



COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Colchester Association of Local Councils meeting held on Thursday 6th. December 2018 at 7pm in the Marks Tey Village Hall

Present: John Gili-Ross (JGR), Robert Johnstone (Myland Community), Paula Moore West Mersea TC, Brain Hindley & Sheila Beeton (Dedham PC), Mick Mead (Gt. Horkelesley PC), John Lindsay (Messing-cum-Inworth PC), Stephen Scrase (Wakes Colne PC), Karen Thompson (Boxted PC), David Croall (Copford with Easthorpe PC), Chris Stephenson (West Bergholt PC) & Peter Thompson (Stanway PC),

1. To receive apologies. Apologies were received from Roger Mannion (Tiptree), Simon Dougherty & Alan Frost (Abberton & Langenhoe), Chris Boyce (Birch PC), Alan Walker (Marks Tey PC), Mark Graham (Mt. Bures PC), Petra Palfreyman (West Mersea TC).

2. Guest Speaker/s: ECC/CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley was invited to present on the Highways Devolution Pilot. As Cllr Bentley was unable to attend the pilot was debated by Parish Representatives under item 5.

3. To receive the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th. September 2018 All agreed with the minutes.

4. To receive reports:

a) Treasurer' report

The Treasurer circulated to members the current bank account and membership subscriptions. He informed the meeting that only Fordham and Gt. Tey PC's have not sent in their 2018/19 subscriptions, even though he has chased them up several times.

b) Local Highways Panel – Changes to LHP Membership

JGR informed the meeting that letters have been sent out to Councils from ECC regarding the changing shape of the LHP in Essex. At least one representative for the P&TC sector will now form part of each district LHP.

Colchester LHP has always had a P&TC representative on the panel however in recent years this appointment has been by invite to the CALC Chair. In future any PC/TC can put forward a representative for the CALC LHP with appointments to positions taking place at the CALC annual meeting.

LHP meeting is scheduled for 13th Dec and is bi-monthly. LHP is unlikely to change in the future. More money has been made available to the LHP for highways projects.

If any PC wishes to find out the latest news on projects, go to the LHP website which is available to the public.

c) EALC – John Gili-Ross informed the meeting of the previous EALC meeting.

EALC is undertaking a strategic review of its business and how best to serve member councils.

The Local Services Fund panel met today to review all applications to determine funding. The Colchester CIF panel review applications and dispersed funding for this year.

Training is continuous. A big push for "Health & Wellbeing" is being undertaken throughout Essex.

d) Governance Board. Nothing to report

5. Highways Devolution Pilot - Joining the pilot, Funding, Scope of works and Health & Safety requirements

A pilot is to be launched by ECC Highways involving the devolution of small highway maintenance services to PC's.

Two meetings have taken place for PC's to undertake this pilot scheme.

Original idea was to have over 30 PC's take part in the pilot, however over 80 attended the last ECC meeting.

Kevin Bentley outlined the new initiative. He took over 45 minutes of questions but it became clear that many attendees were unclear of what the pilot would involve.

A lengthy and comprehensive discussion took place between CALC representatives on the pilot scheme and how P&TC's could proceed and join the pilot.

Maintenance varied between each Councils.

Money from ECC funding would go towards the expense of using a handyman or contractor.

P&TC's within the pilot would receive ECC funding for minor repairs etc.

It would be up to each Council as to how they spend the money/hours

Documentation would be required by ECC to show the works undertaken.

The contractors must be fully qualified and insured.

The pilot is expected to start end February '19..

6. CBC Community Policing Initiative - points raised by Dedham Parish Council

Brian Hindley outlined Dedham's PC view on the Policing Initiative by CBC.

A discussion between members took place and it was decided that CALC agree, in principle, with CBC's policing proposal to be taken forward. However, the consensus is the draft proposal is not a way forward for any substitute of regular police officers. It was suggested that Individual Councils should write to Cllr Mark Cory (CBC) informing him if they have allocated money within the budget for CBC Policing proposal in their area.

The new Specials and Constables promised by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner should be in place by February '19.

A member asked if the CALC Chairman to write to the Commissioner and Cllr M. Cory to ask them for an update on their proposals for Community Special Constables or Community Policing respectively.

7. Information Sharing: No further business

Date of next meetings:

Thursday 21st. March 2019 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

Thursday 6th. June 2019 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

Thursday 5th. September 2019 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

Thursday 5th. December 2019 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm and thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

Signed.....21st. March 2019

John Gili-Ross