

Lowestoft Town Council
Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee
Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1DE
Monday 21 July 2025 15:30

MINUTES

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

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

Public: Two members of the public (in person) and Cllr Deborah Ray attended the meeting via Teams

24 Welcome

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

25 To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Neil Coleby with reasons provided, Cllr Ray was unable to attend in person and joined the meeting via Teams. Cllr Parker proposed approval of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Murray; all in favour.

Non-Councillor member Rachel Bunn was absent with no apologies received.

26 Declarations of interests and dispensations

26.1 To receive declarations of disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable interests from Councillors on items on the agenda – Cllr Parker declared he was a member of East Suffolk Council (ESC).

26.2 To consider written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests and note dispensations granted – No written requests for dispensation had been received.

27 To consider the draft minutes of the extraordinary meeting on 9 June and the meeting on 16 June 2025

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

28 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 – A member of the public attended as a representative of A Future Without Rubbish to make comments on items 32 and 34. The representative informed the Committee of the success of their Beach Clean event on 4 July 2025 and suggested, in relation to item 34.1, Lowestoft Town Council (LTC) consider including recognition of historic landfill sites and associated risks in the Climate Action Plan.

Cllr Ray raised the following queries: what the requested £1,250 would cover for the Planet Positive event per item 29.2, when the second water bottle refill station would be installed in Normanston Park per item 31 and regarding item 33.1, Cllr Ray suggested a strong letter be sent to Emma Hardy, Jess Asato, DEFRA, Environment Agency, ESC, and Suffolk County Council (SCC) stating that Lowestoft remained unprotected and vulnerable with no flood barrier and to press on what their intended action was.

29 Finance and Budget

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

29.2 To consider a request from Events and Communications Sub-Committee to allocate £1,250 from the Climate Emergency budget for the Planet Positive Event – Officers confirmed this

Lowestoft Town Council
Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee
Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1DE
Monday 21 July 2025 15:30

would cover half the cost for the outdoor marquee. Cllr Brooks proposed approval of the allocation; seconded by Cllr Pitts; all in favour.

30 To consider the standard procedure of speakers and presenters in the Public Forum to ensure consistency across all committees

Cllr Murray requested this item due to noted inconsistencies between Committees in the conduct of the Public Forum and suggested this be given further consideration to ensure consistency across the Council.

Standing Orders currently permitted three minutes for a member of the public to speak in Public Forum and a suggestion was made that as the rule was already in place it just needed better application across the Committees to ensure consistent standards. Further comments were made that whilst consistency was needed, it was important to ensure the atmosphere was not hostile for members of the public.

Cllr Parker proposed the Standing Orders and Policies Sub-Committee discuss consistent application of the Standing Orders at their next meeting; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

31 To receive an update on the installation of a water bottle refill station in Kensington Gardens

Officers confirmed the water bottle refill station would be installed at the back of the bowls pavilion where there was a suitable mains water supply and a surface water drainage connection point. The Facilities and Contracts Manager had spoken with the bowls club on the matter and dates were being reviewed to schedule the installation in August, alongside the new tennis court water cleaning point.

The Grounds Maintenance Team would then explore feasible installation points in Normanston Park for the second water bottle refill station.

A suggestion was made for the Committee to consider the future installation of a water bottle refill station at Denes Oval, should the current installations be successful.

Cllr Parker left the chamber at 16:08

32 To consider the following issues relating to waste and pollution and relevant actions:

32.1 Discuss East Suffolk Council's bin and waste collection scheme – Cllr Brooks proposed this item be added to the Quarterly Liaison meeting with ESC; seconded by Cathy Williams; all in favour.

33 To consider the following in relation to community engagement and relevant actions:

33.1 Identify what Lowestoft Town Council can do to assist with the improvement of the town's flood defences – Cllr Murray proposed the following actions be taken to assist with the improvement of the town's flood defences:

- Write a strong letter to Jess Asato MP, Emma Hardy (Under Secretary of State for Water and Flooding), DEFRA and the Environment Agency, ESC and SCC to state LTC represents the people of Lowestoft and are concerned by the cancellation of the flood barrier and the town's consequent vulnerability to the ravages of the North Sea, highlighting the restrictive effect this has on inward investments to the town due to the uncertainty over flooding.
- Engage with ESC and SCC to request an updated flood risk assessment for Lowestoft is conducted with the maps used to be updated to reflect the current infrastructure and have greater usability than maps used in previous surveys.

Lowestoft Town Council
Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee
Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1DE
Monday 21 July 2025 15:30

- Engage with ESC and SCC to ask what their plans were to protect Lowestoft against further flooding.
- To compile a list of, and consider engagement with, local active groups regarding the flood risk to Lowestoft.
- Seek clarification on the reason why the Lowestoft Flood Defence Group was inactive.
- Identify a list of national bodies with flood risk interest and consider appropriate engagement.
- Consider contact with Crown Estate as a potential funding body for completion of flood defence.
- Engage with Associated British Ports regarding their position on current and future development of flood defence for Lowestoft.
- LTC to arrange a meeting with Jess Asato MP to seek clarification as to whether the pre-election pledge to establish a Flood Resilience Taskforce to meet before winter to protect communities has been honoured, what measures it is taking and what it proposes for Lowestoft.
- Build on the meeting with Jess Asato MP and invite the four MPs to discuss this matter further, as the flood risk concerns the east coast and requires a coordinated effort.

Cllr Brooks seconded the proposal and a vote was held with all in favour.

An item was requested on the next agenda to discuss how nature can be harnessed to help defend against flooding.

An item was requested on the next agenda to discuss the changing coastline and coastal erosion.

34 To consider the following in relation to Lowestoft Town Council's draft climate action plan:

- 34.1 Receive an update on the plan and confirm the date of the next meeting – The Committee requested dates be arranged for September.

35 To consider the following in relation to public transport and alternative methods of travel and relevant actions:

- 35.1 Confirm the date for the next Public Transport Working Group meeting – The Committee confirmed the date of the next meeting would be 7 August 14:00.

36 Date of next meeting

Monday 18 August 15:30

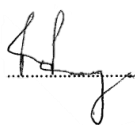
37 Items for the next agenda and close

No further items were requested for the next agenda.

38 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 16:34



.....

Signed:

18 August 2025

Lowestoft Town Council
Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee
Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1DE
Monday 21 July 2025 15:30