

BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Supporting parish and town councils in the District of Braintree

*Chair Cllr Martin Lee
Email: balc.clerk@gmail.com*

MINUTES FOR BALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 30th March 2022 at 7pm by Zoom.

In attendance:

Martin Lee (Chairman), Paul Lees, Jane Taylor, Michael Lager, Ann Hooks, Peter Gentry, Kerry Barnes, Philip Rawlinson & Grahame Walkingshaw Clerk

(1) Apologies for absence:

Apologies were accepted from Dave Gronland & Jane Taylor

(2) Approval of minutes of Executive Committee Meeting on 6th January 2022

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Ann Hooks

Seconded: Cllr Michael Lager

(3) Confirmation of Guest Speaker for meeting on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

It was proposed that Roger Duffin (Finchingfield) be invited as guest speaker to discuss the "Levelling Up Essex White Paper)

Agreed by all

(4) Guest Speakers: Andrew Hull (Chairman WASC) & Juliet O'Brien (Little Bardfield PC & Member of WASC)

The chairman welcomed Andrew Hull & Juliet O'Brien to the meeting. Andrew Hull is Chairman of WASC, which involves a number of Parish Council's close to the proposed prison. WASC have completed a traffic assessment that identified some 6,100 daily vehicles around the site. It is expected that an additional 3,200 vehicles (125% increase) could be expected. WASC working with WASP (Resident's Group) – WASP looking to obtain funding of £30,000 to fight proposed plans. He explained that the MOJ (Ministry of Justice) have until next year to put in planning application. Andrew stated that WASC would like the support of BALC to oppose the building of the prison.

Questions: Kerry Barnes: Is there any road onto this site planned?

Answer: Andrew Hull: It would be using roads that already exist.

Question: Kerry Barnes: Are there any positives that WASC can see to the new proposed site?

Answer: Andrew Hull: Looking at Economic Benefits (75% would be low paid jobs). Staff and visitors will be mostly from outside the area. Will likely pull people into the area – i.e. commuting

Chairman Martin Lee informed the meeting that this would affect everyone in the district. Traffic would come via the A12, visitors using Witham train station due to lack of no buses or public transport. The Main routes would be used by HGV's, so everywhere will be affected by traffic.

Question: Andrew Hull: Would a BALC Executive Committee member join WASC?

Answer: Martin Lee: As chairman of Sible Hedingham I am already a member of WASC Committee.

Paul Lees – BALC would support WASC as long as the Parishes involved were signed up members of BALC

Andrew Hull responded by saying that he would take this back to WASC.

Question: Philip Rawlinson: Could you enlighten us on the salaries being at NVQ1 level?

Answer: Andrew Hull: An economist has researched the type of jobs in this industry and the average wage will be around £24,000 (National Average is £29,500).

Question: Philip Rawlinson: Are there any further objections other than traffic concerns/access?

Answer: Andrew Hull – the list is quite endless – access to transport routes, sustainability, ease of visiting site – one of the remotest sites to access in the country.

Juliet O’Brien – Is some 7 miles to nearest “A” road.

Philip Rawlinson explained that the Parish Magazine for Great Yeldham had an insert for funding in the April edition. Juliet O’Brien explained that the funding was for SWAP (the resident’s group).

Juliet O’Brien informed the meeting that WASC are now looking at heritage sites such as the American Chapel & RAF Site. They would also be looking at the ecology of the site – lots of rare birds.

The Chairman Martin Lee thanked Andrew Hull and Juliet O’Brien for joining us and presenting Information to the committee.

Andrew Hull & Juliet O’Brien left the meeting

(5) (a) Financial Report – authorisation of clerks salary

Payments	-	Clerks Salary January	£84.39
		Clerks Salary February	£84.39
		Clerk Salary March	<u>£84.39</u>
		Total	<u>£253.17</u>

Payment for Parish Clerk Salary agreed by all.

It was agreed that the £40 subscription for Parish Council’s would remain the same for 2022/2023. Agreed by all.

(b) Local Highways Panel Report

Philip Rawlinson reported the next meeting was tomorrow (31st March 2022)

(c) BDC Standards Sub Committee Report

Nothing to report

(d) EALC Executive Report

Nothing to report

(6) Proposed Dates for Meetings 2022:

Wednesday 6th July 2022 at 7.00 p.m. (Exec Meeting)

Wednesday 27th July 2022 at 7.00 p.m. (Reps Meeting)

Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 7.00 p.m. (Exec Meeting)

Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 7.00 p.m. (Reps Meeting)

Agreed by all

Paul Lees proposed that it would be a good idea to invite BDC to discuss a few issues. He suggested asking the chief Executive. Michael Lager explained that he was leaving this position in the near future. Paul Lees asked that a letter be written to the new Chief Executive of BDC and the Leader of the Council inviting them to be Guest Speakers at the meeting on Wednesday 28th September 2022.

Agreed by all

(7) Date of next Executive Meeting

Wednesday 6th July 2022 at 7.00 p.m. via zoom

Agreed by all. The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.