

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 16 January 2023

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Sonia Barker, Wendy Brooks (Deputy Chair), David LeGrice and Andy Pearce, plus non-Councillor members Deborah Ray, Rachel Bunn and John Sillett

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

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

137. Welcome

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

138. Approval of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Page, Parker and Lang with reasons provided.

Rachel Bunn provided apologies that she will be late to the meeting.

Cllr Pearce proposed approval of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr LeGrice; all in favour.

139. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

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

Cllr Pearce declared he was the Lowestoft Town Council representative on the Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership. Cllrs Barker and Brooks declared they were members of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

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

None were received.

140. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 19 December 2022

Cllr Brooks proposed approval of the minutes of 21 November 2022 and 19 December 2022; seconded by Cllr Pearce; all in favour.

141. 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 were comments received.

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

It was requested the officers ensured references to the budget and reserve for this Committee were changed to reflect the new name of Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee.

It was noted the budget for travel was moved to the Climate and Ecological Emergency budget in order to monitor carbon emissions as the Town Council moves to net zero. The expenditure for 'Climate Worker' was queried and it was requested the Project and Committee Clerk (PCC) check the details.

143. 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 Group, and to receive feedback on any matters previously raised

It was confirmed that a member of the Environment and Waste Group (E&W Group) would

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15:30 on 16 January 2023

compile a definitive list of items acceptable at the Hadenham Road Recycling Centre and Caister Recycling Plant for the bulky waste trial. The van used for disposal would display the Lowestoft Town Council logo as it is a Town Council service. It was noted the Town Council have a waste carrier license.

It was confirmed that one of the District Councillors were to contact East Suffolk Council (ESC) and query if they would pay for signage around Lowestoft that would provide contact details to report fly tipping.

A related issue of fly tipping in private gardens was raised. It was suggested to ask Cllr Mallinder to speak with this Committee, either in person or joining a meeting via zoom, about the issue of fly tipping on private land and what can be done under current legislation. It was noted if the Town Council were unable to progress then an alternative could be to approach their MP for support.

Rachel Bunn entered the chamber at 15:55

Cllr Pearce proposed to ask Cllr Mallinder to speak with this Committee and explain the statutory position on dealing with fly tipping on public land and private land, how the District Council can deal with the situation and, if the Town Council sought help from their MP, what support would be required to deal with the situation. Seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

- 144. To receive an update regarding liaison with Peter Aldous MP on Lowestoft's Blue Flag status**
The PCC confirmed an update was requested and a response is pending.

145. To consider acceptance of the Earth Protector Town declaration

The Committee acknowledged that the Town Council already made the declaration and that the declaration document would provide the framework for the climate action plan. It was agreed to hold a standalone zoom meeting Monday 6 February at 15:30 to review the declaration document and to defer this item to the February meeting to formally adopt necessary documents. Deborah Ray requested that a copy of the declaration and the Earth Protector Communities Town Framework be circulated to the Councillors before the zoom meeting. Item 146 would be linked with the climate action plan and remain a standing item on the agenda.

146. To consider implementation of the Earth Protector Town status

Discussed in previous item.

147. To consider supporting or submitting an application for the Suffolk Greenest County Award

Cllr Barker proposed this item remain a placeholder as no projects were ready for submission but it could be considered next year; seconded by Cllr Pearce; all in favour.

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

Cllr Pearce proposed officers review options of alternative energy suppliers, with Councillors also providing details of alternative companies to the office, and provide feedback at the next meeting; seconded by Cllr Barker; all in favour.

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 16 January 2023

149. To consider the Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership Agreement (some aspects may be confidential)

To be discussed in confidential session.

150. To consider any methods of water conservation, including to receive advice from the Town Council's Health and Safety Consultant

A zoom meeting was suggested to document a policy. It was requested officers check if the Town Council were eligible to apply for grant funding from East Suffolk Council or Green Print Forums for free water stations.

It was suggested to contact Business Improvement District, copying Cllr Brooks in the email, about the Refill Scheme and check if it could be implemented in the Town Centre. It was agreed to defer this item and receive an update at the next meeting.

151. To consider the impact of development on land neighbouring the Gunton Meadow Nature Reserve and any action that the Lowestoft Town Council can take

Cllr Pearce declared a non-registerable interest as Chair of the Gunton Residents Association and expressed concern of the possibility of increased litter in the area. Cllr Pearce proposed to schedule a confidential standalone zoom meeting with a representative from Suffolk Wildlife Trust, who objected to the development, in order to discuss and understand concerns post-application, how they intend to progress and how the Town Council could support them. Seconded by Cllr Barker; all in favour.

152. To consider East Suffolk Travel Association's 'Ten Year Look Forward'

John Sillett proposed to circulate the document and revisit this item in March. Cllr Pearce seconded and requested an amendment to seek dialogue with ESTA, possibly inviting a representative to attend a Committee meeting, and whether the Town Council can offer any support. The amendment was agreed and all Councillors voted in favour.

153. To consider advocating for idle-free zones in the town centre and the approach to the Gull Wing Bridge

Cllr Pearce temporarily left the chamber at 16:53

It was noted there had been projections that when the Gull Wing Bridge opened there could be increased traffic and pollution levels in the surrounding areas. Cllr Brooks proposed to request further information from National Highways and make a recommendation for idle-free zones to both Suffolk County Council and National Highways to consider. Seconded by Cllr Barker. It was agreed Peter Aldous MP, who chairs the Gull Wing Stakeholder Group Meetings, would be copied into the communication. All Councillors voted in favour.

154. To consider the replacement of the trees in the Triangle Market Development

Cllr Pearce returned to the chamber at 17:01

Deborah Ray proposed for the officers to examine the viability of planting edible fruit trees at the Triangle Market and provide feedback to this Committee; seconded by Cllr Pearce; all in favour.

Lowestoft Town Council
Meeting of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee
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15:30 on 16 January 2023

155. Date of the next meeting

20 February 2023 15:30

156. Items for the next agenda and close

It was noted officers were awaiting confirmation of dates from participants in the discussion on nuclear energy. This would not be a public meeting but it would be open to all Councillors and the non-Councillor members of this Committee.

An item was suggested to consider, pending a software update, agendas being sent out as a briefing pack with links to the relevant policies for the benefit of the public.

An item was requested to consider the Climate Action Plan, how to track decisions made and how they connect to the Climate Action Plan.

157. 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 the meeting be moved into confidential session; seconded by Cllr Barker; all in favour.

The Chair closed the meeting to the public and moved into confidential session at 17:23

John Sillett temporarily left the chamber at 17:23

John Sillett returned to the chamber at 17:26

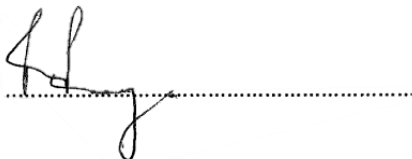
149. To consider the Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership Agreement (some aspects may be confidential)

Cllr Pearce provided a confidential update to the Committee.

Cllr Pearce requested an item be on the next agenda to provide an update.

John Sillett left the chamber at 17:36

The Chair closed the meeting at 17:38



Signed:
20 February 2023