

Lowestoft Town Council
Meeting of the Budget and Loan Sub-Committee
First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE
12:30pm on 24 October 2022

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks (Chair), Graham Parker, Andy Pearce and Elise Youngman

In Attendance: James Cox (Finance and Information Officer)

Public: There were no members of the public present

70. Welcome.

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

71. To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Alan Green and Sonia Barker. Cllr Pearce proposed approval of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

72. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

72.1. To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests from councillors on items on the Agenda

72.2. To consider written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and note dispensations granted

There were none

73. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 3 October 2022, 10 October 2022 and 17 October 2022.

Deferred to next meeting.

74. 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.

There were no members of the public in attendance and no comments had been received in advance of the meeting.

75. To review the 2022 – 2023 Lowestoft Town Council Budget and reserves (some aspects may be confidential).

The budget position for 2022-23 was circulated before the meeting.

76. To review the 2023 – 2024 Lowestoft Town Council Budget and reserves (some aspects may be confidential).

This item was covered in confidential session.

77. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 1st November 2022

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78. Items for the next Agenda and Close.

79. 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.

Cllr Pearce proposed going into confidential session; seconded by Cllr Youngman; all in favour.

76. To review the 2023 – 2024 Lowestoft Town Council Budget and reserves (some aspects may be confidential).

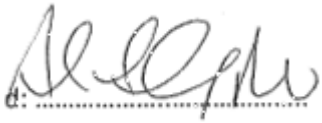
Budget Line	Agreement
Elections	The estimated costs for the 2023 elections and by-elections was shown. There will be approximately £33,000 in the Elections Earmarked Reserve at year end of which £28,160 is allocated for elections in May. Cllr Pearce proposed precepting £15,026 for the Elections budget and £7,924 to Earmarked Reserves; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.
Civic Robes and Regalia	The Mayoral Robes have been replaced recently so there is currently no need to budget for their replacement.
Events	The Events Sub-Committee has requested a budget of £15,000 for Events and £30,000 for Major Event and these figures were input into the working budget. A discussion was had on events on Triangle Market and it was confirmed these were currently not separately budgeted for.
Grants	The Town Council has given £7,100 for food relief and warm places grants to date in 2022-23. Cllr Pearce proposed a new budget line for 2023-24 for Social and Food Relief at a figure of £15,000 and keeping the grants budget of £50,000; seconded by Cllr Youngman; all in favour. There are two grants for rail partnerships individually itemised under the grant budget and it was suggested to leave these in with an RPI increase.
Community Engagement	Cllr Pearce proposed increasing the Community Engagement budget for £11,000 to £15,000; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.
Arts, Heritage and Museums	It was suggested to precept £800 for EMR recovery to replenish the cost of the recently purchased Lowestoft Porcelain Ram. There is currently £2,400 anticipated spend on Civic Storage per year and it was suggested to increase this by RPI.

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	<p>There is currently £1,000 budgeted for 2022-23 for Heritage Plaques and £3,000 in reserves. It was suggested that any spend on heritage plaques in 2023-24 should come from Earmarked Reserves and to not precept anything.</p> <p>Cllr Pearce proposed to precept £800 for Arts EMR recovery, £2,400 plus RPI for Civic Storage and £0 for Heritage Plaques; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.</p>
Parks and Open Spaces	<p>Cllr Pearce proposed leaving the Capital Budget, the Parks Development and Infrastructure Budget and the Horticulture Budget as RPI increases as working figures; seconded by Cllr Youngman; all in favour.</p>

The Chair closed the meeting at 13:58

Signed



22 November 2022