

Lowestoft Town Council
Meeting of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee
First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE
15:30 on 17 April 2023

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks, Paul Page (Chair) and Andy Pearce, plus non-Councillor member Deborah Ray

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

Public: There was one member of the public in attendance (in person)

205. Welcome

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

206. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sonia Barker, Peter Lang, David Le Grice and Graham Parker, and non-Councillor members Rachel Bunn and John Sillett, all with reasons provided. Cllr Brooks proposed approval of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

207. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

207.1. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests from councillors on items on the Agenda – Cllr Brooks declared she is Chair of the Environment and Waste Group, and one of the Town Council's appointed representatives to the Marina Theatre quarterly management meetings. Cllr Pearce declared he is one of the Town Council's appointed representatives to the Marina Theatre quarterly management meetings and the appointed representative to the Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership.

207.2. Written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and note dispensations granted – There were none.

208. The draft minutes of the meeting on 20 March 2023

Cllr Brooks considered the minutes to be accurate and well-presented and proposed approval of them, with the addition of Cllr Green's name in the attendance list; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

209. Public forum

There were no advance comments and no one in attendance via the webinar. The member of the public in attendance in person did not wish to speak.

210. Scheduling a Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee meeting in May

The Committee agreed that a meeting should be scheduled in May, and the Project and Committee Clerk suggested Thursday 25 May at 15:30. Cllr Pearce suggested this should be a limited agenda, focussed on any matters arising from the Zoom meeting regarding the format of future agendas, progressing the Earth Protector Town declaration, an update on the bulky waste service and appointing the non-Councillor members to the Committee. Ms Ray advised that she would attend the meeting via Zoom. Cllr Brooks requested an update on the procurement of a contractor for the bulky waste service and it was agreed an item should be added to April's Full Council agenda to receive this. Cllr Pearce proposed scheduling a meeting of this Committee on 25 May at 15:30; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

211. Monitoring expenditure by this Committee from the climate emergency budget, under delegated authority

The Project and Committee Clerk advised that the only items of expenditure since the last meeting had been staff travel reimbursements.

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- 212. Any matters to raise with Cllr James Mallinder (East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment) and/or the Environment and Waste Group, and to receive feedback on any matters previously raised**

The Committee agreed not to consider this item during the pre-election period.

- 213. An update regarding liaison with Peter Aldous MP on Lowestoft's Blue Flag status**

The Project and Committee Clerk advised that no update had been received.

- 214. The Town Council's ethical stance regarding its energy supply**

It was agreed to defer this item until later in the meeting, as the Clerk may have an update to provide.

- 215. The First Light Festival:**

215.1. An update on the development of the Environmental Responsibility Task Force – Cllr Pearce advised that an action plan is being developed and a task force will be appointed to implement it. Representation from the Town Council will be sought and a representative can be appointed at the Annual Meeting.

The Clerk arrived 16:00

215.2. Whether to request a stall for Lowestoft Town Council at the First Light Festival – Given the environmental theme of this year's Festival, Cllr Pearce considered that the Town Council should have a presence, to engage directly with the public and provide an update on this Committee's activities. Cllr Pearce proposed a delegation to the Clerk, in conjunction with members of this Committee, to decide the content and who will manage the stall. Cllrs Page and Pearce and Ms Ray advised they would be available to assist with managing the stall. Cllr Page seconded the proposal; three members voted in favour; one member abstained from the vote.

- 216. An update on the provision of water bottle refill stations and refill schemes**

The Project and Committee Clerk advised she had enquired with Lowestoft Vision about implementing this in the town centre but had not yet received a response. East Suffolk Council had been approached regarding granting permission to the Town Council to install stations on the seafront, but required more specific detail before considering this further. Cllr Pearce proposed progressing a Zoom meeting with the Town Council's Health and Safety Adviser to discuss the practicalities, including how to mitigate the risk of any measures implemented to manage Legionella risks. Cllr Pearce amended his proposal to invite a representative of Lowestoft Vision to attend also. Cllr Brooks seconded the proposal; all in favour.

- 217. An update regarding advice on the use of chlorine as a risk management measure for water storage**

As with the previous item, advice is required regarding mitigating the risk of any measures introduced to manage the Legionella risk. Cllr Brooks understood that small quantities of chlorine should not be harmful to plants and may even be beneficial. Cllr Pearce proposed that a Zoom meeting with the Health and Safety Adviser should be scheduled for as soon as possible after the Annual Meeting; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

- 218. An update on Earth Protector activities undertaken by the schools and East Suffolk College**

An update was due to be provided by Ms Bunn and would be requested for the next meeting. The Town Council will be discussing its Earth Protector Town activities as part of a standalone Zoom meeting. Ms Ray advised that the organisation responsible for the climate change murals in the town would like to involve college students in their projects and are planning events to stimulate discussion and engagement regarding the climate emergency. Cllr Pearce proposed to explore the promotion of the murals as part of the community engagement element of the Town Council's Earth Protector Town declaration; seconded by Ms Ray; all in

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favour. Cllr Pearce had attended an event at which a representative from the Town and Country Planning Association had delivered a presentation on climate resilience in local and neighbourhood planning. Cllr Pearce requested that this representative be invited to deliver this presentation to members of this Committee and the Planning Committee.

219. An update on the Avishock installation at the Marina Theatre (some aspects may be confidential)

Cllr Pearce advised that the Avishock installation on the front of the building had been ineffective, but the reason for this was not yet clear. Kittiwakes were nesting both on the front of the building and the purpose built nesting ledges on the side of the building, which may result in an increased population of nesting birds on the building in future years. The Clerk advised officers were already making plans to reinstate the additional street cleaning which was put in place last year, due to health and safety concerns. Cllr Pearce requested an item on May's Finance and Governance Committee agenda to consider the budget allocation. Cllr Pearce proposed delegating authority to the Clerk to liaise with the Marina Theatre and relevant contractors to put in place street cleaning measures outside the Marina Theatre during this kittiwake nesting season, as per last year's arrangements; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour. Cllr Pearce requested a confidential discussion due to commercial confidentiality.

220. Date of the next meeting

Thursday 25 May at 15:30.

221. Items for the next agenda and close

Cllr Pearce requested the addition of an item to consider co-operation with the Marina Theatre over the summer regarding the nesting kittiwakes.

Cllr Pearce proposed moving the meeting into confidential session and inviting Ms Ray to remain in attendance for the confidential session; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

The member of the public left the meeting 16:35

222. Resolution to close the meeting to the public

219. An update on the Avishock installation at the Marina Theatre (some aspects may be confidential) – Cllr Pearce provided more information regarding the Avishock installation. Ms Ray suggested in future seasons installing a canopy on the front of the building to protect visitors. The Clerk suggested a way forward and Cllr Pearce made a confidential proposal following this; seconded by Ms Ray; all in favour. It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next agenda to receive an update.

The Chair closed the meeting at 16:51.

Signed:
25 May 2023