

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 16th. OCTOBER 2024 VIA ZOOM AND IN PERSON AT WITHAM TOWN HALL AT 7pm

In attendance: M. Lee (Chairman), R. Turner, G. McCoyd, J. Coleman, K. Barnes, A. Hanson, N. Joshua, A. Wood, R. Duffin, D. Griffin, K. MacDonald, R. Turner, J. Coleman & Kevin B. Money (BALC Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence were received from M. Eldred, T. Edwards, S. Pedder, D. Pearson,
2. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of BALC Representatives on 17th. April 2024.

All Agreed

3. To elect a Chair for the remainder of 2024/2025 year
Cllr K. Barnes proposed Cllr M. Lee to act a Chair for the remainder of the year. Cllr G. McCoyd seconded. **All Agreed**

4. To elect a Vice-Chair for the remainder of 2024/2025 year. Deferred to January '25 meeting
All Agreed

5. Guest Speaker – Laura Atkinson from Rural Community Council of Essex - Rural Housing Enabler Programme
Laura Atkinson gave a thorough presentation and the presentation slides can be found on the BALC website at <https://e-voice.org.uk/balc/minutes/representative-meeting-minutes/>

The topics covered were

- Rural Affordable Housing for Communities in Braintree District
- Communities have the power to
- influence change
- Rural Housing Enabler
- What is affordable housing?
- Who builds affordable housing?
- Vital role of Local Councils
- Rural Exception Sites
- Housing Needs Surveys
- Local Connection
- Partnerships
- Roxwell Case Study Video
- Contact me - Laura Atkinson Rural Housing Enabler & Community Led Housing Advisor on laura.atkinson@essexrcc.org.uk Or 07305 052578

Help for smaller Councils does this lend itself for larger Councils?

This policy led scheme can it be adjusted to the size of the Council.

Encourage BDC enable this scheme throughout the Essex area.

Affordable Housing scheme in Finchingfield is working well.

What future housing need is required? Keep an eye on the new NPPF policy for future housing needs.

Housing numbers will be looked at more closely for the future needs

40 houses in Steeple Bumpstead were built were some were social need housing however, these were not given to residents with strong local connections.
Did ECC converse with RCCE in the levelling up process. RCCE was not consulted in the process. BDC going through their local plan review. Rural Exception sites should be promoted with house builders.

The Chair, M. Lee thanked Laura Atkinson for giving an enlightening presentation to the members. Laura Atkinson then left the meeting

6. To elect 3 members onto the LHP

K. Barnes, J. Coleman and K. McDonald were elected onto the LHP panel to represent BALC.

All Agreed

7. To elect 2 members onto the EALC

Cllr M. Lee was elected as a member on the EALC.

The second BALC representative on to the EALC will be deferred and appointed at the next meeting in January '25

8. Finance report:

a) To receive the Bank reconciliation as at 30th. September 2024

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliation as at 30th. September 2024

b) To receive the BALC accounts to 30th. September 2024

Councillors noted the BALC accounts to 30th. September 2024

9. Local Highways Panel

The minutes have been circulated to LHP members. There is a lack of communication between LHP and Parish Councils. More County Councillors have been added to the panel. The County Councillors come to the meetings predetermined in the allocation of monies. The agenda is presented as a fait-a-complee.

The last meeting in August as the last 2 have been postponed. As a BALC representative we have little importance on the panel.

10. BDC Standards Sub Committee. Nothing to report

11. EALC Executive report

EALC AGM was held at Colchester FC stadium. The timing was changed to a 2pm start. The number of attendees at the start was about 70 representing over 60 Councils. The AGM was at 5pm where there were only 20 people in attendance. The Council of the year was Gt. Maplestead. Refreshments were good. Fees are increasing by 3% for 2025-2026 year. New President is the Lord Lieutenant. EALC should be more centralised i.e. Chelmsford. The cost was underwritten by stall-holders Roger Hirst, Deputy Police Constable and Deputy Fire Officer was present. Essex County Council officers were not there and it was very noticeably judged

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

Witham – Having an issue with monitoring officer at BDC to have address removed from the BDC register and website.

Finchingfield – Asylum centre is still in operation. The number is being restricted to 800 people but could rise to 1200 in an emergency. The current level is 580. Wethersfield is still being stated that the prison is in the wrong place. The Finchingfield bridge is having an application for a 7.5 tonnes limit passing over the bridge. With all reports presented there is nothing substantial to replace the bridge they are going to repair it. There will be no temporary bridge whilst the repair is taking place.

Rivenhall also has problems with the weight limit in Oak Road. Police cannot / will not monitor this issue. 230 houses been approved by BDC at Bellway. There were 2 options put forward by Bellway but BDC Officers were influencing the Planning Committee on the proposals at Bellway

BDC Monitoring Officer should be pro-active and not reactive. They only maintain the register of interest and complaints against Councillors.

Halstead – Can a Councillor speak to the Internal Auditor? Answer Yes.

Silver End – Can s106 allocated money be obtained from BDC and circulated?

EALC website access has a new password. Sexually harassment policy is coming in soon.

Legal bulletin has been sent to Councils

13. Date of next meeting – **Wednesday 15th. January 2025 at 7pm via Zoom and in person at Witham Town Hall**

14. Date of meetings in 2025 all starting at 7pm - 16.04.25: 16.07.25: 15.10.25

15. Close of the meeting

The Chair then closed the meeting at 9pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

**Martin Lee
Chairman**

15th. January 2025

DRAFT