

**Minutes of the meeting of Lowestoft Town Council Planning and Environment Committee
held at 16:00 on Thursday 1 June 2017 at Riverside, 4 Canning Road Lowestoft**

Committee Members: Cllrs Keith Patience, Allyson Barron, June Ford, Alan Green, Tracey Eastwood, Peter Knight, Alice Taylor, Desmond Baldry, Nasima Begum and Graham Parker

Present: Cllrs Alice Taylor, Graham Parker, Keith Patience, Allyson Barron, Alan Green, Peter Knight and Desmond Baldry

Also attending: Cllr Ian Graham (Mayor) and Shona Bendix (Clerk)

Public in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllrs Tracey Eastwood and Nasima Begum

1. Welcome

Cllr Graham welcomed the meeting and informed the meeting about the fire evacuation procedure.

2. Election of Committee Chair

Cllr Alice Taylor was elected.

3. Election of Committee Vice-Chair

Cllr Keith Patience was elected.

4. To receive and consider acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies noted as above.

5. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

None. It was noted that simply having an account with a bank making an application did not preclude councillors from participating within the meeting.

6. Public Forum

No members of the public present.

7. Planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

DC/17/1440/FUL	Northfield St Nicholas Primary School, St Margarets Road	Full Application	Normanston
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application.			
DC/17/1851/FUL	77 Gunton Drive	Full Application	Gunton
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application.			
DC/17/1857/FUL	6 Beechwood Gardens	Full Application	Kirkley
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application.			
DC/17/1861/FUL	37 Grayson Avenue	Full Application	Pakefield
The Committee resolved to raise concerns with the planning authority about comments raised by a neighbour and recommend that further consideration is given to the degree to which the application would cause overlooking and light deprivation for the neighbour at no.39.			
DC/17/1865/FUL	151 Yarmouth Road	Full Application	St Margarets
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application.			
DC/17/1948/LBC	Natwest Bank Plc, 53 London Rd N	Listed Building Consent	Harbour
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application.			
DC/17/1958/TPO	33 Gunton Church Lane	Tree Preservation Order	Gunton
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application.			

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DC/17/1962/FUL	Rivendell, Colville Road	Full Application	Kirkley
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application.			
DC/17/1998/COU	186 Denmark Road	Change of Use	Normanston
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application.			
DC/17/2007/TPO	18 Pinebanks	Tree Preservation Order	Normanston
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application.			
DC/17/2074/FUL	6 Miller Close	Full Application	Pakefield
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application.			
DC/17/2100/TPO	131 Cowslip Crescent	Tree Preservation Order	ElmTree
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application, subject to the Planning Authority Tree Officer approving the extent of the proposed works on the tree.			
DC/17/2171/COU	14 Regent Road	Change of Use	Harbour
The Committee resolved to recommend approval of this application.			

8. Items for the next Agenda and Close

- Neighbourhood planning
- Review of the terms of reference of the Committee, particularly to consider the scope of the 'environment' brief

There was a discussion about the projection of the plans and that this was helpful to enable joint consideration of the applications and enabled public viewing of the plans. Councillors were interrogating the online information for applications in advance of the meetings and where possible were arranging their own site visits, with an emphasis being on Councillors visiting properties in their own ward. It was noted that it is not always easy to understand the impact of the development from the information provided online, making site visits, where possible, invaluable.

Councillors also noted that the Mayor had asked that community engagement was on the next full Council meeting agenda and this would pick up many of the issues about how to optimise communication, including in relation to these meetings. Although there were some challenges with resourcing communications in the early days of the Council, there was a general feeling that communication should go beyond the existing posting of notices by the Clerk and dissemination of information by Councillors at the earliest opportunity. This might include extending the current use of the press and social media.

It was noted that planned training session 3 would cover planning and arrangements were being made for the Broads Authority to conduct a training session too.

Two-weekly Planning and Environment Committee meetings would be set to ensure the Council was able to deal with all planning applications within the tight timescales that apply and to ensure that there was an efficient spread of applications.

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Signed

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Date