

Lowestoft Town Council
Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee
Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1DE
Monday 20 October 2025 15:30

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks, Neil Coleby, John Murray, Paul Page (Chair) and Deborah Ray (Deputy Chair).
Non-Councillor members Penelope Dack and John Ellerby

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

Public: Two members of the public attended in person

61 Welcome

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

62 To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Graham Parker and non-Councillor members Rachel Bunn and Cathy Williams with reasons provided. Cllr Coleby proposed approval; seconded by Cllr Murray; all in favour. Cllr John Pitts was absent with no apologies received.

63 Declarations of interests and dispensations

63.1 To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable interests from members on items on the agenda – There were no declarations.

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

64 To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 15 September 2025

Cllr Brooks proposed approval; seconded by Cllr Ray; five votes in favour and two abstentions.

65 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 - One member of the public spoke on item 70.2 as a member of the Public Transport Working Group. The Working Group produced this bid to request extended evening services for bus routes, this decision had been informed by the previous Lowestoft Town Council (LTC) public transport survey, the results of which indicated many residents felt bus services in the town ended too early.

Cllr Page proposed item 70.2 be brought forward in the agenda order; seconded by Cllr Ray; all in favour.

70.2 Receive and consider the draft Scheme On A Page bid from the Public Transport Working Group for onward recommendation to Full Council – The Working Group had taken advice from a bus driver on what type of bid could be successful and it had been agreed to pursue extended evening services.

Cllr Page proposed the bid be recommended to Full Council for submission; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

66 Finance and Budget

66.1 To monitor expenditure by this Committee from the Climate Emergency budget, under delegated authority – The budget report was received and expenditure was noted.

66.2 To consider recommendations for the 2026-2027 budget – It was suggested the budget for the bulky waste service be increased. It was noted Full Council had agreed this Committee's budget

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would directly fund up to £90,000 for PV Panels for the Town Hall, with £45,000 budgeted this year and the remainder to be budgeted for in 2026-2027.

Cllr Andy Pearce was attending as a member of the public and requested permission to speak outside the public forum on this item, which was granted by the Chair. Cllr Pearce informed the Committee the current budget for the bulky waste services was £27,125 and if Full Council wanted to increase the number of collections, then the budget would need to be increased by £12,000 as confirmed by the contractor.

Non-Councillor member John Ellerby declared he was affiliated with the Most Easterly Community Group and Use it All. John Ellerby informed the Committee this affiliated organisation have been attempting to create a scheme to recycle blister packs and would like to develop the scheme with cooperation across the three tiers of Council. John Ellerby recommended this scheme be considered.

An item was requested for the next agenda to discuss this further and receive a proposal.

Cllr Pearce requested permission to speak outside the public forum, which was granted by the Chair. Cllr Pearce informed the Committee Use it All had previously applied for a grant for the recycling scheme and agreed an item should go on the next agenda with an outline of the project, and if it involved a funding element then the decision could be made on whether it should be applied for through the Town Council's grant process or directly funded from the Climate Emergency budget.

John Ellerby confirmed at this time Use It All were unable to give a clear cost for the project as it would depend on the level of contribution and funding available.

It was stated that this Committee could not be used to further the interests of an external group, as John Ellerby was a member of Use It All and would potentially be asking for funding, he had an interest in the matter and would not be permitted a vote on this matter should it be on the next agenda.

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

- 67.1 Discuss the changing coastline and coastal erosion – This item had been requested by Cllr Pitts and deferred over three meetings, per the procedure of the Council the item will be removed from the agenda. Cllr Murray notified the Committee he will request an item for the next agenda that is of a similar nature to this item.

68 To consider avenues of community engagement and relevant actions:

- 68.1 Review the Planet Positive event – The Committee noted the excellence of the event with good speakers and stallholders, in particular the larger tents had helped shelter attendees from the rain. The weather had unfortunately affected attendance to the event.

Cllr Page thanked the Events and Office Manager for his work in organising the event.

On the topic of improvements for next year's event, there were suggestions to reconsider the date as there had been a high concentration of events in September, which may have affected attendance. It was also agreed that there needed to be more publicity of the event, perhaps

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with large wooden boards set in public areas, though it was noted this would incur advertising and permission fees.

The Committee agreed it should take on a greater role when organising next year's climate event and an item was requested for the next agenda to decide on the date and commence planning. It was suggested the Events and Office Manager be invited to the meeting.

68.2 To consider inviting East Suffolk Council's new Community Resilience Officer to a future meeting to advise the Committee on the remit of her role – Cllr Ray proposed the Community Resilience Officer be invited to speak to the Committee with the potential to discuss actions Lowestoft Town Council can take to assist; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour. Cllr Ray offered to provide contact details to the office.

68.3 To consider inviting a member of East Suffolk Council's Coastal Management team to a meeting to advise their position on coastal defences – A meeting had been held with Associated British Ports regarding the flood barrier of the town, and it had been agreed to form connections with other bodies to discuss the failure to provide the town with a flood defence.

Cllr Murray proposed, per the item and in the context of the wider action by LTC to increase engagement with other groups on the flood barrier, to invite a member of East Suffolk Council's Coastal Management team to speak on their position on coastal defences; seconded by Cllr Ray; all in favour.

An item was requested for an agenda to consider improvement of the Project Tracker with regard to actions undertaken by Officers and Councillors.

69 To consider issues relating to waste and pollution:

69.1 Discuss the bulky waste arrangements for 2026-2027 and the feasibility of expanding the service – Councillors had met with the contractor and discussed arrangements for 2026-2027 with a suggestion that the contractor consider how to reduce the time delay for bookings. The contractor had informed Councillors that to extend the scheme would require a £12,000 increase to the existing budget.

Cllr Brooks proposed to recommend this extension of the service with the appropriate budget increase to the Budget and Loan Sub-Committee to factor into the 2026-2027 budget preparations; seconded by Cllr Coleby; all in favour.

70 To consider public transport and alternative methods of travel and relevant actions:

70.1 Receive the notes of the Public Transport Working Group meeting on 1 October 2025 – The notes were received.

70.2 Receive and consider the draft Scheme On A Page bid from the Public Transport Working Group for onward recommendation to Full Council – This item was brought forward in the agenda.

71 Date of next meeting

Monday 17 November 15:30

72 Items for the next agenda and close

An item was requested to consider improvement of the project tracker.

An item was requested to review the litter pick due to be held at Arnold's Bequest on 29 October and consider future dates.

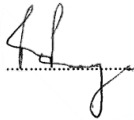
An item was requested to discuss the report of the meeting with Associated British Ports.

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73 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 – none.

The Chair closed the meeting at 16:58

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

Signed:

17 November 2025