

Lowestoft Town Council

For the attention of all Councillors

You are summoned to attend a **Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee** meeting of Lowestoft Town Council, which will be held at **Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1DE** at **15:30** on **Monday 15 September 2025**.

The meeting is held in accessible premises and open to the public and press to attend.

Those attending shall be informed that the meeting may be reported on (including recording, photographing and filming). This does not apply to confidential items. Comments can also be submitting regarding any item on the agenda in advance of the meeting. Members of the public can join the meeting remotely via [Teams](#). The meeting can also be observed via [YouTube](#).

In providing any comments members of the public accept that, where they are suitable, they may be considered at the meeting and published in our minutes. Any individual submitting the comments should ensure that their name, address and contact details are included in their communication and should note that anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Members of the public accept that their name may be noted and recorded at the meeting. However, their contact details will not be noted and reported publicly.

Councillors must register relevant interests and declare them at a meeting if they have such an interest in a matter to be considered. Under the Localism Act 2011, a councillor with relevant interests in matters on the agenda cannot take part or vote on those matters, unless they have been granted a dispensation. Under the Council's Code of Conduct, a councillor must leave the meeting room if they have such an interest, unless they have been granted a dispensation. There may be other interests or matters in which councillors might be considered to be biased or predetermined in which case they will need to consider whether they should leave the room.

The Council has a duty to pay due regard to preventing crime and disorder and to conserve biodiversity as part of relevant decisions.

S. L. Foote

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Sarah Foote, Town Clerk
09 September 2025

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

AGENDA

50 Welcome

To explain the fire evacuation procedure, welcome the meeting, and remind councillors and members of the public of the right to report.

51 To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

52 Declarations of Interests and dispensations

52.1 To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable interests from councillors on items on the agenda

52.2 To consider written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and note dispensations granted

53 To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 18 August 2025

54 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.

55 Finance and Budget

55.1 To monitor expenditure by this Committee from the climate emergency budget, under delegated authority

56 To consider applications to be a Non-Councillor member of this Committee and make recommendations to Full Council

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

57.1 Discuss the changing coastline and coastal erosion

57.2 To receive an update on actions taken to assist with the improvements of the town's flood barrier

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58 To consider avenues of community engagement and relevant actions:

58.1 Discuss dates for the next litter pick

59 Date of next meeting

Monday 20 October 15:30

60 Items for the next agenda and close

61 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

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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

Signed:

15 September 2025



MEETING PAPER

Subject: Applications to be Non-Councillor Members of the Committee

Meeting: Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee (item 56)

Date: 15 September 2025

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Application 1:

Hello,

You were looking for volunteers on Climate Change.

I used to be a policy adviser in DEFRA (not specifically on climate change but on sustainability, access to environmental information and adaptation among other things). I have recently resigned after about 8 years on the Board of an environmental charity with much more local interests. So, it is possible that I could be helpful.

I am a resident of Pakefield, but tend to travel quite a lot with other charitable commitments, so I would need to know more about what is involved.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jayne Boys

Application 2:

Hi

I'm interested in being a part of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee.

I live in Lowestoft. I'm retired.

I have a long-standing interest in the environment, from nature to renewable energy, and more recently in community climate change resilience, especially around its particular effects on our coast and town.

In the 80's I was a district councillor for Harbour Ward, and have a reasonable grasp of the difficulties and possibilities of operating within democratic organisations. My CV more recently also includes

periods as a Community Officer in Lowestoft, and working for Groundwork East (based in Ipswich but covering north Suffolk and Norfolk).

I am currently a committee member of the Most Easterly Community Group, North Lowestoft Men's Shed, and climate group Use Your Voice. (For the last two years or so I have devoted quite a lot of time to co-producing a local history book, but that's pretty much done and dusted now, so that's freed up a chunk of time).

The Climate Committee has a pretty long list of aspirations, and I would very much like to be a part of helping at least a few of them come to fruition.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

John Ellerby

Application 3

Hello!

My name is Penny Dack and I am a member of 'Use Your Voice' climate group. I would be very interested in becoming a non-councillor member of your committee.

As a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother I am particularly concerned about the impact of our changing climate on our local environment, as well as the global issue. My concern is for the future generations, that we take the steps today, rather than tomorrow to ensure a better health for our planet, a better prospect for all of humanity which, at present is facing a huge threat, nl., wildfires, flooding, drought, extinction of animal and plant species, pollution and the damage to our planet's 'lungs' by continuing destruction of our rainforests.

I await your reply



MEETING PAPER

Subject: Lowestoft Flood Defences Actions (update)

Meeting: Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee

Date: 15 September 2025

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Action	Update	Next Actions
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.	An email was sent to all parties with the statements requested.	Awaiting responses. SCC response: sent to their Floods team for comment and to provide guidance. ESC: sent to their Coastal Team. Environment Agency: Passed to the local customer team to deal with request.
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.	SCC's Flood and Water Management team and ESC's Coastal Management team have been emailed with the request.	Responses received. SCC: Link provided for the existing flood risk assessment: https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk and noted ownership of tidal flood defences and temporary tidal flood

		barrier in Lowestoft is with Coast Protection Team in East Suffolk Council and suggested they be contacted for further information. ESC: Flood risk assessment drawings have been updated to take into account the completed floodwalls and demountable defences as well as with the gap where the tidal barrier was to be installed.
Engage with ESC and SCC to ask what their plans were to protect Lowestoft against further flooding.	Contacted via the general contact email for both Council's with the request for engagement, and for the request to be directed to the most appropriate department.	Responses received. SCC Response: sent to their Floods team for response. ESC Response: sent to their Coastal Management team.
To compile a list of, and consider engagement with, local active groups regarding the flood risk to Lowestoft.	Groups found so far for consideration: -Use Your Voice – a local constituted group that seeks to encourage communities and local and national decision-makers to recognise and take action on the climate and biodiversity emergency. -Rights Community Action – Collaboration to tackle to climate emergency with communities and at national level.	Committee to discuss further groups and engagement.
Seek clarification on the reason why the Lowestoft Flood Defence Group was inactive.	Need to find the correct contact for this query. There was previously a Lowestoft Flood Protection Strategic Steering Group	
Identify a list of national bodies with flood risk interest and consider appropriate engagement.	National Bodies with flood risk interest: - DEFRA - National Flood Forum - Regional Flood and Coastal Committees	Committee to discuss further groups and engagement.
Consider contact with Crown Estate as a potential funding body for completion of flood defence.	Further consideration needed by the Committee as LTC is not a funder of the	

	barrier.	
Engage with Associated British Ports regarding their position on current and future development of flood defence for Lowestoft.	Lowestoft branch of ABP contacted for their feedback. ABP proposed an in-person meeting be arranged for engagement. Confirmed they are supportive of the Lowestoft Flood Defences project and have worked in collaboration with key stakeholders, there are several important considerations that need to be addressed regarding future developments.	Committee to decide which date they would opt for an in-person meeting with ABP: Tuesday 23 rd or Wednesday 24 th September (meeting would be in AM and at Hamilton House)
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.		