



## MEETING PAPER

Subject: Lowestoft Coat of Arms – A report on the Coat of Arms granted to Lowestoft Borough and how it can be transferred to Lowestoft Town Council

Meeting: Events and Communications Sub-Committee

Date: 28 June 2023

Meeting Paper by Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk)

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

### **The History of the Coat of Arms**

A coat of arms is a hereditary device that was developed in northern Europe in the mid-twelfth century for identification purposes and was used by the monarch, knights, and the aristocracy.

A coat of arms consists of a shield, the main component that bears the iconography, which is topped by the crest, the three-dimensional device borne on top of a helmet that usually rests on a wreath of two different colours, and a motto displayed below the shield or above the crest.

A coat of arms is an asset that belongs to the local authority it was granted to.

### **The Coat of Arms of Lowestoft Borough**

Lowestoft Borough was granted a coat of arms on 14 February 1913.

The blazon (description) reads:

Arms: Argent on a Chevron Sable between in chief an Antique Crown between two Roses Gules each Rose charged with another Rose Argent all barbed and seeded proper and in base a Sun issuant Or three Lowestoft China Plates all proper.  
Crest: On a Wreath of the Colours a demi figure representing St. Margaret holding in the hand a Pearl all proper.

Motto: Point du jour

St. Margaret features as the town's patron saint to whom the parish church of Lowestoft is dedicated, the plates represent the Lowestoft Porcelain Factory and the rising sun refers to Lowestoft's easterly location and it being the first town to see the sunrise, with the motto 'point du jour' translating to 'daybreak'.

Under the Local Government Act 1972, the Borough of Lowestoft was abolished and administratively Lowestoft



became part of Waveney District in 1974. Lowestoft remained unparished until the formation of our current Town Council in 2017, as a result, the arms fell out of use and remained registered to the Lowestoft Borough.

### **The Benefits of a Coat of Arms and its Civic Purposes**

The bearing of arms represents the history of a parish and are a link to the past. Presently, Lowestoft Town Council is unable to use of the coat of arms as it remains registered to the old borough.

If the coat of arms were to be transferred, they could be used in a purely civic context and would in no way supplant this Town Council's logo. The Council may use the coat of arms in any context, formal or informal, to indicate its involvement, responsibility or oversight of any activity.

Well established uses include:

- Signage – such as boundary signs or on prominent buildings that the council owns/uses/has some responsibility for.
- Digital – the coat of arms can be displayed on the Town Council's website and across its social media (the College of Arms confirmed that digital artwork of the coat of arms can be provided as an additional service, or hard-copy of the artwork can be scanned).
- Correspondence, stationery, certificates, invitations, reports, publications and any other paperwork.
- Any town regalia such as a mace or mayor's chain. Any existing regalia that bears the coat of arms are regarded as an inherited item and the arms do not belong to the Town Council.
- Ties, brooches, badges and other personal items worn by the Town Council.

A Council may also use the coat of arms through any owned companies or permit the display of the coat of arms by partner organisations.

### **The College of Arms and Associated Costs**

The College of Arms, also known as the Herald's College, is the official heraldic authority and have been responsible for granting arms and maintaining the register of arms since the fifteenth century. I have contacted the Officer in Waiting who confirmed that the arms could be transferred via a Royal License at a cost of £4,375. A petition would be made to the Crown and the Royal License would then be issued to instruct the King of Arms to transfer the coat of arms from the old borough to the new authority, with a certificate of transfer to be provided to Lowestoft Town Council upon completion of the process.

I would recommend delaying consideration of this transfer to the next financial year as the cost may not be feasible within this year's budget. The Officer in Waiting confirmed that the coat of arms would remain assigned to the old borough so there is no urgency to enacting this transfer.