



## COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:  
Thursday 2 December 2021 at 7pm by Zoom**

**PRESENT:** John Gili-Ross (Chairman), Robert Johnstone (Vice Chairman), Petra Palfreyman (CALC Clerk), Angela McLauchlan Boxted PC, George Branagh Fordham PC, Ian Moore Layer De La Haye PC, Simon Dougherty Abberton & Langenhoe PC, Carol Harbach Langham PC & Dedham PC, Andrew Boyce Wormingford PC, Mick Mead Gt Horkesley PC, John Akker West Mersea TC, Alan Frost Abberton & Langenhoe PC, Chris Stevenson West Bergholt PC

**1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Roger Manion Tiptree PC, Jo Beighton -Ems Wivenhoe TC, Emma Coney, Wakes Colne PC

**2. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:**

Thursday 23 September 2021  
All agreed.

**3. MEETING TOPICS & GUEST SPEAKER:** Jane Thompson, Transport & Sustainability Joint Lead, Colchester Borough Council. Jane gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Spin E Scooter trial, followed by a Q and A session.

Jane advised that the trial has been extended to March 2022 and maybe further extended to November 2022. This is a government trial which is being run by CBC.

Q – Does everyone have to wear a helmet

A – It is not the law to wear a helmet, the same as it isn't for bicycles, but it is recommended they are worn

Q – Can they be used at night in the dark

A – Yes, they have small lights which can be supplemented with personal lights

on bags or hats

Q – Are they rented or privately owned

A – Spin scooters are the only scooters that are legal, and the police do stop users of other brand scooters. In deprived parts of Colchester, the hire charge is 50% discounted, as it is for the Police and NHS employees to use

Q – What are the accident statistics

A – Details will be provided

Q – At present scooter journeys must end near the blue bridge at Braiswick, near the A12, so scooters cannot be cycled to West Bergholt. Are there any plans to extend the range so that West Bergholt can be included in the scheme

A – JT will ask if West Bergholt can be included in the scheme

Q – What are the rules regarding where you can ride them

A – E Scooters can be ridden anywhere you can ride a bicycle, so for example, some footways are designed to be shared footways with bicycles/scooters

Q – LTN 120 states cyclists must be separated from pedestrians which seems to be a contradiction. How does this apply to E Scooters

A – LTN 120 looks to the future of how cyclists will be provided for, so at the moment shared use is allowed

Q – How do we become stakeholders

A – Details will be provided

Q – Concerns have been raised about pedestrians having to jump out of the way of scooters on the pavements. Rules are one thing but enforcement is another. How are they being enforced

A – Users are banned from the scheme if they are seen to misuse the scooters. There are less complaints now which might be down to better use or might be down to people not bothering to complain

Q – How correct are the statistics as they were taken from a period in the middle of lockdown. Are they informed results?

A – The trial has extended to reflect the opening of lockdown so more information can be gathered

**CALC clerk** – Petra Palfreyman - **Telephone** – 07876198748. **e-mail** – calc.clerk@gmail.com

**Postal address** - 15 New Captains Road, West Mersea, Essex CO5 8QP

**Chairman** - John Gili-Ross **Telephone** – 07957804621. **e-mail** –john.giliross@gmail.com

Q – Who polices the trial – CBC or Spin.

A – The formal e-scooter use is policed by Spin and illegal e-scooter use is tracked by the police and leads to the scooter being impounded

Members commented as follows:

- We need to share the use of vehicles to get a balanced use of transport. There will always be a transport problem and congestion. If people do not try the new forms of transport, they will only see the negative side of them.
- The scooters are not easy to use on busy roads. As with cyclists, they are not wearing helmets or high visibility jackets to light themselves up and this issue needs to be tackled of where you can cycle and use scooters.
- Discussions about cycle ways have not come to anything. The cost of transport needs to be looked in to as it is expensive for a family to visit Colchester by bus and is cheaper to use a car and pay for a car park.
- New housing developments take little thought about the increase of traffic or road improvements.

Jane advised there are other projects within CBC and the borough and would like to come back and speak another time.

#### **4. TO RECEIVE REPORTS**

**a) TREASURES REPORT** – The clerks' fees of £218.00 for the previous quarter to December 2021, were agreed. The last bank statement held to 14 October 2021, showed a balance of £1447.50. Only four members remain unpaid, but they may be shown on the next statement. A credit of £174.00 against hall hire costs at Marks Tey Village Hall is also held. Proposed RJ 2<sup>nd</sup> – JA

**b) LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL** – Roger Mannion will represent CALC at the next meeting and towns and parishes should contact Roger if they would like representation and support from CALC. The online system is working well.

**c) GOVERNANCE REPORT** – nothing to report

**d) EALC EXECUTIVE** – The save the date emails for the next EALC AGM in September 2022 have been issued. The EALC are updating their IT infrastructure which will update and strengthen the website and introduce a new hybrid training system to allow face to face and virtual training at the

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same time. The CIF panel met last week. They had bids for £1.2 M projects and only £290k to allocate. After awarding the grants the balance of around £8k will be passed to the EALC emergency fund.

## 5. INFORMATION SHARING

- JGR asked what celebrations are being planned for the Queens Platinum Jubilee next year. West Bergholt will be lighting their beacon and most Councils will celebrate in some way.
- A major planning application for approx. 70 dwellings is planned in Layer De La Haye and they have been advised there might be some S106 monies available but cannot find out how much money that will be and have also been informed that they might not have the final say on how the S106 money will be spent.
- CALC have asked for the S106 portfolio holder to speak at a meeting to advise how it is all allocated. JGR suggested each Council add a wish list to Council website so that it is publicly available how they would like any S106 money spent. Also add it to an agenda so that it is officially documented.

## 6. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Date – 17 March 2022

Location – by Zoom

Time – 7pm

Speaker – The CALC members have asked for the CBC S106 portfolio holder to give a presentation. To be confirmed

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm and thanked everyone for attending and providing valuable feedback.

Signed..... Date