

Lowestoft Town Council
Budget and Loan Council Meeting
First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE
12:30 on 15 January 2024

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks, Andy Pearce, Bernie Rappensberger and Elise Youngman (Deputy Chair)

In Attendance: Sarah Foote (Deputy Town Clerk) James Cox (Finance and Information Officer)

135. Welcome

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

136. To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence from any Councillors not in attendance.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Barker, Green and Parker with reasons provided. Cllr Pearce proposed approval; seconded by Cllr Rappensberger; all in favour.

137. Declarations and dispensations

137.1. To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable interests from councillors on items on the agenda - Cllr E Youngman declared she worked for the company who cleaned Lowestoft Town Council (LTC) owned toilets.

137.2. To consider written requests for dispensations for interests and note dispensations granted - No written requests for dispensations had been received.

138. 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 members of the public were in attendance and no advanced comments had been received.

139. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 4 December 2023, 11 December 2023 and 8 January 2024.

It was agreed to defer approval of the minutes to the next meeting.

140. To review the 2023 – 2024 Lowestoft Town Council Budget and reserves (some aspects may be confidential).

141. To review the 2024 – 2025 Lowestoft Town Council Budget and reserves (some aspects may be confidential).

These items would be discussed in confidential session.

142. To consider the updated draft of the Reserves Policy

The draft Reserves Policy was reviewed.

143. Date of next meeting

A meeting would be called, if required, prior to the Full Council approval of the recommended precept.

144. Items for the next agenda and close

145. 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

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interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, namely any legal and employment issues relating to the matters on this agenda.

Cllr Pearce proposed the meeting be moved into confidential session; seconded by Cllr Rappensberger; three votes in favour and one abstention.

The Chair closed the meeting to the public and moved into confidential session at 12:40

Civic & Ceremonial: It was agreed to recommend the budget be set to £1,000.

Grants: It was agreed to recommend the budget be set to £50,000.

Arts & Heritage: It was agreed to recommend the budget be set to £30,000. It was agreed to not set a budget for Heritage Plaques.

Officers had suggested £60,000 be budgeted for a possible vehicle purchase and at this time £70,000 had been budgeted as a contingency. Cllr Pearce proposed officers consider leasing for the vehicles in the first year with a view to provide costs and a specification to Full Council for agreement on any prospective purchase of a vehicle in 2025-2026; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

Waterways & Ponds: It was agreed to recommend the budget line for the replacement of the Sparrows Nest pond be set to £26,030.

It was agreed to recommend the repair of the Euroscope be funded with the £2,000 carry over from the Sea Wall budget line and £18,000 against General Reserves.

The Earmarked Reserves and offsets were reviewed.

Cllr Rappensberger left the chamber at 13:57

The Deputy Town Clerk left the chamber at 14:10

Cllr Pearce proposed to recommend to the Finance and Governance Committee and Full Council three options of 3.93%, 4.93% and 5.93% increase. A 5.93% increase would include a £20,000 contribution into General Reserves whilst a 3.93% increase would use the income generated by a tenant. 4.93% was the option specifically recommend to Full Council as it reflects the commitments the Town Council had made and any upcoming projects that needed funding in place. Cllr Brooks seconded the proposal and a vote was held with all in favour.

The Chair closed the meeting at 14:20

Signed:

12 August 2024