



COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON: Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at Mark's Tey Village Hall

PRESENT: John Gili-Ross (Chairman), Robert Johnstone (Vice-Chairman), Grahame Walkingshaw (Locum CALC Clerk), Lee Scott (Guest Speaker), Simon Dougherty & Alan Frost (Abberton & Langenhoe), Brian Butcher (West Bergholt), Peter Pike (Layer de la Haye), Sue Allen-Shepherd (Tiptree), Lance Williams (Great Horkesley), Mike Mead (Great Horkesley), John Jardine (Eight Ash Green), Dan Jordan (Stanway)

1. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES** Gerald Wells (Marks Tey), Jo Beighton-Emms (Wivenhoe), Angela McLaughlin (Boxted), Emma Coney, (Wakes Colne) & Maggie Holmes (Layer de la Haye)

2. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON: 9 March 2023.** Agreed

3. **MEETING TOPICS & GUEST SPEAKER**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Lee Scott, Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport to the meeting.

Cllr Lee Scott reported that the roads in Essex were in poor condition due to the changing weather conditions over the winter & spring period and that they were still gritting roads in April 2023. An additional 17.4 million pounds has been allocated to Highways and this takes the spend to a higher level than it has done in the last 10 to 15 years.

Cllr Lee Scott further reported that a shortage in the workforce (100 employees) had led to accepting 12 new contracting companies to cover the shortfall.

The Members pothole scheme allows each member to allocate 36 potholes for urgent repair and these would all be completed by the end of July 2023.

Cllr Lee Scott reported that with 5,200 miles of road to maintain, weather patterns, new housing developments and drainage issues had contributed to problems on the roads and he would like to see more Section 106 money set aside to deal with these problems.

Cllr Lee Scott informed the meeting of the new on demand 12-seater electric bus service called DigiGo, this service is currently being trialled in Braintree and allows people to book by App (2 hours in advance) or by phone 2 hours in advance. There are currently 12 buses in the fleet during this trial period. Cllr Lee Scott would like to see this rolled out across the whole of Essex.

Cllr Lee Scott informed the meeting of the success of Ride London (Cycling Event) and explained that grants worth up to £1 million pounds was available for youth charities and that Parish Council's should apply to it.

Money from the event will go towards improving the roads that the event used and the 1-day event attracted a lot of media coverage, increased tourism and brought spectators out all along the route. Although, there was some criticism with the route, there were significantly less complaints about the event this year.

Questions:

Cllr John Gili-Ross asked in relation to localised flooding, who will be employed to relieve the water going into gullies in the future? Cllr Lee Scott informed the meeting that he will take this up with the officers who deal with this). He asked Cllr John Gili-Ross to E-mail him with the details.

Cllr John Gili-Ross asked why only 12 Parish Councils had taken up the option of devolution? Cllr John Jardine explained that the smaller Parish Councillor's would like to have taken up this option but without handymen/employees working for them it was not financially viable. Cllr Lee Scott requested that Cllr John Gili-Ross send him a copy of any major devolution issues and that he would talk to Cllr Lewis Barber as well.

Cllr Simon Dougherty asked why officers at Essex Highways were negative in regards to dealing with Parish Councils? Cllr Lee Scott asked Cllr Simon Dougherty to email him with specifics and he would look into it.

Cllr Simon Dougherty asked what will happen in regards to speeding/abatement issues where there are no fatal accidents and so therefore, nothing seems to be done? Cllr Lee Scott reported that they will be using a team of police officers to go to specific locations to look into issues in regards this kind of issues.

Cllr Peter Pike (co-ordinator for speed watch in Layer de la Haye) asked whether this was part of the speed management strategy or target zero group? Cllr Lee Scott reported that the road hierarchy that these would be part of would be completed in Summer 2023.

Cllr Peter Pike asked why Colchester City Council are no longer involved in 20/20 speeding? Cllr Lee Scott informed the meeting that he would like to see this implemented across the whole of Essex.

Cllr Sue Allen-Shepherd asked what could be done to get yellow lines to prevent parking on junctions as defined in the Highway Code, where the Parish Council has been informed they need the permission of the residents in these roads to put anything in place to make the junctions safer? Cllr Lee Scott responded by saying that a current bill going through parliament would help in this matter.

Cllr Robert Johnstone asked when LTN120 was adopted and whether there were any plans to change it, or indeed whether it could actually be changed? Cllr Lee Scott informed the meeting that some areas had adopted this, whilst others were still considering it.

Cllr Robert Johnstone asked about a planning application that a Parish Council had objected to, which was then approved, despite access being across a PROW – how could Essex Highways change their minds on this application? Cllr Lee Scott asked Cllr Robert Johnstone to send him details of this application and he would look into it for him).

Cllr Brian Butcher asked how often Highways Inspectors look at the temporary road signage to check that it is correct and in the correct place and been approved? Cllr Lee Scott responded by saying that inspectors do check on these but not on all occasions.

Cllr Brian Butcher asked if Local Highways Panels would continue? Cllr Lee Scott reported that they would.

Cllr Dan Jordan asked whether bus companies could refuse to allow Local Highways Panel requests along bus routes? Cllr Lee Scott responded by saying that bus companies could object to these.

Chairman John Gili-Ross thanked Cllr Lee Scott for coming along on behalf of CALC members.

4. a) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Brian Butcher was proposed for Chairman

Proposed: Cllr John Gili-Ross

Seconded: Cllr Alan Frost

Cllr Brian Butcher was elected as Chairman

Agreed by All

Members thanked Cllr John Gili-Ross for his 15 years of service to CALC.

4. b) ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Robert Johnstone was proposed for Vice-Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Brian Butcher

Seconded: Cllr Simon Dougherty

Agreed by All

4. c) EALC EXECUTIVE MEMBERS – appointment of two members to this committee

Cllr John Gili-Ross was proposed as a member to the EALC Executive

Proposed: Cllr Brian Butcher

Seconded: Cllr Robert Johnstone

Agreed by All

Cllr Brian Butcher was proposed as a member to the EALC Executive

Proposed: Cllr John Gili-Ross

Seconded: Cllr Robert Johnstone

Agreed by All

5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS

a) **TREASURES REPORT** – It was proposed to authorise the payment of £218.00 to Petra Palfreyman

(1 meeting – 22 June 2023)

Proposed: Cllr Mike Mead

Seconded: Cllr John Gili-Ross

The Locum Clerk reported that the current bank balance as of 15/06/23 is £1,014.15. Currently only one outstanding Subscription is outstanding (Aldham PC) which will be paid into account in early July 2023.

Cllr John Gili-Ross offered congratulations to Clerk Petra Palfreyman in successfully managing to collect 100% subscriptions this year.

b) **LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL** – Cllr John Gili-Ross reported that additional money had been allocated from Colchester City Council and had been allocated to programmes that had gone through the initial investigation process.

It had been agreed to put some money towards Digigo.

Cllr Brian Butcher requested that some feedback from Braintree District Council on DigiGo should be obtained to bring to the next meeting.

c) **GOVERNANCE REPORT** – nothing to report. Agenda Item for Next Meeting: councillor to take on the role of reports from Governance Board.

EALC EXECUTIVE – Cllr Brian Butcher reported that EALC wanted to know of any new type of courses that Parish Council’s would like. These could be delivered locally in village halls and for councillors to give any feedback on courses to Pearl Wilcox.

The EALC AGM Is 21 September 2023 at Colchester Football Stadium.

INFORMATION SHARING Cllr John Gili-Ross informed the meeting of the Police, Fire & Crime Commission Conference at Colchester Community Stadium on Friday the 23rd June 2023 at 10.00 a.m. (Open invitation for all)

Cllr John Gili-Ross has been confirmed as the chairman of Essex Police, Fire & Crime Panel.

Village Hall: The next meeting would be held in Marks Tey Village Hall

Guest speakers:

The Clerk was actioned to write an invitation to Pam Donnelly (Colchester City Council, CEO) for the next meeting.

6. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Date – 28 September 2023

Location – Marks Tey Village Hall

Time – 7.00pm

Guest speakers - Pam Donnelly CEO Colchester City Council

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.59 pm and thanked everyone for attending and providing valuable feedback.

Signed..... Date

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