed three new volunteers – Rik, Michelle & Richard.



## Activity & Engagement

Jan – Mar 26



### Engagement

- In mid February Andy noticed tree felling at the South Staffs Water's (SSW) Kinver borehole pumping station. Some trees pruned and all scrub and bank side vegetation was removed. This holds ecological function and helps to slow the flow when the river is high.
- We contacted SSW who responded that the EA instructed them to do this as they require access to inspect and maintain the flood defence in this location.
- We weren't aware of the flood defence.
- The berm is visible from the road, but we had assumed it had been part of the Kinver light railway tramway that predates the pumping station. This is clearly incorrect.
- We have arranged a provisional meeting with SSW and the EA on the 16<sup>th</sup> April - subject to confirmation from the EA. It will be on the Mill Lane road bridge as SSW will not allow us on site.
- We will also be talking to them as the riparian owner, about the INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species) on the riverbank on their site – namely the Himalyan Balsam and Giant Hogweed – both of which are spreading quickly. We have sent them a pack showing where the INNS are on their bank.
- We are keen to work with others, to try to tackle INNS as it's ecological poor.

### Appendix D - Home Energy MOT - Report to KCAG April 2026 meeting

This winter's campaign has come to an end. We completed 19 visits, bringing the total so far to around 80. We found quite a few problems with damp in the very wet mid-winter, especially as people were keeping temperatures down due to high fuel prices. As a result, several people accepted a contribution towards a dehumidifier. Funding towards loft insulation was also popular. We plan to continue next year if we have the volunteers. We have a fair surplus of funds. An article is in preparation for the next edition of Kinver News.

### Appendix E - Energy Subgroup - Report for April 2026 meeting

Andy Wall at Tipton NGED gave a very helpful 'connection surgery' by phone. His advice was to keep costs down by going for <5 MWp, and connection to 11 kV line, eg the one that runs across from the Million, N of the EMC, to the Kinver substation at Whittington (connection to the more powerful 33kV or more lines is much more expensive; and above 5 kWp account has to be taken of wider network impacts, which raises costs). Kinver power is apparently part managed by Worcester and part by Tipton office.

We have put in 'connection estimate' requests to NGED for 4 potential ground-mounted solar sites. All estimates to the Kinver 11kV line gave a maximum permitted connection of 1 - 1.5 MWp, and a connection cost of > £200,000. The base cost of ground-mounted solar is of the order of £1m per MWp. We are unsure if this is commercial under current rules, but the P441 imminent change in legislation may alter this. The estimate for a Roundhill site came back as 3MWp max, at connection cost >£800,000. They are still looking at connection to a 33 kV line - more capacity, but more expensive.

Cate and Eunice had a look round the Wombourne trading estate on which Lidl sits. There are several large units there. The site is owned by South Staffs Council, and Cate is investigating whether they might be open to solar installation. The details of who benefits depend on the new legislation.