

Lowestoft Town Council
Meeting of the Climate Emergency and Ecological Committee
First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE
15:30 on 7 September 2021

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Sonia Barker, Wendy Brooks, Alan Green, Paul Page, Andy Pearce and David Youngman (Chair)

In attendance: Shona Bendix (Clerk) and Sarah Foote (Deputy Town Clerk)

Public: There were no members of the public in attendance (either in person or via Zoom webinar)

52. Welcome

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

53. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Peter Lang. Cllr Pearce proposed acceptance of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Green; all in favour.

54. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

Cllr Pearce declared a local non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Gunton Resident's Association

Cllr Brooks declared a local non-pecuniary interest as Vice Chair of the Gunton Resident's Association

55. The draft minutes of the meeting on 12 July and 3 August 2021

Cllr Pearce proposed acceptance of the minutes; seconded by Cllr Barker; all in favour.

56. Public forum

No comments had been received in advance of the meeting and there were no members of the public in attendance, either in person or via Zoom webinar.

57. Making amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Town Council's Committees and Sub-Committees to more appropriately reflect how the Town Council's climate emergency declaration is being taken forward

Cllr Pearce was undertaking work on this and would forward to Officers. A delegation was agreed that Cllr Pearce and Officers complete this work and it is considered by Full Council. Seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

58. Monitoring expenditure by this Committee from the climate emergency budget, under delegated authority

There had been no expenditure since the report provided to the last meeting.

59. Any matters to raise with Cllr James Mallinder, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment and feedback on matters previously raised. It was noted that Cllr Mallinder had committed to the town being cleaned up; fly tipping, washing streets, rubbish and weed removal and communication was progressing between Cllr Mallinder and Town Councillors particularly on issues relating to bins on the GELP. Cllr Pearce gave details of a proposed multi-agency working group where the above matters would be considered as well as how contractors for cleansing and maintenance were working. It was proposed by Cllr Brooks that the Town Council were represented on this. It was understood that it would be a working group only with no powers and initiatives would be taken back to the relevant body for further discussion and approval where needed. This was seconded by Cllr Pearce; all in favour. It was noted that representation on the working group would be one Officer (possibly the Climate and Planning Officer) and members from Cllrs D Youngman, Brooks, Pearce, Parker and

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Patience. The concept of a Climate Summit for Autumn 2022 was also given initial consideration with speakers and stalls about waste and recycling.

60. Section of land at Clarkes Lane as a community garden

Cllr Barker would contact the Warren School to ascertain if they used/or would use the land and for what purposes and if they would be supportive of a community garden. Cllr Barker suggested that a survey of residents in all surrounding areas was needed (in walking distance of the park) and depending on the results of this residents would be contacted to ask to volunteer for the garden. The survey would be on-line but Cllr Barker would be provided with paper copies for any door to door consultation.

Wild East and Wild Flower meadow also needed to be progressed and should not be overlapped with the community garden. It was agreed that Clarkes Lane should be included in the forthcoming visits by Councillors to LTC open spaces.

The survey would only be published once agreement had been sought on what would be located where on Clarkes Lane.

61. Fly Tipping and Waste Management

This item had been considered at item 59. It was noted that the earlier resolution of Full Council to make a request to Suffolk County Council for a second recycling centre to the north of Lowestoft would be taken forward via the working group agreed at item 59.

62. On street cycle storage

Cllr Pearce suggested that this needed high profile backing and that liaison with the MP may be appropriate. Cllr Brooks noted the difficulty in progressing this item when the Town Council was not the landowner. It was agreed that this subject would remain an agenda item for this committee but consideration was also given to providing free bicycles.

63. Installation of bottle banks

Some locations had been suggested (predominantly in the north of the Town) and a full list of possible sites was needed to be passed on to Cllr Mallinder noting the land for siting the bottle banks did not have to be LTC owned. A reminder would be sent to all councillors via the weekly update. The bottle bank for Normanston Park was still being progressed and it was suggested that Cllr Mallinder be included in communication to progress this item.

64. Climate Action Plan

What actions the council take corporately, minimise use of cars, pesticides, use of materials etc., as well as advice from specialist consultants on achieving carbon neutral status would be fed into action plan along with how the town council can participate in multi-agency schemes. It was envisaged that the CAP would be a high level document at the first stage and a draft would be written by the Town Clerk.

65. Date of next meeting

5 October 2021 15:30

66. Items for the next agenda and close

To consider feedback from Kittiwake Meeting

To consider cycle lane provision for Gull Wing bridge and road closures/traffic movements as bridge works progress.

Reporting of issue with cycle paths and cycle lanes to Town Council to be collated and passed on to Highways.

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67. Resolution to close the meeting to the public

There were no confidential items.

Meeting closed: 16.44

Signed:

5 October 2021