

**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 19 August 2024**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllrs Wendy Brooks, Janet Craig, Paul Page (Chair), Graham Parker, Andy Pearce and Deborah Ray (Deputy Chair). Non-Councillor member Benjamin Poole

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

**35. Welcome**

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

**36. To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from non-Councillor members John Sillett and Cathy Williams with reasons provided. Cllr Pearce proposed approval; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

**37. Declarations of Interests and dispensations**

37.1. To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests from members on items on the Agenda – Cllrs Craig and Parker declared they were members of East Suffolk Council (ESC).

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

**38. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 15 July 2024**

Cllr Pearce proposed approval; seconded by Cllr Parker; five votes in favour and two abstentions.

**39. 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 and no members of the public were in attendance.

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

Since the previous meeting there were items of expenditure for vehicle fuel, the bulky waste collection and cleaning for the Marina Theatre.

**41. To consider any matters to raise with the appropriate East Suffolk Council Cabinet member**  
It was suggested to make a formal approach to ESC to engage with the Public Transport Working Group.

It was requested an update be sought on ESC strategy for dealing with litter and fly-tipping in Lowestoft.

In reference to item 44.1, officers were asked to discuss sharing data from the bulky waste trial with the relevant ESC officers.

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

42.1. Receive an update from the Transport Working Group – The Consultant had met with the Working Group and would provide an updated draft for their approval. The Working Group agreed to survey be live for two weeks and hard copies would be provided to selected locations around town. Some members of the Working Group had met with Wherry Lines groups and the East Suffolk Travel Association, who expressed an interest in

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being involved in producing questions for the survey. This would be considered but must not hinder the survey going live in a timely manner. The survey would be submitted for the Scheme on a Page initiative as evidence of public transport requirements in Lowestoft.

- 42.2. Receive an update on the status of East Suffolk Council's Cycling and Walking Strategy – The relevant department in ESC had been contact and no response had been received at the time of the meeting. This item would be pursued further as part of item 41.

**43. To consider avenues of community engagement and relevant actions:**

- 43.1. A litter picking event as part of the Town Council's Plastic Free Community pledge – As Lowestoft Town Council (LTC) had signed the pledge to Plastic Free Communities, the fourth objective required LTC to organise two community events to raise awareness of the campaign. It was suggested to hold the event in October.

Cllrs Brooks and Ray had spoken with the ESC Waste and Streets Scene Monitoring Officer, who confirmed they could provide the litter picking equipment for the event.

Should the Committee agree to proceed with the event, considerations would need to be given on the dates for the event, areas for litter picking, advertisement, insurance cover, risk assessments and first aider requirements.

ESC should be able to advise on where the litter picking was required. It was requested this item be returned to the Committee if LTC was required to arrange its own insurance.

An effective method of advertisement would need to be considered to gather volunteers for the event.

Cllr Parker proposed to meet with ESC to identify locations that require litter picking and consider further requirements such as insurance, risk assessments etc.; seconded by Cllr Pearce who noted that anything ESC were unable to handle would be brought back to this Committee; all in favour.

- 43.2. Note the next Big Green Weekend date for 2025 has been set for the 7-15 June – It was requested this event be on the next Events and Communications Sub-Committee agenda. An item was requested for the next agenda to consider holding the Big Green Weekend Saturday event on the same day as the First Light Festival.

**44. To consider issues relating to waste and pollution and relevant actions:**

- 44.1. Review of the Bulky Waste trial contract – Cllr Pearce proposed a recommendation be made to Full Council for the service to be made permanent. Furthermore, officers would acquire a collated summary for the year with a breakdown of the percentage of items that were recycled, upcycled or were unreparable; seconded by Cllr Page.

It was requested updated fly tipping data be sought from ESC to gauge what effect the service had on fly tipping in Lowestoft – though the reduction of fly tipping would not be used as an indication of the scheme's success, instead other measures would considered, such as the level of public uptake on the service and the percentage of recycling. This collated data would also need to be shared with ESC. Cllr Pearce confirmed his proposal included the request for fly tipping data from ESC.

Cllr Pearce requested Cllrs Brooks and Ray speak with the ESC Waste and Streets Scene Monitoring Officer to follow up on his previous request to ESC to sign post Lowestoft residents, who were unable to afford ESC's bulky waste service, to the Lowestoft's free service.

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Cllr Parker seconded Cllr Pearce’s proposal and a vote was held with all in favour.

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

The Committee agreed the perspective of nature had been considered in all decisions.

**46. Date of the next meeting**

46.1. To consider scheduling an extraordinary meeting in September due to officer availability  
– It was agreed to arrange an extraordinary meeting and officers would send a poll to the members.

**47. Items for the next agenda and close**

An item was requested to discuss appropriate planting in parks and how to defend the choices made in terms of the climate emergency.

An item was requested to review a list of potential members for the Plastic Free Communities steering group.

Cllr Ray requested to invite a doctor to speak with the committee in September regarding climate change and building resilient communities, which the Committee agreed to.

An item was requested to discuss the water threats posed to communities with the building of Sizewell C, particularly the shortage of water, coastal erosion and issues with the flood barrier.

*Cllr Parker left the chamber at 16:45*

**48. 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 16:47*

Signed: .....

23 September 2024