

Lowestoft Town Council
Meeting of the Community Safety Committee
First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE
15:30 on 15 December 2021

Minutes

Present (in person): Cllrs Peter Lang (Chair), Wendy Brooks, Graham Parker, Andy Pearce, Alan Green and Paul Page (arrived 15.44)

In attendance (remotely via zoom): Sarah Foote (Deputy Town Clerk) and Chris Meek (Office Assistant)

Public: There were no members of the public in attendance (either in person or via Zoom webinar)

44. Welcome

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

45. To receive and consider acceptance of apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

46. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

Cllrs Brooks and Pearce declared a local non-pecuniary interests for their roles with Gunton Residents' association.

47. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 22 September 2021

Cllr Pearce proposed acceptance of the minutes; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour

48. Public forum

No advance comments had been received. There were no members of the public in attendance, either in public or via Zoom webinar.

49. To review any expenditure by this Committee from its delegated budget

Deputy Town Clerk made the committee aware that £50 had been spent on defibrillator pads at the Denes Oval as these had expired and needed replacing.

50. To consider thresholds for delegations to the Clerk for time urgent, emergency and general expenditure

Cllr Pearce explained to committee the reason for this delegation and put forward the amount of £2500, in line with other Committees: Cllr Pearce proposed; Cllr Brooks seconded; all in favour

51. To consider Covid-19 recovery and safety measures the Town Council could take to support the community

Cllrs Brooks confirmed a sports club had approached her for Town Council support. Cllr Brooks advised this club had over 300 members with a varied age group. Cllr Brooks was looking at the possibilities of support or guidance the Town Council could offer this sports club. Cllr Pearce discussed the possibility of putting forward to the 'Events and Communication' agenda. Cllr Pearce proposed; Cllr Brooks Seconded; all in favour.

Cllr Pearce would like to put on record the continuing negative impact covid restrictions are having on people's well-being and maybe seek further guidance from East Suffolk Council or other organisations about pandemic restrictions. Deputy Town Clerk confirmed there is a Community

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Partnerships meeting scheduled, which may lead to relevant guidance and information on pandemic restrictions regarding people's well-being.

52. To consider measures to improve the security of the Town Council's assets, including the following:

52.1 Sites to prioritise - Cllr Pearce proposed Gunton Community Hall to be looked at regarding safety improvements. Deputy Town Clerk gave an update on this and confirmed quotes were being sought for front doors to be replaced with solid doors with vision panel and the rear fire doors to be replaced. The vent on the roof had been replaced due to damage. Deputy Town Clerk asked the Committee to consider using anti slip paint at Gunton Community Hall and they were in favour. Cllr Brooks asked if the Town Council held a list of criminal damage to assets. The Deputy Town Clerk advised 'yes' - a list that is compiled from Police, Norse Operatives and Tenants. Cllr Pearce then reported incidents near the cricket club house at Denes Oval but could not confirm if any damage had been done.

Cllr Brooks suggested using this data to decide which assets the Town Council should be prioritising. Cllr Pearce acknowledged this and said this was not about hard choices but asked if there were too many sites that needed safety improvements. The committee asked if this report could be shared between them so they could make decisions going forward on whether to prioritise a site for safety improvements.

Deputy Town Clerk gave an update on the Britten Road Area regarding security concerns. The Town Clerk had a multi-agency meeting and the Police had designated this area as an 'out crime area'. The designated teen shelter has been removed.

52.2 Reinstatement of chicane gates at Great Eastern Linear Park – it was agreed to seek quotes for the reinstatement of these gates or confirm if the previous ones were held by Norse or Suffolk Highways. It was also agreed that signage should be added if the gates were replaced with contact details for any concerns. Cllr Brooks proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded; all in favour.

52.3 Provision of Lighting in Town Council Parks - Cllr Lang had previously mentioned about tree roots and the lack of lighting in Normanston Park. Cllr Pearce confirmed Friends of Fen Park had concerns over lighting and its impact on the environment. Cllr Pearce asked that lighting be considered in Normanston Park for people's personal safety.

Cllr Brooks advised that Normanston Park has a designated cycle path with no lighting and could be dangerous for users during hours of darkness.

Poor lighting around the edge of Belle Vue Park's wooded area was also considered.

The Deputy Clerk advised the council it is not lighting that is expensive, it is whether there is and electricity supply, as UK Power Networks would have to be involved. The Committee has asked if the Community Warden could do some groundwork before putting suggestions forward regarding possible connectivity at the above three locations.

The committee asked if the lighting options at Normanston Park, Fen Park and Belle Vue Park could be put forward to both AID and Climate Emergency Committees for consideration.

Cllr Peter Lang proposed; Cllr Parker seconded; all in favour

52.4 Safety at Community Halls - This has been considered at 52.1 above

52.5 Multi-authority meeting regarding community safety issues - Cllr Pearce gave an update on the meeting that was held in the Most Easterly Community Group. This included anti-social behaviour and crime but it was also noted that this group only covered part of Lowestoft. Cllr Lang suggested

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other Parish Councils be included in future group meetings – such as Carlton Colville, Oulton Broad and Corton.

Deputy Town Clerk provided an update from Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore, that Town Council are awaiting confirmation for the February meeting. The committee asked if an invitation could be sent to the Chief Constable for the February 2022 meeting. It was noted that the Town Council no longer receive a report detailing crime and how the Police are performing.

53. To receive an update on speed indicator devices

Deputy Town Clerk looked at the locations Councillors put forward via email. Deputy Town Clerk advised these sites would have need to be individually assessed to meet the required criteria for installation of speed indicator devices. This would be an ongoing agenda item, with committee updates provided when necessary.

54. Defibrillators:

54.1 To receive an update following this Committee's decision to progress the installation of defibrillators at Kensington Gardens and Fen Park - confidential

54.2 It was noted that budget provision would be made to purchase three Town Council defibrillators in 2022/23 but reduce the number of match-funded defibrillators and retain the same overall budget.

Cllr Pearce confirmed that the draft budget would be put to Full Council on 21st December 2021 and contains an unchanged budget for £10,000. Cllr Pearce confirmed the Council had not, to date, received an approach for match funded defibrillators.

54.3 A directly funded defibrillator for the Gainsborough Drive pond area.

Cllr Pearce confirmed that the main issue was electricity connectivity. Cllr Brooks attended a meeting held by Gunton Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Brooks had been advised that a defibrillator could be attached to the outside of a private building near a public space. The Chair of Gainsborough Pond Group approached the Councillors and said that if Lowestoft Town Council needed assistance, they would allow Lowestoft Town Council to use their electricity supply. Cllr Pearce spoke to the committee and confirmed that a formal signed agreement would be required, identifying ownership and responsibilities. The Committee asked the Deputy Town Clerk for input regarding this matter and they advised that only sites in publicly accessible areas were appropriate for defibrillators. Committee proposed making contact with a defibrillator provider for input on placement at Gainsborough Drive pond area.

54.4 A match-funded defibrillator near the High Street Surgery - Cllr Pearce confirmed that Trinity Church had approached the High Street Surgery regarding part funding of a defibrillator with a need for further investigations. Cllr Pearce asked if this could be considered for the next meeting agenda whilst Cllr Pearce obtained further information from the Trinity Church and High Street Surgery.

54.5 To consider arrangements for the Gunton Drive telephone kiosk and defibrillator (confidential)

55. To consider a request from the Planning Committee to explore highway arrangements and road safety outside schools

Cllr Brooks spoke on the continued dangers around Schools and road safety. Cllr Pearce referred to 20mph zones outside schools but did not know the logistics in achieving this. Cllr Pearce would like

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to invite Cllr James Reeder for a multi-agency meeting. Cllr Page provided information on schools' own road safety campaigns but confirmed these were challenging for schools to enforce. Cllr Lang requested that an email be sent to all Councillors with the aim of gauging any issues in their wards on road safety outside schools. Cllr Parker proposed; Cllr Brooks seconded; all in favour.

56. Date of the next meeting

26 January 2022 15:30

57. Items for the next agenda and close

Cllr Pearce requested a report on the vandalism of assets to be shared before next meeting. Cllr Pearce proposed moving the meeting into confidential session; seconded by Cllr Green; all in favour.

58. 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

54.5 Councillors discussed the future of the defibrillator at the Gunton telephone kiosk and how this may impact on progressing further defibrillators as outlined at agenda item 54.1.



Signed: