

Lowestoft Town Council
Meeting of the Community Safety Committee
First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE
15:30 on 22 September 2021

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks, Peter Lang (Chair), Graham Parker and Andy Pearce

In attendance: Shona Bendix (Clerk) and Lauren Elliott (Committee Clerk)

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

31. Welcome

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

32. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Paul Page. Cllr Pearce proposed acceptance of the apologies; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour.

33. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

Cllrs Brooks and Pearce declared a local non-pecuniary interest in item 40.2.

34. The draft minutes of the meeting on 28 July 2021

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

35. Public forum

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

36. Any expenditure by this Committee from its delegated budget

There had been no expenditure by this Committee from its delegated budget.

37. Covid-19 recovery and safety measures the Town Council could take to support the community

East Suffolk Council's Head of Communities officer had provided comments in advance of the meeting, in response to specific concerns raised by the Town Council. The Committee extended its formal thanks to the officer for her comments.

38. Measures to improve the security of the Town Council's assets, including the following:

- 38.1. Which sites the Council may wish to prioritise – It had been reported that motorcycles had been accessing the Great Eastern Linear Park. A member of the public has reported that the issue has worsened since chicane gates had been removed from one of the entrances to the park. Norse require vehicular access at certain points for bin emptying. The Council has approved the purchase of additional bins at this site, which will also need to be taken into consideration. Officers are making enquiries as to when and why the gates were removed. The Police have previously advised that it is for the Town Council to take appropriate security measures on its land, but will respond when a criminal offence is reported. Where possible, any measures taken should prohibit motorcycles but still allow access to mobility vehicles. The Council could consider part-funding a Police Community Support Officer, but the Police would reserve the right to divert them to other duties if required. The Council could consider security officers but they would not have the same powers of enforcement as the Police. The Community Wardens would not have powers of enforcement and it is not the Council's intention to put them into confrontational situations, although their visible presence may help to reassure the community. East Suffolk Council is considering its plans for a CCTV service in line with broadband improvements in the area, and has advised that it would consider partnering with Town and Parish Councils. Cllr Parker proposed that data is recorded on the

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number of incidents taking place on Town Council assets, where they are happening and when, to help the Council move forward with determining how to improve the security of its assets; seconded by Cllr Pearce; all in favour.

- 38.2. Measures to address anti-social behaviour on Town Council land, including the Britten Road play area, Normanston Park Skate Park and Sparrows Nest – The Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee has also considered this issue and would like to progress a meeting with the Police Community Engagement Officer, Suffolk County and East Suffolk ward Councillors, Lowestoft Rising and local community groups. The purpose of the meeting would be for known issues to be raised with the Police and to establish a better working relationship with the Police to tackle issues in the town. All Town Councillors would be invited to the meeting to raise any issues within their wards. Cllr Pearce proposed endorsing the recommendation from the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee to progress the meeting, and to request that the Police provide details in advance of the meeting about how Police Officers are distributed within Suffolk; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

The Council used to be sent a regular monthly report on crime statistics in Lowestoft. Cllr Parker proposed asking the Police Community Engagement Officer to send this regular monthly report again, to be fed into this Committee; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour. Some information is available online and the Council does receive Police Connect and Neighbourhood Watch updates, which are included in the Councillor updates.

39. Purchasing a speed indicator device, including suggestions of recommended locations from Councillors

The Gunton Residents' Association has suggested several potential locations, which Cllr Brooks has sent to officers. Clapham Road and St Peter's Street were suggested also. Councillors have made suggestions and there are twenty five potential locations so far. Cllr Pearce has a further four, which he will send to officers. The device can only remain at one location for a maximum of twenty eight days. Cllr Parker proposed purchasing two speed indicator devices, with the expenditure to come from the Community Safety earmarked reserve. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Pearce. The proposed locations would need to be assessed to ensure they are suitable, and consideration would need to be given to how the devices would be relocated. The cost of maintenance and relocation would need to be factored into community safety budgeting. The vote was taken and all Councillors voted in favour. Cllr Parker proposed that a co-ordinated plan of locations be determined, to identify where the devices will be located and when; seconded by Cllr Pearce; all in favour. The Committee would like a press release to be issued at an appropriate time. The Council first needs to go through a formal application process for the devices and secure approval for the locations. It was requested that the Finance and Governance Committee provisionally approves the cost of additional posts and brackets which may be needed, with an appropriate delegation to officers to progress as required.

40. Defibrillators:

- 40.1. Reviewing suggestions from Councillors and stakeholder groups on recommended locations for defibrillators – It has been suggested that the three Community Halls and the Council's larger parks (which do not already have a defibrillator) should be prioritised. An electricity supply would be required. The Council has a policy to purchase two defibrillators per year and match fund a further five per year. An East Suffolk Councillor is looking to increase the defibrillator provision in Gunton. The Committee would like to liaise with her to ensure no duplication. Cllr Pearce proposed that, subject to there being an appropriate electricity supply, defibrillators are installed at Kensington Gardens and Fen Park this year, with due consideration given to budgeting for three defibrillators next year, at each of the Council's Community Halls; seconded by Cllr Parker; all in favour. Cllr Pearce proposed approaching the appropriate person at East Suffolk Council to inform them of the Town Council's plans for defibrillators and to enquire as to the intention for increasing the provision in Gunton;

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seconded by Cllr Lang; all in favour.

40.2. Arrangements for the Gunton Drive telephone kiosk and defibrillator (confidential) – To be discussed during the confidential session.

41. Date of the next meeting

24 November 2021 15:30

42. Items for the next agenda and close

It was requested that provision be made on the agenda to receive an update on the purchase of the speed indicator devices, to see if any planning can begin.

Cllr Pearce proposed moving the meeting into confidential session; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

43. Resolution to close the meeting to the public

40.2. Arrangements for the Gunton Drive telephone kiosk and defibrillator (confidential) – This was also discussed at the Assets, Inclusion and Development (AID) Committee meeting, where a proposal was made. Cllr Pearce proposed endorsing the recommendation from the AID Committee; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour. There was a discussion regarding arrangements for the defibrillator. Cllr Pearce made a further proposal; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

The Chair closed the meeting 17:28.



Signed:

24 November 2021