

Lowestoft Town Council
Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee
Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1DE
Monday 16 June 2025 15:30

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks, John Murray, Paul Page (Chair), Graham Parker and Deborah Ray (Deputy Chair). Non-Councillor member Cathy Williams

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

Public: One member of the public was in attendance via Teams, and two members of the public were in attendance in person

12 Welcome

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

13 To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Neil Coleby and John Pitts with reasons provided. Cllr Parker proposed approval of the minutes; seconded by Cllr Ray; all in favour.

14 Declarations of interests and dispensations

14.1 To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, other Registerable and Non-Registerable interests from councillors on items on the agenda – Cllrs Brooks, Page, Ray and non-Councillor member Cathy Williams declared they were members of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Cllr Parker declared he was a member of East Suffolk Council.

14.2 To consider written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests and note dispensations granted – None written requests for dispensations had been received.

15 To consider the draft minutes of the extraordinary meeting on 9 June 2025

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting were in progress and were deferred to the next meeting for approval.

16 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 – Two members of the public attended to speak on item 19.1, one member was the East Suffolk Council Kittiwake Officer, and the other was the Lowestoft Town Council representative on the Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership. A third member of the public attended to speak on item 18.1 and was a representative of A Future Without Rubbish.

Cllr Page proposed item 19.1 be brought forward and the two members of the public invited to speak on the item; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

19.1 Receive communication from the Kittiwake Officer regarding communications to the town – The Kittiwake Officer spoke on the coverage of kittiwakes in the Lowestoft Journal and confirmed she would be writing to the Journal to rectify the inaccuracies in their reporting. The Committee discussed a particular article from the Journal that misrepresented the kittiwakes as scavengers and asked the Kittiwake Officer to speak on this. The Kittiwake Officer confirmed she would be sending a letter to the Journal to correct the record, for this and all other articles that had been detrimental to the kittiwakes and conflated them with ordinary gulls.

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Under this item a query was raised regarding the cleanliness of the town and if East Suffolk Services were due to undertake more cleaning during the kittiwake nesting season. The Kittiwake Officer informed the Committee that East Suffolk Services had been unable to clean at their usual capacity as their pressure washer had been sent in for repairs, for which a temporary solution had been found.

The Kittiwake Officer concluded the discussion with highlights of the positive journalism on kittiwakes, including a recent East Suffolk Council YouTube video that had been very successful and may help counterbalance the misconception of the kittiwakes.

17 Finance and Budget

- 17.1 To monitor expenditure by this Committee from the Climate Emergency budget, under delegated authority – There was no update on expenditure.

18 To consider issues relating to waste and pollution:

- 18.1 Receive a presentation from A Future Without Rubbish CIC on historic landfills and the associated risks and responsibilities – A presentation was provided by A Future Without Rubbish which summarised the goals of the group to address and encourage action against littering and attendees were informed of a beach clean event to take place on 4 July.

Cllr Parker proposed all Councillors be provided the time and date for the beach clean and attend the event; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

Cllr Parker temporarily left the chamber at 16:35

An item was requested for the next agenda to discuss East Suffolk Council's updated waste and bin collection scheme.

Cllr Parker returned to the chamber at 16:38

Cllr Parker temporarily left the chamber at 16:40

- 18.2 Discuss engagement with the appropriate authority regarding cleaning for the town centre – Cllr Brooks noted that London Road North was not cleaned to an adequate standard and proposed officers write to East Suffolk Services on behalf of this Committee to highlight the lack of quality cleaning and maintenance in London Road North, from Station Square to Regents Road. It was queried if the proposal should be amended to encompass the entire town as there were several areas that required improved cleaning. Cllr Brooks confirmed the proposal would specify Station Square to Regents Road as the area needed care, separate to the need for extra cleaning during the kittiwake nesting season. Cllr Page seconded the proposal and a vote was held with four votes in favour and one abstention.

Cllr Parker returned to the chamber at 16:47

19 To consider the natural environment with regards to Lowestoft's parks and open spaces, and other ecology matters, and relevant actions:

- 19.1 Receive communication from the Kittiwake Officer regarding communications to the town – This item was brought forward to the beginning of the agenda.
- 19.2 Discuss further information received regarding 3G pitches and rubber crumb infill – The recent information received regarding 3G pitches and rubber crumb infill explained the need for these

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materials to ensure access to the sport and work was underway to identify alternative materials.

20 To consider avenues of community engagement and relevant actions:

- 20.1 Confirm the date for the next town council litter pick – Officers had reviewed potential dates for a litter pick and recommended the Committee consider a litter pick in one of the Town Council's parks during Love Parks Week at the end of July. Members of the Grounds Maintenance Team would be able to assist, and the pick would help reduce the increased littering that often occurs in the school summer holiday.

Whilst the Committee were not in favour of a parks litter pick supplanting the agreed litter pick in the alleyways, it was agreed that a date could be arranged in the future to clean the Great Eastern Linear Park, potentially in September in collaboration with East Coast College.

Cllr Page proposed the alleyways litter pick be organised for 19 July; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

- 20.2 Receive an update on the Plastic Free Communities Steering Group – Of the list of organisations provided, the office had received confirmation of interest from two groups. Cllr Ray had received confirmation of interest from a third organisation. It was agreed to proceed with setting up the Steering Group with the three organisations.

21 Date of next meeting

Monday 21 July 2025 - 15:30

22 Items for the next agenda and close

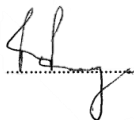
An item was requested to identify what Lowestoft Town Council could do to assist with the flood defences.

An item was requested to consider the standard procedure of speakers and presenters in the public forum to ensure consistency across all Committees.

23 Admission to meetings

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 employment matters and legal issues relating to the matters on this agenda – There were no resolutions.

The Chair closed the meeting at 17:06


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Signed:

21 July 2025