

Lowestoft Town Council

Meeting of the Community Safety Committee

Via Video Meeting
13:00 on 1 September 2020

MINUTES

Video meeting participants: Cllrs Sue Barnard, Neil Coleby, Paul Page, Keith Patience (Chair) and Andy Pearce

Also participating: Sarah Foote (Deputy Clerk) and Lauren Elliott (Committee Clerk)

1. Welcome

Councillors and members of the public were reminded of the right to report and the application of the video meeting protocol, and the meeting was welcomed.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lang and Parker. Cllr Collecott had not provided apologies and was absent. Cllr Barnard proposed acceptance of the apologies; seconded by Cllr Pearce; all in favour.

3. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

There were none.

4. Any advance comments from the public on any matters on this agenda

There were none.

5. Committee arrangements

- 5.1. Membership of the Community Safety Committee – Membership was confirmed as Cllrs Barnard, Coleby, Collecott, Lang, Page, Parker, Patience and Pearce.
- 5.2. Appointment of the Deputy Chair of the Community Safety Committee – Cllr Pearce proposed Cllr Lang for the position of Deputy Chair and this was seconded by Cllr Barnard. There were no further nominations and the vote was taken. All Councillors voted in favour and Cllr Lang was duly appointed as Deputy Chair.
- 5.3. Terms of Reference of the Community Safety Committee – Point five gives provision for Councillors to join this Committee by self-selection, but it was confirmed that membership, would be ratified by Full Council. Under the responsibilities it was agreed that a second point should be added to work with the Clerk and other officers on implementing COVID-19 recovery and safety measures. Cllr Pearce proposed a recommendation to Full Council to adopt the Terms of Reference with the amendment as stated; seconded by Cllr Barnard; all in favour.

Cllr Page joined the meeting 13:13

It was queried whether this Committee could see details of the County and District Council's emergency planning, to see if it affects any Town Council assets, and so Councillors are aware of the official procedure in the event of an emergency, such as a flood, who to contact and the role of the Town Council. Members of the public do not always know which authority to contact in the event of an emergency so it would be beneficial for this Committee to have the correct details so these can be relayed. Cllr Pearce proposed a further amendment to the Terms of Reference to work with other bodies, including Suffolk County Council Emergency Planning, East Suffolk Council and other relevant statutory authorities to assess what is in place to deal with emergencies, particularly where relevant to the Town Council's assets; seconded by Cllr Barnard; all in favour. The Town Council has previously requested a seat on East Suffolk Council's Safer Neighbourhoods Committee, but this was not progressed. The Police and Crime Commissioner does periodically meet with Town and Parish Councils to discuss local issues, which Lowestoft Town Councillors do attend. It was requested that the Town Council tries again to secure a seat on the Safer Neighbourhoods Committee, as it has a

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statutory duty to consider community safety and crime reduction. Cllr Coleby proposed that an approach be made to East Suffolk Council to request a seat on their Safer Neighbourhoods Committee; seconded by Cllr Pearce; all in favour.

6. Security of the Town Council's assets, including the following:

- 6.1. How to improve security of The Ness, following reports of vandalism – No further incidents of vandalism have been reported. CCTV cameras have been installed, but may only be temporary. It was requested that this item be carried forward to the next agenda, as the Committee would be in a better position to consider this item if The Ness is completed by then. Cllr Butler and the Deputy Clerk have participated in a site visit to The Ness today and will raise this at the Steering Group meeting tomorrow. Liaison with other authorities to consider the security of The Ness is also required, including information from East Suffolk Council about their CCTV service.
- 6.2. Any measures required to improve the safety of the Town Council's assets, including extending the provision of CCTV – Regarding item 7, it was agreed that it would be helpful to have information from East Suffolk Council about their intentions for the CCTV service before the Town Council looks to take any security improvement measures of its own. There have been no reported safety concerns at any of the Town Council's assets which need to be considered urgently. Oulton Broad Parish Council has appointed its own security guards for some of its assets, and it was agreed to discuss further specific details during the confidential session.

7. An update on the CCTV service

There is no update at present. Officers have made enquiries but received little information. Cllr Pearce will take this forward at the next quarterly liaison meeting on 15 October. The Town Council would like an idea of costings for its budget setting process.

8. Date of the next meeting

It was agreed the next meeting should be arranged for the week commencing 19 October. Staff will email Committee members for their availability.

9. Items for the next agenda and close

There were no specific requests for items in addition to those being carried forward from this meeting.

Cllr Coleby proposed moving the meeting into confidential session; seconded by Cllr Barnard; all in favour. Thanks were offered to the public for viewing the live stream of the meeting. Those viewing the meeting were advised that it was being closed to the public to move into confidential session, following which the meeting would end.

10. Resolution to close the meeting to the public

The Deputy Clerk provided the Committee with an update regarding an issue at the North Denes.

There was a discussion regarding security measures implemented by Oulton Broad Parish Council. It was suggested that the Community Wardens could keep an eye on the Town Council's parks. They will not be specifically appointed for security purposes but can regularly visit the parks.

The Chair closed the meeting 13:51.

Signed: