



Monday 11th September at 6:30pm at the Grit

In attendance: Susan [chair], April [secretary], Stefania [treasurer], Julie, Cate [committee members], Colin, Kinsey, Harry, Christine, Lorraine, Stuart and Paul.

Councillors: Andy (LTC), Janet (LTC & ESC), Keith (LTC & ESC), Debbie (LTC) and Paul (LTC).

Apologies: Dave, Emma, Pete, Danny Steele, Carl, Matthew, Matt, Tim.

1. **Welcome from the Chair & introductions:**
2. **Review of previous minutes from 13th Feb 2023** - it was noted that it has been a long while since our last meeting. In that meeting we highlighted the following:
 - a) **Street Lighting:** this has been a difficult issue as not sure who to contact, some lights are SCC, some ES and some Highways, Richard Webster (Suffolk CC) has been helpful and Keith is working with Peter Aldous on this issue too.
 - b) **North Lowestoft HAZ** has finished (so Aly Tipping who gave us much support has left); and the South HAZ will finish next year. There was talk of 'legacy grants' so we need to get in touch with Helen and/or Rebecca Styles to find out about this.
 - c) **Town Hall:** Jess from Moss King is promoting plans for Town Hall at events and will hopefully hear this month as to whether the grant application for Heritage Lottery funding has been successful. The funds for restoring the TH are coming from LTC, ESC (Government's Towns Fund), and National Lottery Heritage Fund and it is planned that it will reopen in 2025.
 - d) **Meetings:** we agreed that we would go to bi-monthly meetings (i.e. every two months and on the second Monday of the month).
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Stefania has not been in this role for very long so this was quite short. She reported that:
 - a) **Use-It-All** has had the last of its funding.
 - b) **website development funds:** these are able to pay those assisting with the on-going development, including its updating [See below also].
4. **Items reported on in this meeting:**
 - a) **Kittiwake Project** - it's important to remember that they are not scavengers like seagulls etc and it will take 2-3 years for the kittiwakes to

- establish in other areas built for them. There is a new project to protect and encourage nesting + the Kittiwake Hotels in the sea off South Beach
- b) **Xmas lights** will go on 2nd December.
 - c) If anyone wants to **help with the website** please get in touch. Facebook page is easier to update and April usually oversees that. Harry pointed out that the LTC website is often out of date. If this is the case please tell the council.
 - d) Cllr Andy said there are **funds to support local groups** which could help us for example printing costs, which would be helpful and we will look into this further
 - e) **Market Area/Sails:** these came down but the trees were saved. We have asked questions about future use and when the paving slabs will be put back (to Sarah Foote) but have had no response. Councillors attending may be able to update soon. The trees were not removed [as per the original plan] but a popular idea was to have an open space and also to have a memorial to the Lowestoft Witches. Cate raised the issue of **public toilets** now that they are closed (as people came in to ask the Samaritans Shop to use theirs), we are told they will be refurbished [or rebuilt] and a start date awaits confirmation, we wondered if a Portaloo could be placed by the old toilets in the meantime? Cllr Andy will look into this, however it was noted that the toilets by Wilko are still available to the public, at least for now.
 - f) **Ravine Bridge:** this is being repaired by ESC under 'regeneration' funding. In an email to ESC we have asked why work has stopped and what the timeframes are for finishing and opening up Ravine Score again and been told that the work is much more difficult and extensive than originally thought (the metal work has corroded inside which is why the Project needs to be looked at again by the engineers and why it is taking some time).
 - g) **Dog-mess:** There was discussion about the amount of dog-mess on our streets (particularly the High Street, Scores and Sea Promenade). Allowing your dog to mess and not clearing it up is prohibited, however we are not sure that any action is taken (Susan has been corresponding with Ben Ablett at ESC who says that enforcement/fining is difficult) BUT ESC will remove dog mess if reported on the website (Environment Section). Lorraine suggested that shops could have doggie-bags available to pass onto dog-owners who had forgotten their own bag as a way of encouraging them to clear it up (see Uncle Sid's shop and photo on FB). Colin said that Halesworth had introduced a scheme to help dog owners clean up and that we should suggest something similar.
 - h) **Street cleaning:** There is a ESC machine for washing streets which is taking place locally now (this also weeds streets). Harry said that dog mess should take priority over weeding. We also discussed the mess/litter/weeds generally and in particular The Scores and Sea Wall Promenade [lots of dog-mess there and not enough bins for dog-mess]. Not always clear which council is responsible to keep them clean. LTC may be responsible for the but we need some clarification (LTC councillors?) Cllr Andy told us that Norse is no longer responsible for rubbish and that a new

company - *East Suffolk Services Ltd* - allied to ESC has taken over. Report issues on the East Suffolk Council website.

- i) **Mural:** Cllr Keith said the mural on the wall (John Ray) owned/managed by 'Another Angle' is being removed as this studio is closing, but it is not clear where the mural will move to. Kinsey said she had an area near Woodworks Café that would be ideal.
- j) **Other developments:** Cllr Keith told us that the old Icehouse (by battery Green Road) is being dismantled, it will take 8-10 weeks and this area will be turned into a car park.
- k) **Gardening News:** Harry gave an update on the Gardening Project. It is hoped to get a group together if a piece of land becomes available a group could become a 'Friends of LTC Group - there are people keen to do this. There was further discussion on the Pocket Park in the High Street (next to Town Hall/Compass St) that we have discussed before as a potential gardening project that we could undertake very quickly. MEC expressed interest in 2019 in creating a community space there as Orbit Housing (the current owner) has been keen to transfer the land. However, because of liability insurance, this land would need to be transferred to a council rather than ourselves and although LTC and ESC have both expressed interest nothing, to date, has happened.

Susan gave us info on the research that she had done into '*Lowestoft's Hanging Gardens*' (for the Suffolk Garden Trust's project *Suffolk's Unforgettable Gardens Story*); she had given a talk on this subject for Heritage Open Days.

- 5. **AOB:** (although we had already run out of time)
 - a) We are contacting the local police for a meeting so local people can put their questions and concerns to them (e.g. dog mess, driving through restricted areas, recent fire and drug raids).
- 6. **Date of next meeting: Monday 13th November 2023** - This needs to be our **Annual General Meeting** as this is overdue. We will announce the time and venue shortly.

We should also plan for a **Christmas Social** in December - probably in the Unity Centre as the party and karaoke there last year were a great success.