



COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Colchester Association of Local Councils meeting held on Thursday 1st. September 2016 at 7pm in the Marks Tey Village Hall

Present: Cllr John Gili-Ross (JGR) Chairman, Robert Johnstone (RJ) Vice-Chairman, Simon Dougherty & Alan Frost Abberton & Langenhoe, Mark Graham Mount Bures, Paul Smith Colchester BC, Brian Hindley Dedham, Steve Bays Tiptree, John Lindsay Messing cum-Inworth, Shaun Boughton Wivenhoe, Mick Mead & Lance Williams Gt. Horkesley and Kevin Money (Clerk)

The Chairman (JGR) welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially welcomed some new faces around the table. Thanks also to Cllr Paul Smith Leader of Colchester BC as the guest speaker for the meeting.

1) To receive apologies – Apologies were received from East Donyland PC, West Mersea PC, Neil Lodge (Wivenhoe), M. Bartier, Marks Tey PC & S. Beeton (Dedham),

2) Guest Speaker. Cllr Paul Smith Leader of Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Paul Smith (PS) thanked JGR for the invitation to address the meeting. He went on to say that:

- Continued challenges still effect CBC.
- All councils face tougher times due to grants from Government being reduced.
- CBC keeps all the business rates they collect
- Council tax benefit now being totally funded by CBC especially for the unemployed
- CBC tackling this by a more commercial approach. Sheepen Road building being funded by CBC to receive a rental income. Money for this project is coming from PWLB over a 50-year term
- Reserves – assets have been sold and CBC has bought houses for the rental income.
- If economy reduces then it is very bad for all Councils.
- Local council tax on a band “D” properties are capped
- CBC wants to work closely with all PC’s & TC’s
- Can Businesses buy property? (Tiptree) – PS said that the Planning inspector disagrees saying that CBC has too much land zoned for availability for business premises. Tiptree said there is a shortage of small plots of land. Good communication and good commercial land
- JGR pointed out the benefit of a NP in specifying where development, both commercial and residential would be acceptable in a community
- What is needed is affordable business premises as well as affordable houses
- PS said that CBC owns very few amounts of land in Colchester
- PS talked about Local Plan in conjunction with NP’s
- PS informed the meeting that the planners will help with NP’s
- Myland has completed its NP and is going for a referendum and is pleased with the support provided by CBC planning.

Signed.....1st. December 2016

- RJ – There is always a battle between County and District especially regarding consultation on highways.
- PS informed the meeting that he would like to see CBC become a Unitary
- PS - CBC move towards a greater Essex devolution. Southend & Thurrock was against this move. CBC has been looking at combining with Suffolk Council
- Colchester imports 30,000 people from Suffolk each day but exports 30,000 people to London each day
- Colchester may merge with BDC and Tendring to produce 500,000 people
- Elderly care is better to undertake in North Essex rather than the whole of Essex
- PS stated that PC's knows better than CBC as it represents local communities
- Tiptree disillusioned about how CBC responds to emails and communication. How can Tiptree have a better relationship and results with CBC? – PS stated he, personally, has had several meetings with Tiptree Council, but has had nothing back either direct or from their Borough Councilors. PS asked Tiptree to copy him into all emails to Colchester Borough Councillors. PS also said to contact a CBC officer before asking PS to intervene.
- JGR asked if 2-3 members of CALC could meet with Executive Directors at CBC
- JGR – Asked why the LHP was forced to meet in Chelmsford. Reasons stated - CBC will not fund the administration resource but will supply a meeting room but not support administration. JGR asked PS why CBC would not supply administration for 5 meetings per year when all the money disbursed by the LHP would go towards Colchester projects. PS stated that CBC should not be expected to pay for services that should be provided by ECC.
- PS stated that ECC would not accept CBC party political balance in regard to membership therefore CBC refused to provide an administrative support.
- JGR suggested this intransigence let's down Colchester residents
- PROW – RJ asked why CBC planners failed in their responsibility to ensure development does not compromise existing PROW and sited a case in Myland where flats were built across the PROW.
- JGR asked if CBC would consider allowing P&TC sector with an approved NP to determine planning applications in their areas if they applied for such powers. PS said this may involve legal difficulties and the sector would have to take responsibility for costs involved with any PA appeals.
- Tiptree / CBC planners work well together as a 2-way communication.
- All planning committee meetings are open to PC's and public
- JGR asked PS to pass on the sectors thanks for the good work done by the Zone wardens
- The zone warden team structure has changed but the details have not been shared with the sector.
- JGR – NEEP scheme. Who do they work for and Is it a money generated scheme. PS said that CBC used to pay towards the original scheme but it was losing £500,000 per year. The NEEP now makes a profit and whilst CBC managers are involved the scheme is set up by ECC.
- JGR asked PS if he would organize a meeting with CALC members and CBC executive Directors, which was agreed. CALC will provide a list of points they wished to address with CBC.

The Chair thanked PS for coming along to the meeting and asked PS to give feedback to CBC officers and executive. PS is happy to attend any P&TC meetings if invited. PS then left the meeting

The representatives asked for the following points to be discussed at the meeting with CBC's directors.

- Asset Transfer Policy – transferring from CBC to the P&TC sector in particular with respect to public toilets and garages
- Fly tipping policy – who to contact and what can be expected in regard to resolution and prosecution of offenders
- Illegal Traveller encampments – The Boroughs policy on handling such events and timescales to remedy. What the sector can do to assist.
- PROW policy and planning control. Prevention of PROW encroachment
- Response to queries from the P&TC sector – timescales for responses and interfacing.

3) To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th. June 2016

The minutes were proposed by RJ and seconded by M. Mead. This was agreed unanimously and the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4) To receive reports:

a) Treasurer' report.

Clerk informed the meeting that he had received 25 Councils subscription, which left 4 to pay – Namely Boxted, Dedham, Langham & Little Horkesley. He would chase these Councils. The bank account had £1,548.30p in its account.

b) Local Highways Panel

JGR informed the meeting the next meeting is the end of September.

- ECC is proposing to update the Terms of Reference, however minutes are still not being published in time.
- Administration not as good as it could be. JGR asked members to copy him into their LHP request / application so that he can look out for them.
- RJ asked how a Community Speed Watch group could be set up . JGR informed the meeting that a request should go to the CSP (Safer Colchester Partnership) also use LCAP to get it onto the agenda. Training of operatives can be being done by the Police or experienced CSW operators.

c) Governance Board - Nothing to report

d) EALC - Brian Hindley

The meeting illustrated the excellent financial position of the Association and the strong position of the training record that it had achieved. Training is an important source of income for the EALC and it is constantly praised for the high standard it achieves.

The Finance Committee proposed an increase in fees of 2%. This will be placed before the AGM in September. A 2% increase represents an income of approximately £1400.00 to EALC. The NALC Council has agreed an increase in fees of 1.9%.

The ECC representatives were not present so there was no report given.

The LHP membership varies around the County and it will be an item for the agenda at the next meeting.

The Essex Rural Partnership now has two members of the Executive sitting on the Management Board.

Cllr Miles attended a Protect Heritage meeting held at Hyde Hall where it was reported that unauthorised metal detecting at night is a major problem in the County. Smartwater

is recommended to protect artefacts, as it can identify an owner should it be stolen and then later recovered.

Collaborative Leadership in Essex. Cllr Peter Davey and Joy Darby attended the first meeting and recommended that the EALC continue to work on this initiative. It is expected that the government will devolve services, using business rates to be self-sufficient. The government is unlikely to support local government by 2020. There will be further work done in this area and EALC will be fully involved.

Neighbourhood Planning. A recent survey conducted by EALC produced 108 responses and it was felt that some data was missing and a request to obtain further responses was agreed to keep the report up to date. There are a number of experts available to assist Councils with their plans.

NALC launched year 2 of the Transparency Fund last April. Councils with precepts of £25k or less can apply and £1.3 million of funding had already been provided. The fund remains open for this financial year.

An initiative to invite a member of the Parliamentary "Outreach Team" to deliver a workshop for EALC Executive Members on Friday 18.11.2016, was voted on and will be organised. Local MP's could be invited and perhaps an opportunity to lobby MP's could be arranged.

This year's AGM in on Thursday 22nd. September at Foakes Hall from 11.30am.

5) Information Sharing:

a) LCAP meeting – JGR informed the meeting that zones 3&4 meeting is on 12.09.16 at 6pm at Rowan House Colchester

b) Changing to Policing

JGR – The Police and Crime draft plan is now in the public domain and has victims as the centre of the plan. The plan lists 7 priorities including higher policing visibility and safety on roads

6) Date of next meetings:

Thursday 1st. December 2016 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

Thursday 2nd. March 2017 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

Thursday 1st. June 2017 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

Thursday 7th. September 2017 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

Thursday 7th. December 2017 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed.....1st. December 2016

John Gili-Ross