

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 28 April 2025

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks, Janet Craig, Paul Page (Chair), Graham Parker and John Pitts. Non-Councillor members John Sillett and Cathy Williams

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

Also in Attendance: Cllr Deborah Ray (via zoom)

149. Welcome

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

150. To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from non-Councillor member Benjamin Poole with reasons provided. Cllr Parker proposed approval of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour. Cllr Neil Coleby and non-Councillor member Rachel Bunn were absent with no apologies received.

151. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

151.1. 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. John Sillett declared he was a member of East Suffolk Travel Association (ESTA).

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

152. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 17 March 2025

Cllr Brooks proposed approval; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

153. 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.

154. Finance and Budget

154.1. To monitor expenditure by this Committee from the climate emergency budget, under delegated authority – There was no update for expenditure.

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

155.1. Receive feedback from a meeting with the MP to discuss the decision by National Grid to build pylons through Waveney Valley – Attendees reported the meeting was successful with interesting information provided on alternative options for the grid, such as offshore and tidal energy.

Cllr Brooks proposed a recommendation be made to Full Council to support Suffolk County Council's opposition to the pylons due to the effect pylons would have on the county and urge the government to seek alternative methods; seconded by John Sillett.

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Cllr Pitts noted the speakers at the meeting had raised the potential in Lowestoft of renewable energy research into tidal energy and requested an amendment to the proposal to have the speaker from Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (SEAS) invited to speak with the Committee to discuss the feasibility and potential of tidal energy in Lowestoft.

Cllr Brooks amended the proposal to invite the speak from SEAS to discuss tidal energy further and how Lowestoft Town Council (LTC) could support advancing these ideas.

John Sillett seconded the amended proposal. A vote was held with six in favour and one abstention as the member was not in attendance at the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting with the MP had been uploaded to LTC's website. It was requested the minutes be sent directly to all members.

- 155.2. 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 was covered per the proposal under 155.1.

156. To consider public transport and alternative methods of travel, and relevant actions:

- 156.1. Receive notes from a meeting of the Public Transport Working Group and approve its project – The working group had met with representatives invited from ESTA and Wherry Lines to attend future meetings. The working group had proposed its new purpose be to submit a Scheme on a Page proposal to provide a new bus route in Lowestoft. Cllr Parker proposed approval of the working group's new project and purpose; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

The Committee noted that information had been received on the potential reinstatement of a bus route in Lowestoft, though this was in its early stages.

The working group would meet on a monthly basis with the next meeting to be schedule in late May after the Annual General Meeting. The working group requested an officer be present at all meetings to take notes.

157. To consider Lowestoft Town Council's draft Climate Action Plan and relevant actions:

- 157.1. Receive an update on the draft Climate Action Plan – The plan was being progressed with new dates to be sent to all Committee members for further meetings. Once the draft plan has been completed, there would be a final review before it is presented to this Committee for review and onward recommendation to Full Council.

Cllr Ray note it would be good to have more members of this Committee attend the meetings and provide input for the draft.

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

- 158.1. Discuss dates for Plastic Free events – The Committee noted that the last litter pick seemed to have helped improve the area.

It was suggested weekend dates be considered for June and the litter pick be held in alleyways near Norwich Road. Officers would review potential dates for June and bring feedback to the next meeting.

- 158.2. Receive an update on support for the Living Streets initiative from the Quarterly Liaison meeting with East Suffolk Council – East Suffolk Council expressed interest in this initiative and would be supportive to Lowestoft Town Council, but were unable to take the lead on the initiative. A suggestion was made to contact Ipswich Borough Council on information and how to progress.

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159. Date of the next meeting

Monday 19 May 2025 – 15:30

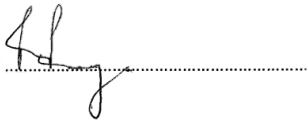
160. Items for the next agenda and close

An item was requested to discuss information received on 3G pitches and rubber crumb infill.
An item was requested to receive an update on the Plastic Free Communities Steering Group.
It was requested the Kittiwake Officer be invited to speak to the Committee regarding communications to be sent out after the inflammatory article by Lowestoft Journal on kittiwakes.

161. 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 16:16

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

Signed:
19 May 2025