

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Lowestoft DRAFT

which took place at Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft at 18:00 on 1 June 2017

Presiding:

Cllr Ian Graham (Lowestoft Town Council Chair)

Present:

Leo Whisstock (Royal Naval Patrol Service/Armed Forces Day), Cllr June Ford (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Alice Taylor (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Peter Lang (Lowestoft Town Council), Sue Egan (Tesco Community Champion), Cllr Allyson Barron (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Desmond Baldry (for part) (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Nick Webb (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Craig Rivett (Suffolk County Council), Cllr Bill Mountford (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Graham Parker (Lowestoft Town Council), David Banks (Lowestoft in Bloom), Peter Collecott (Lowestoft in Bloom), Cllr Peter Knight (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Baz Bemment (Lowestoft Town Council), John Stannard (Lowestoft Civic Society/Heritage Centre), Cllr Tracey Eastwood (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Keith Patience (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Nasima Begum (for part) (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Neil Coleby (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Alan Green (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Sonia Barker (Waveney District Council), Dorothy Smith (Ponda), Kelly Wigley (Waveney District Council), Phil Aves (Lowestoft Rising), Emma Langdale (Access Community Trust and Lowestoft Rising), 10 members of the public, Warren Hoskins-Davies (Third Crossing project) and Shona Bendix (Lowestoft Town Council Clerk).

Apologies: Cllr Robinson (Suffolk County Council), Cllr Ceresa (Suffolk County Council), Cllr Reeder (Suffolk County Council), Cllr Vigo Di Gallidoro (Suffolk County Council), and Cllr Starling (Suffolk County Council)

1. Chair's welcome

Cllr Ian Graham presided.

He read the fire safety warning and explained the arrangements in the event of a fire. Cllr Graham welcomed the meeting. He noted that this was a meeting of the Town rather than the Town Council. He noted that there were representatives present with a display in connection with the Third Crossing plans and also that Lowestoft Rising had a display and would be making a presentation.

2. Parish Council report to the electors

The Council is new. He has been elected Mayor. He emphasised that community consultation was a priority and that the Council wanted to be sure that it was doing what the community wanted. All of the councillors were new and it was essential that they were informed by the community views.

3. Police report to the electors

The Police had offered their apologies.

4. Lowestoft Rising presentation

Phil Aves from Lowestoft Rising gave a presentation.

Lowestoft Rising is a partnership of public sector and voluntary sector partners and they hope to effectively be a delivery arm of Lowestoft Town Council and Oulton Broad Parish Council. They aim to work on aspiration levels of young people, tackling drug, alcohol and mental health problems, integration of public service providers and encouraging pride in Lowestoft. They have introduced the Golden Mile into schools to encourage good physical and mental health. He provided copies of the newsletter which provides information about many of their latest initiatives. They have managed to increase the number of support workers in the town. However, there is currently a significant problem with mental health which needs particular efforts. Schools are needing more help. In terms of integration, Riverside is an example of the effective integration which create efficiencies and better working between public service providers. The Summer Festival is a great partnership which includes Sentinel, the Tourism Group, the Rotary Clubs and others too. Having events in parks has made people understand what freely available assets are available for them to enjoy and some

museums worked with them including the Lowestoft Museum and the Maritime Museum. They work to the north border and out to Carlton Colville and Kessingland and will take in the wider area outside of Lowestoft where this is desired by the communities. He was asked for more information about the work on GCSEs achievements with schools. What has been achieved is more people not having to retake their GCSEs as such, but instead going on to vocational courses and progressing their education, which achievement they wish to expand with older people.

They have been working with Access to increase the volunteering base. This helps people to build skills and avoid social isolation. Emma Langdale, also in attendance, is the volunteer coordinator. People, like Emma, will wear 'Discover Lowestoft Host' t-shirts and will be out and about signposting people to support, places and events. The telephone number is not 24 hour. They have also begun a project to advance culture in the area.

5. District and County Council Report to the Electors

Suffolk County Council Cllr Craig Rivett

They are new in post. He outlined the fact that there are representatives for the Lowestoft area on many of the important committees, including the local Citizens Advice Bureau Board.

Waveney District Council Cllr Graham

Cllr Graham spoke in his role as District Councillor. He noted that there was a merger underway.

They were saddened at the loss of the Colin Law.

Cllr Graham then reverted to his role as the Mayor presiding at the meeting. He said that there was a logistical issue with trying to ensure that there was effective communication between each tier of local government and the Town Council, given the number of councillors there were at District and County level. He said that written reports and advance questions provide to the Town Council might be helpful to ensure effective engagement through the Town Council's meetings.

6. Community organisation forum

Sue Barnard Gunton Resident. She continued Phil Aves pride theme and talked about the value of the informal and pleasant North Denes area. She would welcome a sign erected by the Council to recognise the gift from Colemans. She would also welcome maintenance and opening of paths that run from Gunton Cliff and understood that some of the North Denes area is leased back to Waveney District Council. She noted her concerns about the green fence around the caravan site, the barrier across the road and the fact that it was no longer possible to drive up to the ramp anymore as there are yellow lines. She would like to see more open access. There was an old rope walk where historically rope was made and her view was that this needs to be protected along with all open spaces, which can have such a positive effective on the well-being of local people and visitors. Cllr Keith Patience said he would check the leaseback arrangements. Cllr Ian Graham noted that the land was gifted to the Town Council but some was subject to leaseback. It is among those matters which are high on the list of asset matters that need to be addressed and they will look into this.

Cllr June Ford noted that the land was historically gifted to the people of Lowestoft by Colemans. A resident raised concerns about the encroachment on open space.

There were concerns expressed that caravan areas might be extended onto more open space and that car parking would be reduced. This concern was acknowledged. Although there was no known basis for this concern, the Council would look into the matter to provide reassurance.

There was a plea that any communication, engagement, surveys etc were not just electronic. The Mayor assured everyone that the Council would aim to engage widely and by a range of means.

There was a comment made that there were specific restrictions including that Swimming Pool Road was opened and there should not be a barrier. It should be accessible to the community. It was noted the footpaths and access is one of the many things that the Town Council will be looking into.

It was noted that there is a war memorial on Royal Plain and it was confirmed that this and the area around remained under the care of Waveney District Council.

Phil Aves noted that the Coastal Community Fund bid to develop the North Denes site has been successful which will enable nearly a million pounds to be spent on that area, which might be partly why there is a leaseback.

A comment was made that if you are going to lease open space for more than 7 years then there must be an open advertising process. There must be detailed analysis of the leases across all assets.

David Banks, Chair of Lowestoft in Bloom noted that there is both Anglia in Bloom and there is the local competition. This was set up 21 years ago by Waveney District Council but without support; now Suffolk County Council has provided some support for hanging baskets by the seafront which will be a major plus for the judging round. The question is whether Lowestoft In Bloom will be supported by the Town Council and it is hoped that the Town Council will send representatives (they meet the first Monday in every month) who will attend at least quarterly. The Mayor noted that the councillors are unpaid and had an important task ahead managing the new Council but that he was sure that they would find representatives to come forward. This would be on the 20 June Town Council agenda and they would try and obtain a main representative and a substitute for Lowestoft in Bloom.

The Mayor noted a comment that communicating through The Bugle would be a useful addition to the Council's communication.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

.....
Signed

.....2018

Date