

BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Supporting parish and town councils in the District of Braintree

Chair Cllr Martin Lee

Email:- balc.clerk@outlook.com

INAUGRURAL MEETING OF THE BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Thursday 15th April 2021 at 7pm by Zoom

In attendance (24):

Martin Lee (Chairman) Sible Hedingham; Margaret Barrett Earls Colne; John Bendall Earls Colne; India Jayatillake Kelvedon; Lucy Orrow Colne Engaine; Richard Shackell Bures Hamlet; Ann Hooks Rayne; John Gili-Ross EALC; Charlene Slade EALC; Peter Gentry Little Yeldham, Tilbury, Juxta Clare & Ovington; Jane Taylor White Colne; Dave Gronland Halstead; Michael Lager Witham; Paul Lees Feering; David Smith Gestingthorpe; Kerry Barnes Steeple Bumpstead; Mick Radley Halstead; Amanda French Shalford; Mark Weale Hatfield Peverel; Sarah McNamara Cressing; Philip Rawlinson Gt Yeldham; Susan Simpson Cressing; Robert Waters no details; Petra Palfreyman Clerk.

Apologies:

Allan Collard Topplesfield; Anthony Lister The Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead;

John Marks Great Yeldham; Rachel Simnett Pentlow.

Cllr Martin Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. To consider and adopt a constitution.

Martin Lee asked for comments about the draft constitution. It was confirmed that the document included appointing representation from outside bodies. Martin Lee proposed the constitution is adopted. Carried by a show on hands.

2. To receive nominations for the position of Chairman

Jane Taylor proposed Martin Lee.

3. To elect a chairman

The proposal was seconded by Kerry Barnes. Carried by a show of hands.

Martin Lee took charge of the proceedings.

4. To receive nominations for the position of Vice Chairman

Jane Taylor proposed Paul Lees

5. To elect Vice Chairman

The proposal was seconded by Martin Lee. Carried by a show of hands.

6. To receive nominations for members of the executive committee.

Jane Taylor	Proposed by Martin Lee	Seconded by Amanda French
Dave Gronland	Proposed by Mick Radley	Seconded by Martin Lee
Philip Rawlinson	Proposed by Martin Lee	Seconded by Jane Taylor
Michael Lager	Proposed by Martin Lee	Seconded by Jane Taylor
Kerry Barnes	Proposed by Martin Lee	Seconded by Paul Lees
Peter Gentry	Proposed by Martin Lee	Seconded by Paul Lees
Ann Hooks	Proposed by Susan Simpson	Seconded by Martin Lee

7. To elect members to the executive committee

The nominations shown above were all agreed by those present.

It was confirmed as stated in the constitution that one third of the membership must be present for the meetings to be quorate.

It is expected that the meetings will be once per quarter, with the Executive Committee probably meeting more often than that.

8. To consider a subscription fee

Martin Lee proposed the membership for all councils should initially be £40. Jane Taylor seconded the proposal.

There is already £800 in an account from the previous BALC organisation which Martin Lee is trying to access and then a new bank account will be opened. The £40 is intended to cover clerk and meeting costs and will be reviewed after the first year when 2 or 3 levels of subscription might be considered, depending on the size of the Council. It is hoped meetings will be face to face and by Zoom/hybrid to allow as many towns and parishes as possible to take part.

Parishes will be encouraged to join when details of the association, the constitution and meeting information are sent out to all parishes.

The extra value Councils will enjoy is networking, sharing common issues and solutions, planning information, having a single voice as a unified body and having members on key committees.

The Executive Committee may split into smaller groups.

9. To consider a work programme:

- a To consider topics to take forward – eg Local Plan, planning applications, environment, highways, policing.**
- b. To consider working groups of interested member councils using Zoom (reporting back to quarterly BALC meetings).**
- c. To consider splitting the district into smaller groups.**

Q Will there be a newsletter?

A This will be considered for the future.

Q Will there be a website?

A This will be considered for the future. E Voice was recommended as a free site for community, not for profit and voluntary organisations.

Q Can virtual meeting be held after 7 May

A As BALC is not an elected constituted body, the association will be able to meet by Zoom after 7 May 2021.

Q Will there be a treasurer/secretary?

A This will be addressed by the Executive Committee in the first instance. All processes will be completely open and transparent.

Q Will representatives attend other organisations such as the Local Highways Panel (LHP)?

A Yes but representatives do not need to be from the Executive Committee and can come from regular membership.

Q Clerks have been sent an email saying that only 3 members can sit on the LHP although the BDC website says 5.

A This will be reviewed. The current representatives are John Bendall and Dave Gronland.

As a large district we need good representation.

Philip Rawlinson and Susan Simpson expressed interest in representing the association in the LHP meetings.

Summary

With no further business, Martin Lee thanked all for attending and contributing.

Martin confirmed that all the details would be put together and sent out. By working together and supporting each other, the Councils can build a stronger voice together.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm