

Lowestoft Town Council
Meeting of the Community Safety Committee
First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE
15:30 on 26 January 2022

Minutes

Present (in person): Cllrs Paul Page (Chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Lang), Wendy Brooks, Graham Parker, Andy Pearce, and Alan Green

In attendance: Sarah Foote (Deputy Town Clerk)

Public: There was one member of the public in attendance (either in person or via Zoom webinar)

58. Welcome

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

59. To receive and consider acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Lang. Cllr Pearce proposed acceptance of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

60. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

60.1 Cllr Pearce declared a local non-pecuniary interest as Chair of Gunton Residents' Association and Lowestoft Town Council Representative at Fen Park Friends Group. Cllr Brooks declared a local non-pecuniary interest as Vice-Chair of Gunton Residents' Association.

61. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 15 December 2021

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

62. Public forum

The Committee will receive a report from PC Chris Pallett, Lowestoft Community Engagement Officer, Suffolk Police.

The Chair welcomed PC Chris Pallett to the meeting. PC Pallett introduced himself to the Committee and gave an outline of his career. He confirmed that he has been in post since June 2021. He gave an update on the "Street Meets" which he hoped to increase around Lowestoft. PC Pallett was happy to engage with the Council and help where possible. Cllr Brooks had spoken of anti-social behaviour in her ward and had raised this issue with PC Chris Pallett. PC Pallett said he was trying to promote online reporting to reduce the pressures on the 'call 101' system. PC Pallett stressed it was important to report issues to the police so they could be recorded and resolved. Cllr Pearce expressed resident concerns that they felt nothing was being followed up by the Police but could not confirm or deny these residents claims. Cllr Pearce wanted to know if there was further support pass on to victims as it was felt these issues were not being followed up. PC Pallett could not comment on individual incidents but only follow up incidents that dialled in on 101 or the Police online reporting tool. PC Pallett confirmed that the East Kestrel Team had been patrolling the targeted areas. Cllr Brooks had asked for a simplified reporting advertisement which the Town Council could promote on social media, such as 'Click Before You Call'. Cllr Parker raised concerns about access to these services and from his ward where mainly elderly people reside. Cllr Parker said there were reports of residents waiting on the phone for long periods of time. Cllr Parker asked about staffing levels in the Police. PC Pallett could not comment this element as it was beyond his remit and suggested Cllrs made contact with the Senior Locality Team. The Committee asked for dates of the "Street Meets" but PC Pallett said these were arranged 'as and when'. He said he would be willing to engage with all COouncillors. Cllr Page asked about agenda Item 68 and asked for feedback and assistance from PC Pallett. PC Chris Pallett confirmed that there was an allocated Schools Liaison Officer that dealt with these matters (PCSO Justin Winn).

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Cllr Brooks raised issues with traffic problems around the Triangle Market. PC Pallett had confirmed there had been issues with signage in that area. PC Pallett had spoken to PCSO Soanes regarding the Triangle Market issues but acknowledged this was an ongoing problem and would keep the Committee updated.

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

Deputy Town Clerk updated the Committee that there had been no current expenditure at the time of the meeting.

64. Consider Covid-19 recovery and safety measures the Town Council could take to support the community. It was noted that both Cllr Pearce and the Deputy Town Clerk attended the East Suffolk Community Partnership meetings and would report back any relevant items that were raised by the ESC Communities Team.

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

65.1. The Deputy Town Clerk updated the Committee about the vandalism report that was being collated by officers. It was requested that a FOI request was submitted to East Suffolk Council and Suffolk Police to ascertain how many successful prosecutions had been reached using evidence from CCTV. It was hoped that this information would aid assessment of how effective CCTV was in reducing crime. Cllr Parker suggested forming a working group to review the vandalism and crime report more thoroughly. It was agreed the committee would review what actions were needed after the Crime and Vandalism report was provided to the next meeting.

65.2. Safety at the Town Council's Community Halls including an update on works for Gunton Community Hall – the anti-climb paint had been applied. A start date for the installation of the new doors was awaited. A quote was also required for a replacement kitchen fire door.

65.3. An update on plans for a multi-authority meeting to discuss known community safety issues in Lowestoft – it was suggested that a way forward would be to invite all parties (ESC/PCC/SCC/LTC) to a single item Zoom meeting.

65.4. To receive an update on the reinstatement of the chicane gates on the Great Eastern Linear Park – members noted feedback from East Suffolk Norse, questioned location and how the GELP was originally accessed when the gates were in place. It was agreed to arrange a site meeting to consider further.

66. To receive an update on the purchase of speed indicator devices – the Deputy Town Clerk explained the process for moving forward with this project with the first stage being a site assessment of all proposed locations. This would be undertaken as staffing permitted.

67. Defibrillators:

67.1. Direct funded defibrillator for the Gainsborough Drive Pond area – it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

67.2. Match funded defibrillator in the vicinity of the High Street Surgery - It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

67.3. Gunton Drive telephone kiosk and defibrillator and progression of installation at Kensington Gardens and Fen Park (some aspects may be confidential) – an update was provided in confidential session and detailed in the confidential meeting note.

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

At this stage in the meeting, both Cllrs Page and Pearce declared a NPI in any matters that may be raised regarding Roman Hill Primary School. Cllrs raised concerns for parking and safety outside schools at various locations across town. It was agreed all stakeholders needed to work together and that the Town Council may be able to facilitate a meeting which would include ESC Civil Enforcement, PCSO Winn (Schools Liaison) and representatives from schools.

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69. Date of the next meeting

23 March 2022 15:30

70. Items for the next agenda and close

Noting of crime and vandalism data.

71. 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

It was proposed by Cllr Pearce, seconded by Cllr Brooks and agreed to move the meeting to confidential session. At 17.18 the meeting paused for a break and resumed at 17.21.

Items as detailed at 67.3 were considered. The meeting was closed at 17.37.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. J.', is located at the bottom left of the page.