

Lowestoft Town Council
Meeting of the Budget and Loan Sub-Committee
Via Video Meeting
14:00 on 7 December 2020

MINUTES

Video meeting participants: Cllrs Sue Barnard, Alan Green (Chair) and Andy Pearce

Also participating: Shona Bendix (Clerk), James Cox (Finance and Administration Assistant) and Lauren Elliott (Committee Clerk)

79. Welcome

Councillors and members of the public were reminded of the right to report and application of the video meeting protocol, and the meeting was welcomed.

80. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Neil Coleby and Graham Parker. Cllr Pearce proposed acceptance of the apologies; seconded by Cllr Green; all in favour.

81. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

There were none.

82. Receipt of any comments and noting that the draft minutes of the meeting on 30 November 2020 will be considered at the next appropriate meeting

There were no comments and the draft minutes were noted.

83. Any advance comments from the public on any matters on this agenda

A comment had been received regarding item 84, regarding a suggestion that the Climate Emergency Committee be subsumed by the Planning and Environment Committee. The Standing Orders and Policies Sub-Committee will be considering the structure of Committees and Sub-Committees as part of its review in January.

84. Noting that the Standing Orders and Policies Sub-Committee are considering Committee and Sub-Committee structures and Terms of Reference, and consideration of whether to submit any comments

It had previously been suggested that other Committees and Sub-Committees should feed in details of any priorities and projects to this Sub-Committee for budget consideration. It was agreed this should be by the middle of September, rather than the beginning of October as previously suggested.

85. The 2020 – 2021 Lowestoft Town Council Budget, including the following:

85.1 The adequacy of the Repairs and Maintenance budget, including The Ness (confidential)
– To be discussed during the confidential session.

86. The 2021 – 2022 Lowestoft Town Council Budget, including the following:

- 86.1 Any additional repairs costs, including the Fen Park bridge and pond – nothing yet.
- 86.2 The adequacy of the Repairs and Maintenance budget, including The Ness (confidential)
– To be discussed during the confidential session.
- 86.3 Future funding of the Marina Theatre (confidential) – To be discussed during the confidential session.
- 86.4 The budget structure and any further budget variations, including staffing and Christmas lights (confidential) – To be discussing during the confidential session.

87. Date of the next meeting

Monday 14 December 2020 14:00

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88. Items for the next Agenda and Close

A discussion on the reserves position and the structure of the budget, including consolidation of tabs, was requested at the next meeting.

Cllr Pearce proposed moving the meeting into confidential session; seconded by Cllr Barnard; all in favour. The Chair thanked those who had been viewing the meeting via live stream and the live stream was closed as the meeting went into confidential session. It was confirmed the meeting would end following the confidential session.

89. Resolution to close the meeting to the public

85.1 The adequacy of the Repairs and Maintenance budget, including The Ness (confidential)

There was a confidential discussion regarding the cost of repair work to the Jubilee Bridge.

86.2 The adequacy of the Repairs and Maintenance budget, including The Ness (confidential) – There was a confidential discussion regarding the adequacy of the budget provision for The Ness. There is a wooden bench in Sparrows Nest which requires staining in the spring or summer. Cllr Barnard will send pictures to officers. Consideration of the five year plans for parks will incorporate the provision of benches, bins and bicycle racks, and the Open Spaces Strategy is being reviewed by the Standing Orders and Policies Sub-Committee shortly. Officers are trying to pick up issues as they arise, and the play equipment at St Margaret’s Plain has now been painted.

There were confidential discussions regarding the staffing budget, and the budget for the refurbishment of public conveniences.

86.3 Future funding of the Marina Theatre (confidential) – Some information has been received from the Theatre, and there was a confidential discussion.

Cllr Barnard temporarily left the meeting 15:18

86.4 The budget structure and any further budget variations, including staffing and Christmas lights (confidential) – Cllr Pearce had suggested some amendments to the budget and these were reviewed.

Cllr Barnard returned 15:29

Signed: 

14 December 2020