

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 FOR BALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

held on Wednesday 4th. October 2023 at 7pm by Zoom.

Present: Cllrs M. Lee (Chairman), K. Barnes, M. Lovell, K. McDonald, J. Taylor & Kevin B. Money BALC Clerk

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P. Lees, P. Rawlinson, P. Gentry and G. Warren
2. To confirm and agree the Minutes of the BALC meeting held on 5th. July 2023. **All Agreed**
3. Meeting topic and guest speaker for next BALC Representatives Meeting on 18th. October 2023.
4. To appoint 2 more signatories to the Unity Trust Banking account
Cllr M. Lee proposed Cllr K. Barnes to be added to the UTB internet banking signatories. Cllr J. Taylor seconded. **All Agreed**
5. To receive reports:
 - a) EALC have found a new Insurance policy to cover BALC membership. This will be discussed at the Representative meeting on 18th. October 2023
 - b) Councillors thought of guest speakers for 2024. It was agreed to ask Charlene Slade from EALC to the 18.10.23 meeting. Future guest speakers could be – RCCE – Laura Atkinson, Graham Butland BDC Leader, Essex Fire Chief Rick Alston, ECC Essex Waste officer, John Meeham ECC Head of Flood Services.
- Finance report – To agree the payment to Kevin B. Money of £253.17p (Representing payment for the months of August, September & October 2023). **All Agreed**
- To receive the Bank Reconciliation to 30th. September 2023
Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliation to 30th. September 2023
- Local Highways Panel
18.09.23 meeting. Decisions are made before the meeting starts
Money being spent unwisely. £407600 allocated to projects for 2024. All money except for £15000 which remains in the budget. Hundreds of projects are still on the list.
Any specific projects/questions to ask LHP Kerry can ask LHP
£2000,000 project with a cycle path from Earls Colne to Kelvedon has taken 50% of the budget.
All decisions are pre-determined.
Cllr J. Taylor to be appointed onto the LHP committee, making 3 representatives from BALC.
County Councillors approve the projects without any discussion/s
Two-way conversation / discussion is only allowed between ECC Councillors.
£5000 in budget for Speed surveys. This budget is already spent.
BDC spending amount of money cleaning and repairing signs in town centres but leaving the countryside to suffer.
Many projects are being de-listed without any communication with PC or TC's but is the LHP going against the equalities act by discriminating against persons with disabilities with the lack of dropped kerbs at public highway junctions
- BDC Standards Sub Committee. No meetings have taken place so nothing to report
- EALC Executive
Lack of Clerks in the industry. It is national wide problem. Food bank get £750000 from ECC.
Training and interview techniques for Councillors being established. 96% affiliation to EALC
CIF funding is oversubscribed and to be match-funded. Large Town and District Council put most bids in

EALC office in Gt. Dunmow lease is coming to an end in 2025. Could EALC go to ECC empty offices?
All Councils must have a Qualified external auditor? If not, the Councils insurance may be invalid.
New Clerks training course set up. EALC does not have a 4 year plan as a business module.
AGM: A very low attendance at the AGM.
Could EALC promote the local Associations (BALC: BBPCA: UDAC:CALC)

- 6. Date of next executive meeting **WEDNESDAY 3rd. January 2024** at 7pm via Zoom
- 7. Future Executive 2024 meeting dates: 03.04.24: 03.07.24: 02.10.24 at 7pm via Zoom

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.20pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

3rd. January 2024

Martin Lee - Chairman

DRAFT