

BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Supporting parish and town councils in the District of Braintree

Chairman Cllr Martin Lee

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY 2022

Via Zoom and in person at Feering Community Centre

In attendance: Martin Lee (Chairman) (Sible Hedingham), Ann Hooks (Rayne), Paul Lees (Feering), Jill Toocaram (Castle Hedingham), Laurence Nichols (Bulmer), Carole Randall, Alex Templeton & Grahame Walkingshaw (BALC Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from John Lawton (Cressing), David Smith (Gestlingthorpe), India Jayatillake (Kelvedon), Roger Duffin (Finchingfield), Philip Rawlinson (Great Yeldham), Melanie A'Lee (Rivenhall), Michael Lager (Witham), Kerry Barnes (Steeple Bumpstead), Ken McDonald (Silver End), Lucy Orrow (Colne Engaine), Peter Gentry (Little Yeldham, Tillbury, Juxta Clare & Ovington), & Derek Hamblin (Greenstead Green & Halstead Rural)

2. Welcome from the Chairman and Executive Committee

The Chairman welcomed everyone on behalf of the Executive Committee to the meeting. The Chairman thanked BALC Clerk Grahame Walkingshaw for the work he has done on behalf of BALC.

3. To receive reports:

a) Finance Report

The BALC Clerk reported that there were 2 payments.

Clerk Salary June	£86.39
Clerk Salary July	<u>£84.39</u>
Total	<u>£170.78</u>

Current Balance £1,145.34 as at 20/07/22

The Clerk reported that 6 Parishes had chosen not to join this year:
Belchamp St Paul & Belchamp Otten, Great Maplestead, Pebmarsh, Ridgewell, The Henneys, Middleton & Twinstead & Toppesfield

The Clerk reported that 32 Parishes had paid membership and that 12 memberships were to be chased up by the Clerk.

b) Local Highways Panel

Nothing to Report

c) BDC Standards Sub Committee

Nothing to Report

d) EALC executive

Cllr Paul Lees informed the meeting that EALC is meeting on 21st July 2022 and will mention the "levelling up" document on behalf of BALC Members.

4. **Guest Speaker:**

Carole Randall (Energy & Low Carbon Project Development Officer) and Alex Templeton presented to the meeting on Energy Generation. A powerpoint presentation would be sent to all members of BALC.

Cllr Martin Lee thanked Carole and Alex for the presentation and asked if there was a reason why it only had 11 months still to run? Alex informed the meeting that COVID had affected the times involved and initially it had been planned for a 3-year period.

Cllr Martin Lee enquired what would happen if projects were not completed within the 11-month time frame? Carole explained that most projects could be set up very quickly within a 2/3 week period and that they would help push projects forward from then.

Cllr Martin Lee asked whether it would be possible for all BALC members to put forward projects at the same time? Carole explained that projects would run at different times and lengths and it would be very difficult to do 44 projects at the same time. She explained it would be better for individual Parishes to put forward proposals.

5. **Information Sharing – an opportunity for Councils to ask questions and share their experiences**

Jill Toocaram (Castle Hedingham) informed the meeting that Colne Valley Railway Business had experienced a downturn of 50% in business due to Essex Highways road closures and asked whether BALCD could do anything to improve communications with Essex Highways. Martin Lee replied that the representatives from BALC who attend the Local Highways Panel could put this forward on their behalf.

Jill Toocaram (Castle Hedingham) raised concern over EALC having lost 5 members of staff in a very short time period. There are concerns that Parish Clerks cannot get the correct help or support from EALC at present. Paul Lees informed the meeting that he would be at the EALC meeting tomorrow (21st July 2022) and would raise this issue on behalf of BALC members.

6. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

Venue – ask for volunteers for next meeting. Guest Speaker at next meeting: Police Commissioner. The meeting closed at 8.08 p.m.

Signed



19th. October 2022

Martin Lee - Chairman