

Minutes of MEC meeting held on 14th October, 2024 at The Mayfly

Present: Andy Beale, April Beale, Stefania Schinaia, John Ellerby, Jess Johnson, John Chamberlain, Kinsey Foster, Christine Newman, Cate Clarke, Harry Grainger, Susan Steward

Apologies for absence: Cllr Keith Patience, Debbie

Minutes	Action
Minutes of previous meeting were agreed	
Matters arising: Summer Community Lunch had gone well with 40+ attending. Thanks to Piers for use of the Mayfly. 20sPlenty: Debbie had attended a conference on this. The Gunton Community group were also talking about it. Heritage Open Days: Andy Pearce's talk on the Kinder Transport had been very successful, as was the material on the Town Hall Riot. Joe's two talks and walks had gone well. The market in the Triangle had some interesting stalls but had not been well advertised. Agreed to write to LTC councillors about this. Pop Up The High Street; John said the meeting on 18/9 had been good and was aiming for events around 22/9/25; he had contacted a wide range of people and groups. There was a possibility of funding from ESC.	
Treasurer's report: Stefania was continuing trying to wrangle NatWest. She, Harry and Christine would keep in touch and possibly contact another bank.	Stefania, Harry , Christine

Town Hall Project:

Jess and John C had met Caroline Topping of ESC and were hoping for a public meeting early next year.

There had been some difficulties over the costs of the refurbishment and a revised document had been sent out to invite re-tenders. It was hoped that a main contractor would be appointed by the end of the year. The revised timetable was aiming on completion in the Spring or early summer of 2026. There are plans for increasing the project's presence on the High Street , and related activities in partnership with the Seagull. Jess would be giving an online talk on the stained glass window on 13/11, with further online talks planned on the Lowestoft Witches and the Naval Reserve probably on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. There was a suggestion that these could perhaps be streamed at the Mayfly.

High Street:

Andy Beale had been contacting ESC, LTC and the MP to try to get a High Street Manager and identify obstacles to economic development of the area, including vandalism and antisocial behaviour.

Susan raised the problem of no organised legacy from the HAZ and no effective contact with ESC, which is responsible for spending the Towns Fund resources allocated to Lowestoft.

Christine, Andy, April and Susan to form ad hoc working group to summarise the problems and contact Caroline Topping and Jess Asato, and possibly the East Suffolk Preservation Trust.

Christine, April, Andy, Susan

AOB:

April is continuing to look after MEC's Facebook page

Susan is putting info on MEC's website and encouraging promotion of events and activities.

Garden Project: Harry said that the Lowestoft North Cliff Community Garden has registered as a charity and with funding close to agreement it was hoped that negotiations would be complete by the end of October. The meeting congratulated Harry for the hard work he has put in.

Nesspoint: Susan had written to LTC about the damage at Ness Point. Agreed MEC should also write as this had remained unrepairable since January.

Next meeting: 9th December at the Mayfly if OK with Piers, and have a shortish meeting followed by Yuletide social.

Next Meeting:

Monday 9th December, 2024 6:00pm to 7:30pm at The Mayfly

LTC - Lowestoft Town Council

ESC - East Suffolk Council