

Meeting Report regarding the Lowestoft Records Office, between Peter Aldous, MP and the Save Our Records Office committee. Alice Taylor attending as an observer from the Lowestoft Town Council.

Date- Oct. 12, 2018, 14:00 to 16:00

Location- Peter Aldous' Office, 15 Surrey St., Lowestoft

Chair- Peter Aldous, MP

Attendees- Peter Aldous, MP (chair), unknown guest observing from London (job shadow program), Cllr Alice Taylor (observing on behalf of the Lowestoft Town Council), SORO committee (Wendy Brooks, Andrew Pierce, Ian Robb, Bob Collis, Russell Walker)

14:00 to 14:15- Peter Aldous led with rough agenda and went over a couple of points regarding letters he had written on promoting the Records Office. He also touched on an initiative that will be taking place next January by the Lowestoft Library to campaign for a complete remodel and upgrade to modernise and expand the service.

One of the areas the Library is exploring is to expand its heritage offer (heritage centre?) and cooperate with the local museums. A. Taylor pointed out that this same idea was being mooted for the Town Hall and that it would be a good idea to get together to discuss goals and aspirations so that any duplication of effort and resources could be avoided. A. Taylor noted that a heritage centre is just one of the various ideas that will be consulted with next spring when the feasibility studies for the Town Hall are arranged. Mr. Aldous said that the LTC would be invited to the exploratory meetings about the Lowestoft Library and that it was important that everyone communicates and works together.

Ian Robb presented a paper (not read at the meeting, but for later perusal) regarding his ideas for a local heritage centre.

14:15 to 15:55- Andrew Pearce noted that SORO was not going to discuss future proposals at this time but wished to discuss the failings of both the Suffolk County Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the closure of the LRO. He stated his case in detail.

A. Taylor noted that the LTC will be working with the Heritage Lottery Fund and other funding organisations as the LTC moves forward with the Town Hall project and wishes to maintain a good relationship with them and so would not be getting involved in any challenges by SORO regarding past failings in procedures, etc of the Hold project. The SORO committee said they understood.

Mr. Aldous agreed to advocate further, where he was able to.

15:55 to 16:00- SORO committee thank Mr. Aldous for his help and presented a framed photograph in appreciation of his assistance. Photos were taken of the SORO group and Mr. Aldous.