Minutes of an Extraordinary Lowestoft Charter Trustee Meeting
held at the Town Hall, Lowestoft on Monday 15 December 2014 at 7.00 pm.

Members present:
S Ardley, M Barnard, S Barker, M Cherry, Y Cherry, P Coghill, D Coulam, J Craig, G Douce, J Ford, I Graham, C Law, M Pitchers, M Rudd, J Swainson, N Webb and J Wheatley

Officers present:
D Lee (Democratic Services Manager) and S Carter (Democratic Services Officer)

NOTE: Councillor M Cherry as Deputy Mayor of Lowestoft presided over the initial part of this meeting.

1 MINUTES SILENCE IN RECOGNITION OF FORMER COUNCILLOR BELLHAM

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, all those present stood for a minute’s silence in respect of the former Mayor, Councillor Roger Bellham.

Councillor Barker spoke of her high praise for Councillor Bellham who had admirably served the town of Lowestoft. He was a proud man in a humble way, had the ability to mix with those from all walks of life and could always say the right thing at the right time. Roger had made people feel special, which was a rare gift, and he had brought a smile to people’s faces. Similar sentiments were expressed by Councillor S Ardley.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Byatt, P Collecott, L Jackin, F Mortimer, K Patience and S Webb.

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

4 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR OF LOWESTOFT

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report, the purpose of which was to appoint a new Mayor of Lowestoft for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year. Following the sad passing of Councillor Bellham in November, this Extraordinary Meeting of the Lowestoft Charter Trustees (LCT) had been called in order to provide continuity for the office of Mayor of Lowestoft. In the interim period, the Deputy Mayor of Lowestoft, Councillor Malcolm Cherry, had been undertaking civic engagements to ensure that representation within the local community had been maintained.

Any nominations for the appointment of a Mayor / Deputy Mayor needed to be submitted in writing, signed by a proposer and seconder and also by two other Lowestoft Charter Trustees at least 24 hours before an election was called. It was reported that one nomination had been received for Councillor S Ardley to be Mayor of Lowestoft for the remainder of the 2014/15 civic year of office.

RESOLVED

That Councillor S Ardley be elected to the office of Mayor of Lowestoft for the remainder of the 2014/15 civic year.
Having been duly appointed, Councillor Ardley was invested with the Chain of Office and then read out and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed and signed by the Democratic Services Manager.

As the incoming Mayor, Councillor Ardley presided over the rest of the meeting.

Councillor Ardley explained that he had previously been Mayor of Lowestoft; he wore the chain of office proudly then and would do so for the remainder of the current Mayoral year. Councillor Ardley explained that he would continue to support the three charities chosen by former Mayor, Councillor Bellham, at the start of his civic year of office in 2014/15, which were Lowestoft Civic Society Heritage Workshop, Lowestoft Maritime Museum (Sparrows Nest) and Lowestoft Museum (Nicholas Everitt Park).

5 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND APPOINTMENT TO LOWESTOFT CHARTER TRUSTEES WORKING GROUP AND GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report which asked Members to consider re-appointments of Lowestoft Charter Trustee (LCT) representatives onto Outside Bodies and LCT Committees.

The LCT had in the past nominated representatives to sit on a number of Outside Bodies at the Annual LCT Meeting in June each year. However, it had become necessary to review appointments and seek replacement representation in respect of the following:

Lowestoft in Bloom

Councillor Craig had tendered her resignation as a LCT representative on Lowestoft in Bloom as the meeting dates clashed following her appointment to the Citizens Advice Bureau as a Suffolk County Councillor and so a replacement LCT Member appointment was required. If no nominations were forthcoming, Councillor Collecott had advised he would fill the vacant position.

Oulton Poor’s Land Charity

Oulton Poor’s Land Charity distributed income from the Marshes it owned to people in need in the village of Oulton. The charity was comprised of six trustees and, having sought clarification, it was now apparent that Mr G Hawes (the former appointee) could no longer represent the LCT as he was no longer a LCT Member (although Mr Hawes would remain on this body as a representative of Oulton Parish Council).

Since the above information had come to light and in consultation with the former Mayor of Lowestoft, Councillor Jacklin had been attending meetings of the Oulton Poor’s Land Charity. Approval was sought to ratify the informal arrangement for Councillor L Jacklin to represent the LCT for the remainder of his current term of office.

LCT Working Group

This Working Group had been established with a remit to explore costed options for the provision of future support for the Mayor of Lowestoft and also to consider the future provision of an honours board for recording the terms of office for past Mayors.

The new Mayor of Lowestoft would need to be appointed to this Group as an ex-officio member. In addition, with Councillor Byatt’s on-going health issues, the Labour Group Leader had been consulted and it was proposed that he be replaced by Councillor Jacklin on this Working Group for the remainder of his current term of office.
LCT Grants Committee

Members were advised that the LCT Grants Committee needed to be comprised of the Mayor of Lowestoft and six other LCT Trustees and appointment to this body had last been made at the Annual Meeting held on 9 June 2014. As Councillor Ardley was already a serving Member on the Grants Committee but had just been appointed Mayor of Lowestoft (See Minute 3 above), it was necessary to appoint an additional Member to this Committee. Councillor N Webb was formally proposed and seconded and it was:

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor P Collecott be appointed to Lowestoft in Bloom for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.

2. That Councillor L Jacklin be appointed to Oulton Poor’s Land Charity for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.

3. That the following Members be appointed/re-appointed to the LCT Working Group for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year:
   
   Mayor – Councillor S Ardley  
   Deputy Mayor – Councillor M Cherry  
   Councillors S Barker, P Collecott, L Jacklin and S Webb.

4. That the following Members be appointed/re-appointed to the LCT Grants Committee for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year:

   Mayor – Councillor S Ardley  

The meeting was concluded at 7.15pm.

Mayor of Lowestoft