

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 25 May 2023

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Sonia Barker, Wendy Brooks, Janet Craig, Graham Parker, Deborah Ray (via zoom)

In Attendance: Lauren Elliott (Project and Committee Clerk) and Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk)

Public: One member of the public (in person)

At 15:30 the meeting was opened and it was announced that the Committee were awaiting the arrival of another Councillor for the meeting to be quorate.

The meeting was resumed at 15:42

Cllr Barker proposed Cllr Brooks preside over the meeting in the absence of the Chair; seconded by Cllr Craig; all in favour.

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Page, Pearce and Youngman with reasons provided.

Cllr Barker had sent her apologies that she would be late to the meeting.

Cllr Brooks proposed approval of apologies received; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

3. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

3.1. To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests from councillors on items on the Agenda – Cllrs Craig and Parker declared they were East Suffolk Councillors. Cllr Brooks declared she was the current Chair of the Environment and Waste Group. Cllrs Brooks and Barker declared they were Town Council representatives on the Marina Theatre Quarterly Management meetings.

3.2. To consider written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and note dispensations granted – No written requests for dispensations had been received.

4. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 17 April 2023

Cllr Brooks proposed approval of the draft minutes; seconded by Cllr Parker; a vote was held with three in favour and one abstention.

5. Public forum

An opportunity for the public to make comments on any matters on this agenda, and to consider any advance comments from the public.

No comments were received.

6. To monitor expenditure by this Committee from the climate emergency budget, under delegated authority

It was agreed to have the expenditure report provided at the next meeting.

7. To review and adopt Committee arrangements

7.1. To note the membership of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee – As of this meeting membership consisted of Cllrs Sonia Barker, Wendy Brooks, Janet Craig, Paul Page, Graham Parker, Andy Pearce, Deborah Ray and David Youngman.

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7.2. To appoint the Deputy Chair of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee – Cllr Parker nominated Cllr Ray; seconded by Cllr Barker; a vote was held with three in favour and one abstention.

8. To consider the appointment of non-Councillor members to this Committee in the event of a deferral from the Annual General Meeting

As of this meeting, two applications had been received from John Sillett and Rachel Bunn. Cllr Barker proposed John Sillett and Rachel Bunn be appointed as non-Councillor members; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

John Sillett joined the meeting 15:50

9. To consider 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 Project and Committee Clerk temporarily left the chamber at 15:50

The Deputy Clerk had received a response from Suffolk County Council declining the request to waive the costs at Haddenham Road.

The Project and Committee Clerk returned to the chamber at 15:53

It was confirmed that the tender was due to be released by the end of this week.

Cllr Brooks would contact members of the Environment and Waste Group with suggested meeting dates. Cllr Brooks proposed for the Environment and Waste Group to approach the new cabinet member Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte and arrange a meeting, from that meeting the Environment and Waste Group would seek the cabinet member's support for this project; seconded by Cllr Craig; all in favour.

Cllr Barker proposed Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte be invited to meet with this Committee, via a standalone zoom meeting or attending a meeting in person if it suits her schedule, to discuss the Committee's aims and actions; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

10. To receive an update regarding liaison with Peter Aldous MP on Lowestoft's Blue Flag status
The office had chased for a response but there was no update to provide.

11. To consider the Town Council's ethical stance regarding its energy supply

It was agreed for officers to review the collated information and produce proposals to be considered by this Committee and Full Council. It was noted that tenanted properties, such as the Marina Theatre, may be responsible for arranging their own energy suppliers.

12. To receive the notes of the standalone zoom meeting on 18 May 2023 and consider any actions

As the scheduled meeting couldn't take place due to low attendance, it was agreed to schedule a zoom meeting for Thursday 8 June at 14:00.

13. To receive an update on the provision of water bottler refill stations and refill schemes

Officers had queried with Lowestoft Vision if they were considering signing up to the refill

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scheme and were awaiting a response.

This Committee had previously identified specific sites and with the due diligence completed the Town Council could progress the provision of these stations, with officers reviewing funding opportunities.

A suggestion was made to contact East Suffolk Council, who is involved in the Jubilee Parade development, to query if water refill stations could be incorporated in that development. There were concerns regarding the contentious nature of the Jubilee Parade development and whether to keep water refill stations separate from it.

A compromise was suggested to avoid participating in the project but query whether the stations could be installed simultaneously with the development as the works would near the water supply.

Cllr Parker suggested Lowestoft Town Council write to East Suffolk Council to request that refill stations be installed whilst the development works are ongoing. The Project and Committee Clerk had already contacted East Suffolk Council concerning the Town Council installing refill stations on the sea front, which they had accepted and asked when and where the Town Council would install the refill stations.

It was agreed to approach Lowestoft Vision again for their support on the refill scheme and Councillor Ray would send information about applying to the refill scheme to the office.

Cllr Parker proposed the Town Council contact East Suffolk Council and urge them to install refill stations as part of the Jubilee Parade development; seconded by Cllr Craig; all in favour.

14. To receive an update regarding advice on the use of chlorine as a risk management measure for water storage

With the correct processes followed this item can be progressed and piloted at sites that have active Friends of Groups, such as Kensington Gardens, due to the need for regular maintenance and cleaning.

15. To consider co-operation with the Marina Theatre over the summer regarding the nesting kittiwakes

As the kittiwakes had returned to their usual nesting areas, a cleaning programme had been implemented, with a full clean due in October 2023 once the kittiwakes have vacated.

Cllr Barker declared she was a member of Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

It was requested to have an item on the next agenda to discuss London Road North cleaning programmes and further cleaning of the town.

It was requested to have an item on the next agenda to receive an update from the Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership Agreement.

16. To receive an update on Earth Protector activities undertaken by the schools and East Suffolk College

It was agreed to defer this item as Ms. Bunn was not in attendance to provide the update.

It was noted that one representative was required for the First Light Environmental Task Force and would be discussed by Full Council in June.

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17. Date of the next meeting

Monday 19 June 2023 – 15:30

18. Items for the next agenda and close

As raised in the meeting there would be items to consider the cleaning of London Road North and to receive an update from the Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership Agreement.

There was uncertainty as to whether permission had been received for the Town Council to have a stall at the First Light Festival and whether a budget had been agreed. Cllr Brooks proposed to defer requesting a stall due to the lack of time, and to consider having a presence at other events; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

19. To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, namely any legal issues relating to the matters on this agenda

There were no resolutions.

The Chair closed the meeting at 16:42

Signed:

19 June 2023