



COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON: 5th March 2025, at Stanway Community Centre, Victory Hall, Villa Rd, Colchester, CO3 0RH. Thanks to Stanway PC for the use of Victory Hall.

PRESENT: Brian Butcher, Chair (West Bergholt PC) Robert Johnstone, vice Chair, (Myland Community Council), Tracy Bloomfield (Stanway PC), Maggie Holmes (Layer de la Haye PC), Mick Mead (Gt Horkesley PC), James Lambert (Abberton & Langenhoe PC), Andrew Triolo, John Jardine (Eight Ash Green PC), Dave Chambers (Stanway PC), Vicky Weavers (Abberton & Langenhoe PC), Sue Allen-Shepherd (Tiptree PC), Ruth Frost (Clerk) .

1. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES:** Boxted PC, Cllr Walsh (Wakes Colne PC).
2. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th December 2024:** All in favour of accepting these minutes as a true record. Proposed and signed by Brian Butcher
3. **MEETING TOPICS & GUEST SPEAKER:-** None present, Mike Eldred EALC having sent his apologies.
4. **INFORMATION SHARING:** Despite no guest speaker a lively two hour debate ensued, of which the following is a brief summary.
5. Cllr Butcher to find information on CIF applications and why applications are still waiting a decision.

Grant funding is available through Enovert, forms are easy to complete and the decisions is quick, up to £50k maximum.

Devolution/LGR seminar : some councillors were able to attend but a lot of people had IT problems accessing the meeting. Those who attended said it was well presented. There is still a lot of work to do and it is fast moving with tight time scales. We have been reassured that Parish Councils and Town Councils will not see any material changes as this is mainly for Colchester City Council.

A lot of information was about how the new groupings will be formed with 'us' being part of Colchester, Tendring & Braintree.

The main difference for Parish Councils and Town Councils is that any monies will come from a central point.

Flowerbeds, grassland, parks – any areas that you ‘look after’ on behalf of Colchester C.C. reaffirm to them/your desire to takeover as it may be able to be handed over to your Council by CCC. **Teresa** is to seek advice on behalf of CALC as to the procedure for doing so.

Fire, Crime & Police commissioner’ position will cease to exist when the Mayor for Essex is elected in 2026. A board of members will oversee, and district liabilities and assets will be merged together.

Parish Councils and Town Councils will have a bigger role and perhaps more responsibility.

Colchester, Tendring & Braintree will have approximately 55 Councillors so fewer Councillors over all Councils.

Questions were asked but decisions had not been made on a lot of issues.

Preferred Options Local Plan: Brian spoke to Rosie Pearson who is in agreement regarding Zoom Meeting **15th May 2025. (see separates notes on the arrangement for such)**

RCCE to arrange contact with Parishes on behalf of CCC and not CALC., **Brian** to see to have this changed to include CALC

Problems with boundaries are still evident in the Plan, individual Parishes are seeking to resolve.

Everyone is struggling with new housing developments being built, there is no infrastructure to support this, including the knock on effect with Doctors, sewage and water.

6. **Local Highways Panel rep:** Sue reported, more money is now coming through for smaller projects, and traffic surveys are now being done. Most projects are approximately 5 years old. Another meeting to take place in 2 weeks.

EALC executive rep: The lease for Gt Dunmow is to end in September, at present they are trying to re-locate; they may decide to use smaller hubs around the County for training seminars. EALC are trying to find if they will receive any funds from Essex C.C. this year. Changes will take place from autumn onwards.

Governance Board rep: None received, no meeting has taken place.

Treasurers report: To authorise the payment of £237.60 to Ruth Frost (1 meeting plus mileage – 6th March 2025). All Agreed.

7. **Date/location of next scheduled meeting: 7pm, 12th June 2025 at Stanway Community Hall, Victory Hall, Villa Road, Colchester, CO3 0RH.** Wheelchair accessible.

8. **GUEST SPEAKER: Andrew Weavers is to be asked.** N B Andrew has been invited and kindly accepted, to talk on and discuss LGR.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.54pm and thanked everyone for attending and providing valuable feedback.

Signed..... Date.....

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