

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 July 2024

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks, Paul Page (Chair), Graham Parker, Andy Pearce and Deborah Ray. Non-Councillor member John Sillett

In Attendance: Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk)

Public: Three members of the public were in attendance (two in person and one via zoom)

19. Welcome

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

20. To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Pearce who may be late to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Craig with reasons provided. Cllr Parker proposed acceptance of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Ray; all in favour.

Rachel Bunn was absent with no apologies received.

21. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

21.1. To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests from members on items on the Agenda – Cllr Parker declared he was a member of East Suffolk Council (ESC), and would the leave the chamber for consideration of item 26, and he was on the ESC working group on public transport. John Sillett declared he was a member East Suffolk Travel Association. Cllr Brooks declared she was a member of Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

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

22. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 17 June 2024

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

23. 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 – A member of the public was in attendance via zoom to speak on item 29.2 as a member of the 20's Plenty campaign group.

Cllr Page proposed item 29.2 be moved up as the first item of the agenda after the presentation delivered in the public forum; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

The presenter provided information to the Committee on the benefits to 20's Plenty, including a reduction in emissions, a reduction in casualties, saving fuel for drivers and increasing alternative forms of transport such as cycling and buses.

Cllr Brooks temporarily left the chamber at 15:49

Cllr Brooks returned to the chamber at 15:51

The presenter clarified any surveys or consultations regarding where this speed limit would be implemented would be undertaken by Suffolk Highways as the proper authority. In terms of what Lowestoft Town Council (LTC) could do, if the Committee resolved to do so, is sign a motion of support for Lowestoft to have 20mph implemented, and write to the Highways

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Authority to consider this and investigate further, and then notify 20's Plenty when this has been done.

29.2 Consider working with '20's Plenty' in Suffolk and with local communities in Lowestoft to identify roads where '20's Plenty' – Cllr Brooks proposed a recommendation be made to Full Council to support exploring the implementation of 20mph in Lowestoft and discuss this with Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Highways; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

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

There was no updated position on expenditure.

25. To review and adopt Committee arrangements:

25.1. To consider the appointment of a non-Councillor member – Two applications had been received and it had been resolved at the previous Full Council to not limit the number of non-Councillor members who can join this Committee.

Cllr Page proposed both applications be accepted; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

26. To consider any matters to raise with the appropriate East Suffolk Council Cabinet member and to receive feedback on any matter previously raised, including the following:

26.1. To note outcomes of climate matters as discussed at the LTC/ESC Quarterly Liaison on 8th July 2024 –

Cllr Parker temporarily left the chamber at 16:10

The placement of water bottle refill stations on the seafront had been discussed and ESC confirmed they would consider including them in the works on the seafront.

There had been discussions on encouraging shops in the town to sign up to the refill scheme and it was noted that Lowestoft Vision were going to attempt to engage the businesses on this again.

The cancellation of the flood barrier had been discussed and ESC had confirmed they were due to review the Waveney Local Plan in the next year.

Cllr Parker returned to the chamber at 16:16

27. To consider Lowestoft Town Council's draft Climate Action Plan and relevant actions:

27.1. Discuss the progress of the Climate Action Plan and Councillor involvement – Ad-hoc meetings were being held to review the plan and it was requested that more Committee members attend these meetings and contribute to the drafting of the plan.

Officers were asked to confirm if the Climate Action Plan could be a supplement to the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

28. To consider the natural environment with regards to Lowestoft's parks and open spaces, and other ecology related matters, and relevant actions:

28.1. Receive an update on Foxburrow Woods and consider next steps – The ancient woodland was currently up for sale and whilst there was no move to develop the land, it needed to be maintained. Cllr Brooks confirmed another public meeting was due to be held at Gunton Church.

It was suggested to send out leaflets in the area to bring it to the public's attention and

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finance a survey to establish a group to undertake the maintenance work, however with the public meetings being held it was agreed that this would not be required.

It was agreed that the Committee would consider what groups could be interest in assisting with the land and provide details to Cllr Brooks before the next public meeting.

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

29.1. Receive an update from the Public Transport Working Group – Officers were reviewing the survey compiled by the working group and a follow up meeting would be arranged.

Cllr Pearce entered the chamber at 16:37

29.2. Consider working with ‘20’s Plenty’ in Suffolk and with local communities in Lowestoft to identify roads where ‘20’s Plenty’ – This item was brought forward in the agenda.

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

30.1. To receive feedback on the Big Green Weekend – There had been a good spread of information stalls and campaign stalls, however, mostly due to the inclement weather, it had not been as well attended as the previous Big Green Weekend.

It was agreed to consider expanding advertisement of the event with half a dozen boards installed at various parks LTC owns. It was suggested to approach ESC at the next Quarterly Liaison meeting to discuss an in-principle allowance for LTC to advertise in areas of the town under their jurisdiction, and perhaps for ESC to consider having more involvement in the event.

It was suggested to improve the sign posting for the event as attendees were not aware where presentations were being held.

One suggestion was made for the Committee to provide more input as the member felt the event at Kensington Garden had little relation to the climate.

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

The Committee agreed their decisions had considered the perspective of nature.

32. Date of the next meeting

Monday 19th August 2024 15:30

33. Items for the next agenda and close

An item was requested to receive an update on the status of ESC’s cycling strategy.

34. 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 16:55

Signed:

19th August 2024