

BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Supporting Parish and Town Councils in the District of Braintree

Chair: Cllr Martin Lee

*Association Clerk: Kevin B. Money
7 Roach Vale, Colchester, Essex. CO4 3YN
email: balc.clerk@gmail.com
website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/balc/>*

MINUTES OF THE REPRESENTATIVE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25th. MAY 2023 VIA ZOOM AND IN PERSON AT WITHAM TOWN HALL AT 7pm

In attendance: Martin Lee (Chairman), Paul Lees (Vice-Chairman), Andy Deeks, Garry Warren Halstead TC, Ken McDonald, John Kelly both Silver End PC, Mark Lovell, John Warner, Derek Hambling, Ann Wood, India Jayatillake & Kevin B. Money (BALC Clerk)

1. Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. Apologies for absence were received from Peter Gentry Little Yeldham, Tilbury Juxta Clare & Ovington, Garry Southgate Castle Hedingham, Tom Walsh Coggeshall PC, Philip Rawlinson Great Yeldham, Roger Duffin Finchingfield PC, David Smith Gestingthorpe PC, Paul Heath Witham TC, Susan Peddar PC
3. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of BALC Representatives on 18th. January 2023. All Agreed

4. To elect the BALC Chairman for 2023/2024 year

Cllr P. Lees proposed Cllr M. Lee to act as Chairman for the 2023/2024 year. Cllr Garry Warren seconded. All Agreed

5. To elect the BALC Vice-Chairman for 2023/2024 year

Cllr M. Lee proposed Cllr P. Lees to act as vice-Chairman for the 2023/2024 year. Cllr A. Wood seconded. All Agreed

6. To elect new Councillors to the Executive committee for 2023/2024 year

Cllr M. Lee proposed Cllrs Garry Warren and Ken McDonald to the Executive Committee. Cllr P. Lees seconded. All Agreed

7. To receive reports:

- a) Finance report.

- 1) To agree the BALC accounts to 31st. March 2023

Cllr M. Lee proposed accepting the BALC accounts to 31st. March 2023. Cllr P. Lees seconded. All Agreed

- 2) To receive the Bank reconciliation as at 30th. April 2023

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliation as at 30th. April 2023

- 3) To pay Kevin B. Money Clerk salary for April and May '23 = £168.78p

Cllr M. Lee proposed authorising the payment of £168.78p to the BALC Association Clerk. Cllr P. Lees seconded. All Agreed

- 4) To set the 2023/2024 subscription fees

Cllr P. Lees proposed setting the 2023/2024 subscription fees at £48.00p. Cllr M. Lee seconded. All Agreed

- b) Local Highways Panel

- At the meeting Garry was shell-shocked as the meeting not enlightening
- Budget was discussed - same money as last year
- £63,418 has been held back due to County not releasing money to panels
- Very confusing on schemes proposed, in the pipeline and under review
- Applications are taking too long in getting the works completed
- Not enough money to allocate

- c) BDC Standards Sub Committee

No report was given

d) EALC Executive

1 meeting held regarding the insurance for BALC plus a zoom meeting

There is a change coming at EALC but no further information is available yet.

£28,000 was agreed to be spent on a zoom system at the offices. The process was not followed with complete transparency.

The insurance assistance for BALC was discussed and is still being reviewed

Any HR services from EALC need to be paid by Councils. Vine HR services have been replaced as HR to EALC. Worknest has been hired for HR services

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

John Warner asked to be informed about BALC organisation. Cllr Martin Lee explained to him the workings of BALC

BDC Election process from start to finish was poorly handled.

There was no help for TC's or PC's. BDC supplied information late or not at all. Clerks were left to themselves to find out important information. The count was a farce. No organising from the top down to counters

No problem with the new ID's having to be produced

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Councillor from Silver End has been given the job of Liaison officer for local surgery. He is asking for contact details of other local Parish Councils. Was told to ask the BALC Clerk for any information he may require.

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How much money has been spent on the Government Levelling up agenda? There are 5 deprived areas in Essex. However, no money has been granted yet.

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Parish Assembly in Silver End - Assemblies are getting less residents attending.

The assemblies can be done via zoom, in person, refreshments, guest speaker and presentations.

Cllr P. Lees from Feering PC said they had over 350 attendees at their assembly via zoom, live feed and in person.

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Have any PC's had complaints about BDC grass cutting programme. Cllr M. Lee said to contact BDC and complain about the length of the grass and make it a Health & Safety issue

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Formal meeting quarterly with BDC at Chief Executive level at BDC offices was proposed. The clerk to explore this meeting

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Date of next meeting – **Wednesday 19th. July 2023 at 7pm at Witham Town Council and via zoom**

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.30pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed



19th. July 2023

**Martin Lee
Chairman**