

Lowestoft Town Council
Extraordinary Meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee
First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE
10:00 on 17 March 2022

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Sonia Barker, Wendy Brooks, Alan Green, Paul Page, Graham Parker and Andy Pearce (Chair)

In attendance: Shona Bendix (Clerk) and Lauren Elliott (Project and Committee Clerk)

Public: There were no members of the public in attendance, either in person or via Zoom webinar

148. Welcome

The fire evacuation procedure and public right to report were explained, and the meeting was welcomed.

149. Apologies for absence

Cllr Begum had given her apologies and had provided a reason. Cllr Pearce proposed approval of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Green; all in favour.

150. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

Cllr Barker declared that she is a member of Suffolk Refugee Support. Cllr Brooks declares that she donates to the International Rescue Committee.

151. The draft minutes of the meeting on 10 March 2022

The draft minutes were not yet available.

152. Public forum

A comment from a member of the public had been received and was displayed at the meeting and read out by the Chair. The member of the public had asked whether a £10,000 donation would be better spent in Lowestoft once any refugees from Ukraine arrive here.

153. The donation to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal and its budgetary allocation

Cllr Colin Butler had asked for an item to be added to an agenda initially to consider how the Council could offer its support to any refugees arriving in this area from Ukraine. At the time of the last meeting of this Committee only a relatively small number of refugees had arrived in this country. The Clerk had advised that under the General Power of Competence, the Council could in principle make a donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). The Committee had voted in favour of making the donation, but Full Council will consider whether to use the grants budget for this purpose. Cllr Pearce proposed proceeding with the donation, but any members of the public who object to this should write in. At the last meeting, Councillors understood that the UK Government would match fund any donations but the Clerk advised this may not be the case. Cllr Pearce confirmed that his proposal would be to still proceed with the donation, regardless of whether or not it would be match funded. Cllr Green seconded the proposal and all Councillors voted in favour. It was agreed at the previous meeting that an agenda item would be added in three months' time to review the situation, particularly regarding the number of refugees coming to this area from Ukraine. Cllr Pearce proposed a recommendation to Full Council to make the donation from the 2021 – 2022 grant budget; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour. The Clerk advised that the Town Council should advertise via its website how people can make donations individually, including via the DEC and Medecins Sans Frontieres, if they have provided a link to support the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal specifically.

154. Date of the next meeting

14 April 2022 13:00

Lowestoft Town Council
Extraordinary Meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee
First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE
10:00 on 17 March 2022

155. Items for the next agenda and close

There were no requests for items to be added to the next agenda.

There were no confidential matters for consideration and the Chair closed the meeting at 10:24.

156. Resolution to close the meeting to the public:

156.1. Any legal matters, including those above as required

Signed:

14 April 2022