

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 5 May 2022

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks, Sonia Barker, Peter Lang, Paul Page (Chair)

In attendance: Sarah Foote (Deputy Town Clerk) and Chris Meek (Office Assistant)

Public: There were one member of the public in attendance (in person)

213. Welcome

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

214. To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Andy Pearce, who had also provided a reason. Cllr Brooks proposed acceptance of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

215. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

215.1 Cllr Barker declared a local non-pecuniary interest in items 219 and 221. Cllr Brooks declared she is Vice Chair of Gunton Residents Association.

216. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 12 April 2022

Cllr Brooks proposed approval of the minutes; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

217. Public forum

The member of public had nothing to comment on at this time and was there to observe the meeting.

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

The Budget Spreadsheet was displayed on the main screen for Councillors to observe. The Chair was concerned over the amount of monies left so early on in the budget year. It was advised that this should not prevent him planning for anything and that are reserves if needed. The Chair was happy with the response provided by the Deputy Town Clerk.

219. To consider any matters to raise with Cllr James Mallinder (East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment) and/or the Environment and Waste Working Group, and to receive feedback on any matters previously raised

Cllr Barker confirmed a member of public had contacted her regarding the cutting back of trees on Dell Road beside the railway line. Cllr Barker had received a response from Cllr Mallinder that no permissions were needed to carry out these works as was done within Health and Safety regulations. Office Assistant Chris Meek advised that he had a member of public call the office and that they had raised the same issue. Office Assistant Chris Meek had received a response from Network Rail who carried out these works. The email response was forwarded to Cllr Barker and Cllr Page for reference.

220. To consider appointing non-Councillor members to the Climate Emergency and Ecological Committee

Cllr Page updated the committee on his experience from the Woodbridge event that he and the arrangements they have in place for public representation. Deputy Town Clerk advised that Lowestoft Town Council terms of reference currently permits two members with voting rights to sit on the committee. Cllr Lang gave his previous experience when this had been done by Lowestoft Town Council and was unsuccessful.

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Cllr Lang proposed to advertise to members of public as per current terms of reference; Cllr Page seconded; all in favour. Cllr Brooks against.

221. To receive and consider the results of the Clarkes Lane public survey

The results from the survey were displayed on screen for Councillors to analyse. The committee asked if Cllr Youngman who is Lowestoft Town Council Representative at the Allotment Association could be approached to see if Allotment Association involvement on Community Gardens.

222. To give early consideration to priorities for 2023 – 2024, to inform recommendations to the Budget and Loan Sub-Committee in preparation of budget considerations later in the year

Deputy Town Clerk confirmed this would be a rolling agenda item.

223. To review the Sustainability Strategy

The document was displayed on screen for Councillors comments. The committee raised the issue of Mental Health and Vulnerable people. The topic Health and well-being should include shop locally where possible. The committee asked the strategy to be updated to include Lowestoft Town Council commitment to Bio-diversity. The committee also wanted it noted that vulnerable people may not have access to technology and our strategy should acknowledge this. Deputy Town Clerk made the amendments on screen with Councillors present.

224. To receive an update on reviewing the Town Council's electricity supplier

The committee acknowledged the need to seek alternative suppliers but currently this is very difficult to do so in the current financial climate.

225. To receive an update on plans for the Great Big Green Week events

Cllr Barker proposed to plan toward the weekend of 24 and 25 September and to delegate in conjunction with Climate Committee members to go ahead with the organisation of the "Big Green Weekend" event.

226. To receive an update on East Suffolk Council's Cycling Strategy

Deputy town clerk advised the committee that Lowestoft Town Council does not expect a response from this report until late summer.

227. Date of the next meeting

7 June 2022 15:30

228. Items for the next agenda and close

No items to be added.

229. 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 legal issues relating to the matters on this agenda

The chair closed the meeting at 16:57

Signed

7 June 2022