

Lowestoft Town Council

Meeting of the Community Safety Committee

Via Video Meeting
15:30 on 31 March 2021

MINUTES

Video meeting participants: Cllrs Neil Coleby, Peter Lang (Chair), Paul Page and Andy Pearce

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

50. Welcome

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

51. Apologies for absence

There were none. Cllrs Alan Green and Graham Parker had not provided apologies and were absent.

52. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

There were none.

53. Receipt of any comments and noting that the draft minutes of the meeting on 21 January 2021 will be considered at the next appropriate meeting

The draft minutes were noted.

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

There were none.

55. Reviewing the Committee status and noting the change of composition

It was noted that Cllr Green has become a member of this Committee. The Committee now has sufficient membership to allow meetings to take place, in line with its Terms of Reference. With effect from the Annual Meeting, the quorum of all the Town Council's Committees will be four.

56. Unauthorised tree removal from Town Council land and any measures required to improve the safety of the Town Council's assets

Regardless of what may happen with any private prosecutions, it was agreed that the Town Council must adhere to its policy to replace the trees. It was felt this item may be more appropriately considered by the Assets, Inclusion and Development (AID) Committee, but the planting of orchard trees is part of the health emergency declaration, which is being overseen by this Committee. The views of this Committee with regard to security of the Town Council's assets would also be welcome and can be fed back to the AID Committee. The Budget and Loan Sub-Committee will also be considering the Council's legal budget in terms of potentially pursuing private prosecutions. The Police are currently still investigating and following up detailed leads. It was noted that tree planting previously delayed at the Gainsborough Drive pond has now been completed.

57. Covid-19 recovery and safety measures the Town Council could take to support the community

This is a standing item for this Committee in line with its Terms of Reference. Consideration needs to be given to opening public spaces safely and securely in line with Government guidelines. The legislation allowing Councils to meet via video meeting has not been extended so some thought will need to be given to the Council's meeting space. Officers will be reviewing the space available in the Council Chamber shortly, but alternative venues may have to be considered. Meetings will still be live streamed. It is understood some additional recovery funding may become available shortly and consideration will be given as to how this may be used. Consideration will also be given to how the Council can support its tenants.

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58. Any actions in relation to the health emergency declaration

The Committee praised the combined efforts of those working in the local vaccination centres. Cllr Pearce proposed a recommendation to Full Council to send a formal letter of thanks from the Town Council to the vaccination centres in the town; seconded by Cllr Coleby; all in favour. The health issues relating to the pandemic will be ongoing, particularly regarding mental health. This may be discussed at the next Lowestoft Rising meeting, and Cllr Coleby will report back as the Council's representative.

There are concerns regarding the amount of litter in the parks and across the town in general. There have been incidents of motorcycles being dumped into the Fen Park pond and reported incidents of unauthorised vehicular access at some sites. The Council is putting out educational messages via its website, Facebook page and column in the Lowestoft Journal. Keep Britain Tidy has launched its Great British Spring Clean 2021 and the Town Council's involvement will be considered by the Climate Emergency Committee. A recent application from a food trader included an incentive to customers to litter pick the area to receive a free drink, and it was suggested that is something which the Town Council could approach its other tenants to consider. The provision of bins in the Town Council's parks is being considered as a priority as part of the five-year plans for parks. There are already some volunteer litter picking groups operating in the town. Cllr Page has the details of one, which he will send to officers. Norse have been very responsive to issues which have been reported to them. The Charity Board will be separately considering the issue of littering at Arnold's Bequest.

59. Date of the next meeting

Officers will liaise with Committee members to determine the date of the next meeting.

60. Items for the next agenda and close

It was requested that the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee give consideration to the security of Fen Park, particularly the park perimeter and the pond, given recent incidents. There have been similar concerns of unauthorised vehicular access to the open space surrounding the Britten Road play area. This is a very open space but the Sub-Committee could consider bunds or other such measures to try to prevent this.

The Committee would like an update from East Suffolk Council regarding its provision of a district-wide CCTV service. A request will be made to add this to the agenda of the next Quarterly Liaison Meeting.

By the time this Committee meets again, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election should have taken place. This Committee would like to speak with the PCC about their aims Lowestoft, and any views they may have on CCTV and community safety.

The Chair thanked those who had been viewing the meeting via live stream. There were no confidential matters for consideration and the Chair closed the meeting at 16:12.

61. Resolution to close the meeting to the public