

BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Supporting Parish and Town Councils in the District of Braintree

Chair: Cllr Martin Lee

*Association Clerk: Kevin B. Money
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MINUTES OF THE REPRESENTATIVE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th. JANUARY 2023 VIA ZOOM AND IN PERSON AT WITHAM TOWN HALL AT 7pm

1. In attendance: Martin Lee (Chairman), P. Lees (Vice-Chairman), Kerry Barnes, David Smith, Michael Lager, Tricia Edwards, Trisha Roberts, Jane Taylor, John Pearce, Melaine A'Lee, India Jayatillake, Garry Warren, Susan Pedder, Derek Hambling, Garry Southgate, John Pearce, Ann Hooks, Andrew Hull, Paul Kennedy, Ken McDonald, Roger Duffin. Also, in attendance Chief Constable B. J. Harrington QPM, Chief Superintendent Claire Talbot, Insp Phil Jackson, Sgt S. Mugeridge & Kevin B. Money (BALC Clerk)

2. Apologies for absence were received from Lucy Orrow, Phillip Rawlinson, Peter Gentry,

3. Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a happy New Year

4. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of BALC Representatives on 19th. October 2022.

All Agreed

5. Guest Speaker: Chief Constable of Essex Police B. J. Harrington KPM

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable of Essex Police and his staff to the meeting.

B. J. Harrington introduced himself and informed the meeting that

- Essex Policing is growing
- The force now has 3500 Police officers with 2500 support staff
- Domestic abuse is still a problem in Essex accounting for over 1/5th. of all crime
- Less crime is coming to be viewed
- Road accidents are being reduced
- Anti-social behaviour is being treated as a crime
- Speeding / Drug driving is being more looked at
- More speeding tickets being issued
- He wants more confidence being put back into police
- Better vetting of potential police officer
- Many police officers have been dismissed
- Police Support Officers are doing a fantastic job
- County lines are being blocked

Questions were taken from attendees

- Local PCSO policing is not looking after villages. One PSCO was approached in February but was not able to attend until December. CC said that everything must be reported to the Police especially the Community Policing Team
- The police to be better in informing the public what is going on
- More policing in the community
- Police officers or PSCO's to attend Council meetings
- Drug deals are going on outside local primary schools. Far more presence of Police Officers in the village is needed. CC use 101, 999 or live chat. He looks at the data each week. Chief Superintendent Claire Talbot said she was upset about Councils not getting any response back from Community Officers.
- No response either from Roger Hirst about Kelvedon PC problem even though he stated he would pass on the problem to CC and report back. Still nothing has been reported back to the Council concerned.

- Kerry Barnes – village being used as a racetrack with motor cyclists. Noise is loud and they feel they are immune to the Highway Code and anti-social behaviour. There is a lack of policing regarding speeding in villages. More uniformed traffic police to enforce speeding in villages. CC said that the speed enforcement team is being expanded. Letters from Community Speedwatch are important and are being followed up with a police visit. Speeding vehicles that are stopped often leads to other offences. TruCam is a good tool for police officers which when used photographs the offence and issues a ticket immediately. Noise activated cameras are being trialled in Essex. Reducing accident hot-spots is a greater priority in Essex. ANPR is not linked into TruCam
- Can police supply more data information to Councils? Sgt S. Muggeridge stated it can be done
- Wethersfield Prison is being located in Wethersfield Airbase. There is a high increase in crime around prisons. In Chelmsford over 1000 call out were related to Chelmsford prison. Will this local and out-ride site be acceptable and will it increase policing in the area? CC said Essex Police has been consulted about the design and location of Wethersfield Prison. At every prison there is always an increase in crime. More funding is required at the Wethersfield Prison area. Essex Police has a presence inside Chelmsford Prison and it may happen at Wethersfield Prison. Chelmsford Prison has not had a riot for many years. Wethersfield Prison is being built to hold 3500 prisoners. There will be more footfall and traffic when the prison is opened. Drugs go into the prison and possibly not outside. Wethersfield Prison will be classed as a category B prison. Regarding the Fire Service an extra fire engine at the local station is being proposed. More traffic will be generated and more accidents will happen. More safety on roads to protect cyclists, horse riders and walkers.
- 2-way information is good in the Witham area especially PCSO's of which Witham have 5. They have transformed the Town. Anti-social behaviour is down to a low level of which the PCSO's know of the criminals.
- Essex Police have just been inspected by HM Inspectorate
- 500 new police officers have been recruited in the last year. About 240 officers leave the force each year.
- 101 system is poorly operated. CC agreed that the system does not perform up to expectation. The 101 service has had staffing challenges but a further 60 new call-handlers have been employed. Improving contact with the police over the next 6 months is being put into place. Response is not quick enough and the majority of calls refer to incidents asking for updating. Over 1hr 40 minutes on waiting for a response. The system has not improved this year. Extra staff is being placed on the 101 system but the system must change for the better. To change a shift roster means each officer requires, by law, 3 months + 28 days' notice to implement. 1200 999 calls per day and 600 101 calls per day BUT please use the "Live Chat".
- Lack of Response officer in local district. With officers being held up on incidents areas are being kept unmanned for a considerable time. 230 officers in training. Local policing is up to strength but they are not fully experienced. 140 extra response drivers being trained this year. About 50% of Essex officers have less than 5 years' experience. There are 1 Sgt and 14 police officers covering Braintree area this evening.
- Can Essex Police use the app "What Three Words"? CC informed the meeting that Essex Police do use the app as he looked at his app.

Cllr M. Lee then thanked the Chief Constable and all his team for giving up their time.

The Chief Constable and his team then left the meeting

6. To receive reports:

- a) Finance report. To receive the Bank reconciliation as at 31st. December 2022.

Councillors noted the bank reconciliation

- b) Insurance policy for BALC members – Cllr P. Lees

Cllr P. Lees informed the meeting that

- The Insurance company will not issue a part year policy. The cost for the year is £315.50p per year or £33 per month until 31st. March 2023. This insurance policy is important to protect BALC members. EALC should produce an umbrella policy which will reduce the cost to BALC, but some Councils are saying it is not necessary. A real issue regarding litigation and the insurance company states each Councillor is acting as individuals.

Cllr P. Lees proposed paying the insurance of £315.50p being paid monthly. Cllr A. Hooks seconded. **All Agreed**

Cllr P. Lees to contact the Insurance company to arrange the insurance for 12 months but also to contact EALC to enquire if they would hold a policy.

c) Local Highways Panel

- BALC to seek a replacement for David Gronland who resigned last month

Cllr M. Lee proposed Cllr Garry Warren from Halsted TC to replace David Gronland on the LHP. Cllr P. Lees seconded. **All Agreed**

Cllr P. Rawlinson circulated, prior to the meeting, the LHP updated report from January 12th. 2023

This report can be found at <https://e-voice.org.uk/balc/lhp/>

d) BDC Standards Sub Committee

Nothing to report

e) EALC Executive

Minutes have been circulated. Nothing to report

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

- Guest speaker for 19th. April 2023 meeting – BDC / EALC Grant Officer or ECC Highways Liaison Manager or a senior planner at BDC

Reduction of street cleaning from BDC reducing 2023/2024 amount by 33%. This will cost some Parish / Town Councils over £1000 in loss revenue

BDC are stopping of the printed recycling collections dates and to go to website information only.

Green bin cost to be introduced for 2023/2024 financial year and that a government Environmental Bill that will rid this charge is due to come out in 2024/25. Consultation has been circulated via Council Clerks

75% of the national Councils charge for green bins

“Awards for All” grant for the King’s Coronation – National lottery – Contact Jane Taylor

8. Date of next meeting – **Wednesday 19th. April 2023 at 7pm**
Venue Braintree Town Hall and via Zoom

9. Future 2023 meeting dates 19.07.23: 18.10.23

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.10pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

M. Lee

19th. April 2023

Martin Lee
Chairman