

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 15
January 2024

Present: Cllrs Sonia Barker, Wendy Brooks, Graham Parker, John Pitts, Andy Pearce, Janet Craig and Deborah Ray (Chair). Non-Councillor member John Sillett

In Attendance: Lauren Elliott (Project and Committee Clerk) and Christopher Meek (Events and Administration Officer)

Minutes

115. Welcome

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

116. To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Page and Non- Councillor member Rachel Bunn with reasons provided.

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

117. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

117.1.To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests from councillors on items on the Agenda.

Cllrs Barker, Brooks and Ray declared they were members of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Cllrs Craig and Parker declared they were East Suffolk Councillors. Cllr Parker declared an interest in agenda items 121 and 123a. Mr Sillett declared he was a member of East Suffolk Travel Association.

117.2.To consider written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and note dispensations granted.

No written requests for dispensations had been received.

118. To consider the draft minutes and confidential note of the meeting on 18 December 2023

Cllr Brooks proposed approval pending changes to item 103a; seconded by Cllr Ray; four councillors voted in favour and one non councillor member John Sillett abstained.

119. 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 advanced comments had been received. Ms Rachel Bunn (Non -Councillor member) was present via Zoom.

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

The committee members noted the document. Cllr Pearce wanted it noted that the heading under which the bulky waste scheme, contractors are not aware of any monthly caps.

121. To consider any matters to raise with Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte (Cabinet Member for the Environment) or Cllr Caroline Topping (East Suffolk Council Leader with responsibility for Parish Liaison) and to receive feedback on any matter previously raised, including the following:

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121.1. Receive feedback from the East Suffolk Council Quarterly Liaison meeting and consider any relevant actions

Cllr Brooks and Pearce felt it was a productive meeting. The meeting showed willingness from parties to foster positive relations. Cllr Ray wanted it to be noted to East Suffolk Council that there should be further consideration of water refill stations on the seafront. Cllr Brooks wanted it noted for future conversations about the need to highlight the rate of erosion in Pakefield. Cllr Brooks wanted it noted about fly tipping outside the areas of A47 and that Councillors and members of public try to use the reporting tool but not everyone has access to smartphones and online. Committee members wanted to scope if there was a possibility of a standalone planning meeting with East Suffolk Council to discuss particular items. Committee members wanted to know if it was possible to share information with East Suffolk Council about Fly tipping in Lowestoft and our figures from Lowestoft Town Council Bulky Waste scheme.

121.2. Receive an update on the acoustic panel for McDonalds in Gunton ward.

Cllr Parker gave an update to committee members about the current dialogue he has had with developers of the site. Cllr Brooks asked if she could be included in communications as ward councillor. Cllr Parker advised the committee that he was promised that the issue surrounding temporary generators would be resolved on 16 January 2024. Cllr Pearce and Brooks asked if this was not completed on the day could this be followed up by the District Councillor.

122. To consider the following items:

122.1. To consider avenues of community engagement and relevant actions:

122.1a. Receive an update on the formation of a Lowestoft Pupils Climate Committee

122.1b. Plans for the 'Big Green Weekend' for 2024

Events and Administration Officer gave an update on where we are in the planning. It was agreed that Officers and Rachel Bunn agree to take further discussion offline to arrange a team's call.

122.1c. Support for the Suffolk Wildlife Trust Eco Event

Committee members suggested a vast number of ideas to work with and will liaise with the communications Officer. Officers raised the need about of funding for items and stall hire and would need to investigate this. Cllr Pearce proposed to Officers in conjunction with Climate committee members to see if there is viability for Lowestoft Town Council to have a presence for a stand and if there were any fees this would come out of the climate budget, Cllr Barker seconded : All in favour.

122.2. To consider the following in relation to the Earth Protector Town Status of Lowestoft Town Council and relevant actions:

122.2a. Setting up a Steering Group for Plastic Free Communities

Cllr Ray gave update to committee members.

122.3. To consider issues relating to waste and pollution:

122.3a. Submitting a response to East Suffolk Council's Refuse & Dog Waste Bin Policy Consultation

Cllr Ray wanted it noted in item 13.1 to include blister packs. Cllr Pearce wanted it noted for future Lowestoft Town Council communications that Parish councils could purchase bins and seek permission to place on East Suffolk Council owned land. Cllr Brooks noted the approached to mix used bins for dog users and said this was positive step.

Cllr Pearce proposed approval of the policy with the recommendations from Climate Committee members to Full Council: Cllr Barker seconded; Five members for and Cllr Parker abstained.

Cllr Craig leaves room at 16:35.

122.4. To consider public transport and alternative methods of travel and relevant actions:

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122.4a. Receive a report from the Suffolk Enhanced Bus Partnership

John Sillett thanked the committee for his nomination. Cllr Brooks noted that communication needs to be better between the relevant organisations especially when putting timetables together. The committee wanted it noted to review transport links to East Coast College and this can contribute to barriers of engagement because the infrastructure is not there. The committee want Lowestoft Town Council to host a public meeting but mindful of managing expectations to invite the relevant stakeholders to provide an engagement session. Cllr Perace proposed to Full council to support the concept of a public transport meeting in conjunction with Officers and reaching out to relevant stakeholders to seek participation; Cllr Brooks seconded; all in favour.

123. To review the decisions on this agenda from the perspective of nature

The Committee agreed nature had been considered in the decisions of this meeting.

124. Date of the next meeting

Monday 19 February 2024 15:30

125. Items for the next agenda and close

Cllr Barker gave her apologies for the next meeting. Cllr Brooks wanted it noted for the next meeting if there could be an item about Pakefield Cliff Erosion.

126. 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

The chair closed the meeting at 17:19.