

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 17 February 2025

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks, Janet Craig, Paul Page (Chair) and Deborah Ray (Deputy Chair). Non-Councillor members John Sillett and Cathy Williams

In Attendance: Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk and Planning Assistant)

124. Welcome

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

125. To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Neil Coleby, Graham Parker and Andy Pearce with reasons provided. Cllr Brooks proposed approval of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

Rachel Bunn and Benjamin Poole were absent with no apologies provided.

126. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

126.1. To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests from members on items on the Agenda – Cllrs Brooks, Page and Ray and non-Councillor member Cathy Williams declared they were members of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Cllr Craig declared she was a member of East Suffolk Council (ESC).

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

127. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 20 January 2025

Cllr Brooks proposed approval of the draft minutes; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

128. 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 advance comments had been received and no members of the public were in attendance.

129. Finance and Budget

129.1. To monitor expenditure by this Committee from the climate emergency budget, under delegated authority – There was no updated position on the expenditure report.

130. To consider the following matter to raise with the appropriate East Suffolk Council Cabinet member:

130.1. Enforcement regarding bins in Lowestoft – Cllr Brooks proposed correspondence be sent to ESC to state Lowestoft Town Council's (LTC) dismay at their lack of action and failure to encourage people to take bins, which becomes a form of obstruction. The Committee were advised this would need to be a recommendation to Full Council as this would need to be the agreed stance of LTC. Cllr Ray seconded the proposal and a vote was held with five votes in favour and one abstention as the member was an East Suffolk Councillor.

130.2. The monitoring of air pollution in Lowestoft – Members reported they had seen a report stating ESC would no longer be undertaking air quality tests in certain areas. Cllr Brooks proposed officers contact ESC to query if they have stopped monitoring air quality for Lowestoft and the entire district, if it is confirmed they have then the reason why would be queried alongside whether the monitoring could be restarted; Cllr Ray

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seconded the proposed; five votes in favour and one abstention as the member was an East Suffolk Councillor.

131. To consider issues relating to the energy and water supply of the built environment of Lowestoft and relevant actions:

- 131.1. Receive an update on, or feedback from, a meeting with the MP to discuss the decision by National Grid to build pylons through Waveney Valley – The meeting was being scheduled and the MP had queried if the Committee were agreeable to a representative from National Grid being invited to the meeting. The Committee agreed to the representative being invited.
- 131.2. A recommendation to Full Council on whether to support Suffolk County Council's opposition to the proposal by National Grid to build pylons through Waveney Valley as opposed to underground cables – This item would be deferred until the meeting per item 131.1 has taken place.
- 131.3. Discuss rooftop solar power – The Sunshine Bill was currently going through Parliament that would require new homes to have solar panels installed. John Sillett proposed Jess Asato MP be contacted to request her support for the Bill at its second reading in July. The Committee were advised as this would be the stance of LTC it would need to be a recommendation to Full Council. The proposal was amended to be a recommendation to Full Council. Cllr Page seconded the proposal and a vote was held with all in favour.

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

- 132.1. To receive an update on, or feedback from, a meeting with the MP to discuss Lowestoft's coastal defences – This meeting was due to be scheduled.

133. To review the following policies and provide feedback to Full Council:

- 133.1. Water Management Policy – Cllr Page proposed the proposal be recommended to the Finance and Governance Committee with an amendment on the section concerning hosepipes to state the Town Council would respect any hosepipe bans; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.
- It was suggested there be an addition to note the source of water used, such as rainwater in public spaces when the water butts are in situ. Cllr Brooks proposed she work with Cllr Ray to refine the policy, with input to also be received from the Grounds Maintenance Team.

Cllr Craig temporarily left the chamber at 16:22

It was noted the deadline for any amendments to be submitted to the Finance and Governance was April 2025. Cllr Page seconded the proposal and a vote was held with all in favour.

Cllr Craig returned to the chamber at 16:24

- 133.2. Sustainability Policy – Cllr Brooks proposed to recommend the policy be archived as its content was already covered under existing policies and the emerging Climate Action Plan; seconded by Cllr Ray; all in favour.

134. Date of the next meeting

Monday 17 March 2025 – 15:30

135. Items for the next agenda and close

An item was requested to receive an update on the work of the Transport Working Group.
An item was requested to discuss 3G sports pitches and the use of rubber crumb.

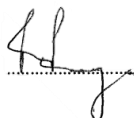
136. To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be

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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 16:33

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Long', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Signed:

17 March 2025