

Lowestoft Town Council
Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee
Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1DE
Monday 18 August 2025 15:30

MINUTES

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

In attendance: Sarah Foote (Acting Town Clerk) and Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk and Planning Assistant)

Public: One member of the public (via the webinar)

The meeting commenced at 15:38 once a quorate number of members were in attendance.

39 Welcome

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

40 To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ray and non-Councillor member Rachel Bunn with reasons provided. Cllr Brooks sent apologies as she may be late to the meeting. Cllr Parker proposed approval of apologies received; seconded by Cathy; all in favour.

Cllrs Neil Coleby and John Pitts were absent with no apologies received.

41 Declarations of interests and dispensations

41.1 To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable interests from members on items on the agenda – Cllr Parker declared he was a representative on the Resilient Board on behalf of East Suffolk Council (ESC).

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

42 To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 21 July 2025

Cllr Page proposed approval; seconded by Cathy Williams; all in favour.

43 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 – The member of public commented on item 45.1 and the need for nature-based solutions for flood protection, particularly with the incomplete flood barrier, and suggested the station area and London Road North would benefit from rain gardens to assist in holding back flood water from storms. It was suggested discussions be held with the ESC Environmental Task Group on nature-based solutions in the absence, or pending the development of, a flood barrier.

44 Finance and Budget

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

45 To consider the following in relation to the natural environment in Lowestoft's parks and open spaces and relevant actions:

45.1 Discuss how nature can be harnessed to help defend against flooding – It was requested this item be considered separately from a previous resolution on actions to take on the flood barrier as areas at risk of tidal flooding would likely outweigh any benefits of nature-based prevention

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methods, and to ensure the need for a flood barrier would not be negated by the suggestion of alternative methods.

Cllr Page proposed ESC Environmental Task Group be contacted to discuss and consider collaboration on nature-based solutions for flooding. Cllr Murray requested the proposal be amended to specify discussions would consider flooding from land-based and excess rainfall, not in relation to tidal flooding. The amendment was accepted and Cllr Murray seconded the proposal. A vote was held with all in favour.

Cllr Brooks entered the chamber at 15:57

- 45.2 Discuss the changing coastline and coastal erosion – It was agreed to defer this item to the next agenda as it had been requested by Cllr Pitts with no information provided.

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

- 46.1 Receive and approve the Terms of Reference for the Public Transport Working Group – A query was raised on the final point on the Terms of Reference specifying the Working Group would disband on finishing its task. It was explained that Working Groups were ‘task-and-finish’ groups that were created to complete a single project. Cllr Brooks proposed approval of the Terms of Reference; seconded by Cllr Murray; all in favour.

- 46.2 Receive the minutes of the Public Transport Working Group from its meeting on 7 August 2025 – The minutes were received and noted.

- 46.3 Recommendations from the Public Transport Working Group from its meeting on 7 August 2025:

a. To contact Suffolk County Council and highlight issues around poor communication between the Council, bus companies and residents – The Working Group had discussed how Suffolk County Council (SCC) and the bus companies were not efficient in conveying travel information to the public. Cllr Brooks proposed SCC and the relevant bus companies be emailed to ask they improve their communications, in particular with the introduction of the new bus route in the Gunton route; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

b. To recommend to Full Council for Lowestoft Town Council to support a Scheme on a Page bid to be submitted by the East Suffolk Travel Association for two bus shelters on Peto Way – It was explained that no action was required from Lowestoft Town Council (LTC), this was a request from members of the East Suffolk Travel Association, who were members on the Public Transport Working Group, to support its bid. Cllr Brooks proposed support be given; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

It was suggested there be further discussions on where else bus shelters were needed around the town, though concerns were raised as due a previous, negative experience when considering the funding of a bus shelter.

Officers confirmed SCC had not approached the Town Council and suggested it would be better to ascertain what SCC wanted to offer the town in terms of bus shelters before consulting with residents on where bus shelters were needed.

Cllr Parker proposed officers write to SCC to confirm if funding was available for bus shelters; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

c. To contact Simon Barnett of Suffolk County Council to encourage the next meeting of stakeholders for public transport be hosted in Lowestoft – Cllr Brooks proposed officers contact Simon Barnett to

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encourage the next meeting of stakeholders for public transport to be hosted in Lowestoft; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

d. To confirm interest in the next showcase of Suffolk County Council's driverless bus shuttle being hosted in Lowestoft – Concerns were raised on the potential safety hazards of driverless shuttles and the risk of its development causing a loss of jobs. It was noted that showcasing the shuttle could put the focus on Lowestoft with regards to transport. Cllr Brooks proposed SCC be contacted to confirm LTC's interest in hosting the showcase; seconded by Cathy Williams; all in favour.

e. To consider welcoming the progress made by Greater Anglia to provide more information about integrated transport with train and bus times available in relevant stations – The Committee welcomed the development and noted there was no need to make a resolution on this.

47 Date of next meeting

Monday 15 September 15:30

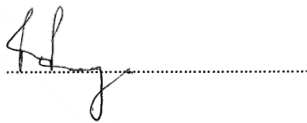
48 Items for the next agenda and close

An item was requested for the next agenda to receive an update on the actions resolved for the flood barrier.

49 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 16:28

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

Signed:

15 September 2025