



COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON: Thursday 9 June 2022 by Zoom

PRESENT: John Gili-Ross (Chairman), Robert Johnstone (Vice Chairman), Petra Palfreyman (CALC Clerk), Simon Dougherty Abberton & Langenhoe, Robert Johnstone Myland Community Council, Maggie Holmes Layer de la Haye, Emma Coney Wakes Colne, Mick Mead Gt Horkesley, John Akker, West Mersea, Julie Baker West Mersea, Alan Frost, Abberton & Langenhoe, Sue Allen-Shepherd Tiptree, Martin Bottwood Langham, Cllr Lee Scott Portfolio holder for ECC Highways Maintenance & Sustainable Transport

1. **ELECTION OF OFFICER** – the following positions were duly elected
 - a) **CHAIRMAN** John Gili-Ross
 - b) **VICE CHAIRMAN** Robert Johnstone
 - c) **EALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2 places)** John Gili-Ross. No other members were nominated or elected but the position can be considered in the future.
2. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES** Brian Butcher West Bergholt, Karen Thompson Boxted, Kathryn Cameron Fordham, Elizabeth Nelson-Hayes East Donyland, Chris Stevenson West Bergholt, Dan Jordan Stanway, Carol Harbach Langham
3. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2022** – All agreed
4. **MEETING TOPICS & GUEST SPEAKER** - Cllr Lee Scott, Portfolio Holder for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport - a general overview of the current position of Highways in terms of budget, delivery, current projects, and other resources and issues. Cllr Lee gave a summary of the current issues and how they are being dealt with and answered a short Q & A session afterwards. Cllr Scott also advised he would like to take part in future meetings.

Speeding – reviewed speed reports across the county and looking at speed limit. It is known that people who break the speed limit will continue to do so but when fines are imposed, they will be put on social media to act as a deterrent. There have been discussions with the Police and parking partnerships to discuss training officers other than the Police to be able to impose fines.

Weight limits – there are issues with heavy duty vehicles driving through the parishes. The Queens latest speech has provided provisions to put weight restrictions on and enforce them. A meeting is being arranged between Waze and Google maps to discuss how routes unsuitable for heavy vehicles are denoted.

Pothole scheme – a new member led scheme where every divisional councillor will have 36 potholes to nominate in groups of 18, for repair. There are 3 new teams available to make the repairs. These are in addition to the usual programme with an extra £2.5M

Footpaths – repairs to footpaths will cover larger areas in a more sustainable way

Bringing money in – looking at the companies that do well from the residents, putting some money back in the social welfare projects and being able to use that money for the benefit of the Highways network and other areas. For example, the buses footfall has decreased due to people working at home, but expenses have increased.

Ride London – was called such as it came under the London Marathon banner. ECC are looking at the benefits this brought to the areas as they gave £1M to be distributed to youth activities that involve cycling, walking and other activities. A lot of money was raised for charity but still looking at how it could run better. Channels for blue light, social care were dealt with very well and only 8 complaints received and other comments were all positive.

Cllr Scott stated he has visited every village in Essex in the first year and tries to visit somewhere every day. There is not the budget to do everything but if something is dangerous, the aim is to get it fixed.

LHP have had a review via the scrutiny committee and results will be published in a few weeks. Looking at recruiting as resources are limited since the pandemic and staff deciding to retire which lost a lot of experience.

Q – Police, Fire & Crime panel asked for a presentation of Trucam for Speedwatch. There were concerns over the amount of training and that the person taking the photo would have to attend court, which put volunteers off

A – It would only be officers from ECC that would be trained by the Police to carry out the work

Q – Was the message about Footpaths or PROW

A – Both – all would be looked at

Q – LTN 120 published a couple of years ago. What is the policy with this regarding the legacy of non-compliant installations

A – Would like to encourage cycling as much as possible. The team are doing more than has ever been done before. New developments are to put more money in to cycle routes and that Planning Enforcement is involved if the promises are not met. Also, when a developer builds homes, they often damage the Highways and paths, so ECC are looking at a bond to pay for repairs to the roads if they are not left in a good state.

Q – The speeding issues in Abberton & Langenhoe were seen during a visit. Will the smaller parishes be included in the enforcement scheme for ECC officers to be in

A – The plan is they will be all over the County

Q – With LHP if something goes on to the capital project list, it is difficult to know what is happening as there is little feedback.

A – Unable to comment on a specific case but agreed to review if information sent by email

Q – Speeding – will parishes be advised when and where?

A – Yes you will but the information must not be shared

Q – Potholes – will this be carried out on a divisional basis and if so, what area will be covered

A – Yes, all areas will be included. These are in addition to the usual programme.

Q – Is there information about the LHP and how to get items on the agenda

A – Hoping for full training about the LHP so everyone involved knows how it works. Information is available on the Colchester LHO website.

Q – Can you come and visit a parish council

A – Yes – send an email with details

Q – Highways flooding issues – if gutters are not cleared then they fill up the drains so could they be coordinated to happen at the same time.

A – Yes will speak to Cllr King to discuss coordination of road sweeping and jetting

Devolution project – only 11 parishes took up this offer, so ECC are looking at a new scheme to replace it.

5. DISCUSSION OF THE NATIONAL GRID EAST ANGLIA GREEN PROJECT

The provision of renewable energy is not opposed but we are opposed to how the National Grid propose to distribute it. The work is to be carried out by a private company and it is felt it should be managed by the government. Comments should be fed all the way up so that Government gets the message.

Parishes advised the following actions so far:

There are notices up at various junctions and how it will affect the property market. On the ANOB (area of outstanding natural beauty) where will the site enter and exit. Visually it will look awful and are fully committed to working with others to register the objections

A response has been submitted with concerns about transparency as we are at the non-statutory public consultation stage. There were 25 options and now there only appear to be 5 -without a proper public consultation and no explanation why the offshore options have been abandoned before consultation.

Decided on a general approach and letters have been sent to National Grid and copied to other parties. The route is agreed but not how it is being done.

Public reaction has been monitored. This is a national infrastructure project and different rules apply to this. The parishes need to agree a common way forward and a joint approach for maximum impact.

We need to support the actions of the district and boroughs but important to get government by in and get the MP's engaged by engaging with the Ward & Divisional councillors.

If it can go underground for ANOB, why can't it go underground for all of it.

The members voted in favour of the CALC supporting the responses seen from the districts and Borough Council. JGR will send a letter to our District and Borough Councillors saying CALC support their concerns and initiative.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS

a) TREASURES REPORT - The clerks' fees of £218.00 for the previous quarter to June 2022, were agreed. The last bank statement held to 14 April 2022, showed a balance of £1151.50. A credit of £174.00 against hall hire costs at Marks Tey Village Hall is also held. The clerk forwarded the bank reconciliation to JGR for agreement. Proposed RJ 2nd – DJ

b) TO AGREE THE MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2022/23 – Following discussion it was agreed to keep the membership fee at £35 per council for 2022/23.

- c) **LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL** – the LHP will meet next week. All the LHP documents are on the website under LHP Colchester. All schemes and progress are recorded. If parishes have a concern or project, they should ask the EALC representative to investigate it. The next meeting has a huge list of funded and unfunded schemes, traffic management, walking and cycling. RJ is the representative to take comments for parishes forward as this is not a public meeting.
- d) **GOVERNANCE BOARD** – not met
- e) **EALC EXECUTIVE** – some staff changes in place

7. INFORMATION SHARINGS

Potholes – is guidance available for temporary filling of potholes. If they are temporarily filled, then they will fall off the list as they will no longer meet the 6cm criteria. JGR suggested using the route suggested by Cllr Scott.

Strategic plan – should all towns and parishes have a strategic plan or establish priorities and have a vision. It was felt that a plan to consider the environment, traffic, climate and finance should be in place, although they are not always formalised.

E Scooter trial – Spin have been taken over by Tier and the project will run until November 2022. There were 12 reported injuries in the Spin trial which included 330 000 rides. There are no plans to extend the cycle route from the urban area into West Bergholt. A request to the LHP was suggested.

The clerk will review the date and speaker for the next meeting. It was agreed that the September meeting will be face to face and we will aim to have another face to face meeting next June, with the rest being carried out over Zoom.

8. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Date TBA
 Location Marks Tey Village Hall
 Time 7.00pm

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

Signed.....

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