

Lowestoft Town Council
Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee
Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1DE
Monday 16 March 2026 15:30

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks, John Murray, Paul Page, Graham Parker and Deborah Ray. Non-Councillor members John Ellerby and Cathy Williams

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

Also in Attendance: East Suffolk Council Officers Tamzen Pope (Operational Lead Coastal Engineering) and Martyn Fulcher (Head of Energy Planning and Coastal Management)

Public: One member of the public was in attendance (in person)

126 Welcome

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

127 To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Andy Pearce and John Pitts, and non-Councillor member Rachel Bunn with reasons provided. Cllr Parker proposed approval of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Murray; all in favour.

Cllr Neil Coleby was absent with no apologies received.

128 Declarations of interests and dispensations

128.1 To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable interests from members on items on the agenda – Cllr Ray and John Ellerby declared they had attended meetings with East Suffolk Council (ESC) previously as members of Use Your Voice. Cllr Parker declared he was a member of ESC.

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

129 To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 16 February 2026

Cllr Brooks proposed approval of the minutes subject to an amendment to remove the statement that the Flood Defences Working Group would submit a business case to have a clerk attend their meetings as the Working Group had opted to not do so; seconded by Cathy Williams; all in favour.

130 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 – No advance comments had been received and no members of the public in attendance wished to make a statement.

131 Finance and Budget

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

132 To consider the following items regarding the natural environment, other ecology related matters and relevant actions:

132.1 To receive a verbal report from East Suffolk Council's Head of Coastal Management on coastal defences for Lowestoft – The two officers from ESC provided a presentation on the current status of flood defences for the town and informed the Committee on what progress

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had been made on the permanent flood barrier, the reasons the project was put on hold and the next steps ESC would be taking.

A query was raised on whether a new flood risk assessment had been undertaken and what current flood protection measures were in place for residential homes. The representatives confirmed Property Level Resilience Measures have been installed on residential properties, but these measures only accounted for rainfall flood risk and not tidal flood risk. An updated flood risk assessment has been undertaken, which reviewed the risk with the permanent defences. The next step would be to combine the pallet barriers with the permanent defences to re-assess the risk with all measures currently in place.

- 132.2 The representatives from ESC were thanked for the presentation and information provided. Review and monitor developments related to Lowestoft's flood risk – A meeting had been hosted by the Town Council with Jess Asato MP and various representatives from Suffolk County Council, ESC and the Environment Agency in attendance. Those in attendance had discussed the recent changes in government metrics which may make a barrier possible again, though the funding shortfall remained the primary issue.

The Committee agreed that should ESC re-form a steering group for the barrier, Lowestoft Town Council (LTC) could nominate representatives to join the group.

Cllr Brooks temporarily left the chamber at 16:35

Cllr Brooks returned to the chamber at 16:36

133 To consider the following items in relation to the Earth Protector Town status of Lowestoft Town Council and relevant actions:

- 133.1 To receive and note the minutes of the Plastic Free Communities Steering Group meeting on 4 March and consider further actions – The Steering Group had its first meeting and would be taking part in the Big Million Mile Spring Clean, which ran from 4th to 12th April. This would be a beach clean event with one of the members on the group to organise the event (including providing the equipment and insurance) whilst Lowestoft Vision would promote the event on their website. The Committee suggested the Steering Group approach Water Lane and Martello to reduce their single-use plastics.

Cllr Ray proposed LTC promote the beach clean event; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

It was suggested Plastic Free Communities participate in the Wild Lowestoft event.

Cllr Parker left the chamber at 16:50

- 133.2 To consider an audit of the Town Council's use of single-use plastic and discuss how to phase out use of those items – This item concerned the use of single-use plastic at the Town Council's premises at Hamilton House and Unit 2. Cllr Ray noted a formula was used online by other businesses to calculate how much single-use plastic they used and offered to send the formula to the office. Cllr Ray proposed the Town Council undertake the audit; seconded by Cathy Williams; all in favour.

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

- 134.1 Discuss plans for the Wild Lowestoft event in May 2026 – Cllr Brooks proposed LTC make arrangements to have environmentally-friendly planters with environmentally-friendly plants in the High Street.

The Events and Office Manager entered the chamber at 16:56

The Events and Office Manager confirmed there was a sponsorship opportunity for the High Street planters and would discuss this further with members after the meeting.

The Committee queried if Plastic Free Communities could be involved in the event as part of the LTC stall. The Events and Office Manager confirmed Plastic Free Communities would be promoted and, alongside all Councillors, were welcome to join the LTC stall and engage with the public.

On the Wednesday leading up to the event, LTC would collaborate with the Job Centre who would hold activities for the day with stakeholders including Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Africa Alive. The office had received a request from the Job Centre on whether the Committee would support the Save our Swallows Campaign. Cllr Page proposed to support the campaign; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

Preparations were underway for the event with confirmed stall holders including the MET Office, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Essex and Suffolk Water, Litter Free Lowestoft and Fish Net Zero. Music arrangements were in progress and local dance schools had been approached for a dance parade along London Road North.

The Events and Office Manager left the chamber at 17:04

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

- 135.1 To receive the notes of the meeting of the Public Transport Working Group on 2 March 2026 – The notes of the meeting were received and noted. The Working Group were working to submit a new Scheme on a Page bid for bus routes on the High Street. It was suggested the routes outlined in the meeting notes be carefully considered to ensure they were appropriate.

136 To consider issues relating to energy and water supply of the built environment of Lowestoft and relevant actions:

- 136.1 To receive a report from the recent ESCEP Energy Projects meeting – Cllrs Brooks and Ray had attended the meeting and noted there were due to be further meetings called. Cllr Brooks proposed a recommendation be made to Full Council to nominate herself and Cllr Ray as the LTC representatives to ESCEP; seconded by Cllr Ray; all in favour.

137 Date of next meeting

Monday 20 April 15:30

138 Items for the next agenda and close

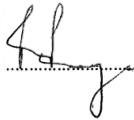
No items were requested for the next agenda.

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139 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 17:17


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Signed:
20 April 2026