

Lowestoft Town Council
Meeting of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee
First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE
15:30 on 19 June 2023

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Sonia Barker, Wendy Brooks, Janet Craig, Paul Page (Chair) and Deborah Ray, plus non-Councillor members Rachel Bunn and John Sillett

In Attendance: Lauren Elliott (Project and Committee Clerk) and Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk)

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

20. Welcome

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

21. Approval of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Parker and Pearce with reasons provided. Cllr Brooks proposed approval of apologies received; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

22. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

22.1. To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests from councillors on items on the Agenda – Cllr Brooks declared she was Chair of the Environmental and Waste Group and was the current Town Council representative on Lowestoft Vision. Cllr Ray declared she was involved with the climate change mural via the Design Work Group per item 35. Cllr Craig declared she was an East Suffolk Councillor and a member of the Environment and Waste Group. Cllr Barker declared she had volunteered for the First Light Festival, was a member of Suffolk Wildlife Trust and was a representative on the First Light Steering Group first light.

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

23. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 25 May 2023

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

24. 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 members of the public were present and no advance comments had been received.

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

The bulky waste trial had been factored into the Climate Emergency budget.

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15:30 on 19 June 2023

- 26. To receive the notes of the standalone zoom meeting on 8 June 2023 and consider the following:**

- 26.1. The adoption of a new agenda format – Cllr Brooks proposed approval of the new agenda format; seconded by Cllr Ray; all in favour.
- 26.2. To formally accept the new escalation process to Cllr Caroline Topping – Cllr Page proposed all escalation items be sent to both Cllr Caroline Topping and Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte; seconded by Cllr Barker; all in favour.
- 26.3. To recommend resuming quarterly meetings with East Suffolk Council – Cllr Barker proposed this be recommended to Full Council for consideration; seconded by Cllr Ray; all in favour.

- 27. To consider extending an invitation to Cllr Caroline Topping (or a cabinet member on her behalf) to meet with the Climate & Ecological Emergency Committee, either in-person at a scheduled Committee meeting or via a stand-alone zoom meeting**

Cllr Brooks proposed to extend the invitation to Cllr Caroline Topping; seconded by Cllr Barker; all in favour.

- 28. To note that the East Suffolk Cabinet Member for the Environment is now Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte**

This was noted.

- 29. To consider any matters to raise with Cllr Caroline Topping (East Suffolk Council Leader with responsibility for Parish Liaison) and/or the Environment and Waste Group, and to receive feedback on any matters previously raised**

The current state of London Road North was agreed to be an urgent issue to raise with East Suffolk Council.

36. To consider cleaning arrangements for London Road North

This item was brought forward in the meeting. As a hub of public transport, it was agreed that the town centre needed to be a clean, green places for the public and an improved cleaning regime needed to be raised with East Suffolk Council.

A member of the public entered the chamber at 16:03

It was noted that Lowestoft Vision have set a significant sum of money to purchase wooden planters for the town centre, which the Committee would monitor the progress of.

Cllr Brooks proposed to recommend to Full Council that a firm letter to be sent to East Suffolk Council from Lowestoft Town Council, requesting urgent cleaning in the town centre; seconded by Cllr Barker; all in favour. A draft letter would be submitted to Full Council for review.

- 30. To receive an update regarding liaison with Peter Aldous MP on Lowestoft's Blue Flag status**

This has been chased again with no update received.

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15:30 on 19 June 2023

31. To consider the Town Council's ethical stance regarding its energy supply

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

32. To receive an update on the provision of water bottler refill stations and refill schemes

Lowestoft Vision had sent communications to local business about partaking in the scheme and having a refill sign in their shop window.

Cllr Ray proposed officers contact Essex and Suffolk Water to ask if they would be interested in providing water bottle refill stations around Lowestoft; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

33. To receive an update regarding advice on the use of chlorine as a risk management measure for water storage

Initial advice on water storage had been received and would be progressed further by officers, with Kensington Gardens to be the pilot site for water storage.

34. To receive an update on Earth Protector activities undertaken by the schools and East Coast College

East Coast College has been visiting primary and high schools to discuss climate issues and planned to engage home-schooled students in the new academic year. An organisation had been commissioned to produce VR on understanding carbon footprint and there were ongoing explorations of a national lottery bid with heritage and wildlife organisations in the area. An agenda item was requested to consider event applications to the Town Council, or how to inform East Suffolk Council, on reducing the amount of plastic at large events. From September there would be funding for carbon literacy in high schools, with college students to be trained as carbon literacy ambassadors.

Officers would check if this Committee could increase the number of non-Councillor members and if those members could be under eighteen years of age. Cllr Brooks proposed this Committee ask Ms. Bunn to progress hosting a Lowestoft Climate Pupil Committee, the feedback from which would be brought to this Committee; seconded by Cllr Barker; all in favour.

An item was requested for the next agenda to consider the plastic-free commitment, per the Earth Protector Town requirements.

35. To receive an update on public engagement with the climate and ecological emergency through the climate change mural launch and the Kittiwake Partnership open day

Cllr Ray reported that both events were successful. It was noted that there were mixed messages from some members of the Kittiwake Partnership and it was agreed that a consistent message was required.

Officers were asked to produce posters, with the Town Council logo, that can be used for any public engagement opportunity. Cllr Ray requested confirmation from officers on whether the posters she submitted could be used.

Ms Bunn proposed the office approach Lowestoft Vision for funding events; seconded by Cllr Page; all in favour.

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15:30 on 19 June 2023

36. To consider cleaning arrangements for London Road North

This item was brought forward in the meeting.

37. To receive an update from the Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership Agreement

It was agreed to defer this item to the next agenda.

38. Date of the next meeting

Monday 17 July 2023 – 15:30

39. Items for the next agenda and close

An item to discuss changes to the Climate Change Draft Action Plan that had been suggested at the previous stand-alone zoom meeting. Any other items should be emailed into the office.

40. 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

There were no resolutions.

The Chair closed the meeting at 16:54

Signed:

17 July 2023