



**Essex Association of Local Councils
Executive Meeting Minutes
22nd January 2015
42B High Street Great Dunmow CM6 1AH**

Name	District	Name	District
Cllr Peter Davey	Brentwood	Cllr McPherson-Davis	Basildon
Cllr Helen Edwards	Braintree	Cllr Tony Hayward OBE	Braintree
Cllr Stuart Berlyn	Chelmsford	Cllr John Gili-Ross	Colchester
Cllr Peter Brown	Chelmsford	Cllr Mrs Jackman MBE	Epping Forest
Cllr Brian Ledger	Maldon	Kathryn Richmond	Epping Forest
Cllr Brian Hazlewood	Rochford	Cllr Michael Talbot	Tendring
Cllr Michael Talbot	Tendring	Cllr Roy Martin	Rochford
		Cllr Hamish McIlwrick	Uttlesford

Also Present

Joy Darby	Chief Executive Officer
Carol Hartley	Finance Officer
Linda Golding	Committee Officer and PA to the Chief Executive
Pearl Willcox	Training Officer

In the Chair Cllr John Gili-Ross

Vice Chairs present	Cllr Sheila Jackman & Cllr Peter Davey
Treasurer	Cllr David McPherson-Davis

1. Chairman's Welcome and Announcements

Cllr Gili-Ross opened the meeting by wishing everyone a good 2015 and that like last year continue to make Essex a better place.

The Chairman welcomed and introduced the new member Cllr Peter Brown (Little Waltham Parish Council) – representing Chelmsford City Area.

2. Apologies for Absence

Name	District	Name	District
Cllr Mrs Linda Belgrove	Tendring	Cllr John Buchanan	Basildon
Cllr Keith Miles	LLFC	Cllr Mick Page	ECC
Cllr Tilly Pink	Maldon	Cllr Alan Acott	Castlepoint
Cllr Mel Sullivan	Uttlesford	Angela Balcombe	ECC

Cllr John Gili-Ross asked that the item number 6 be deferred as Cllr Mrs Belgrove had given her apologies for the meeting.

3. Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the EALC Executive Meeting held on the 20th November 2014

Members were in agreement that the minutes recorded an accurate record of the meeting and they were subsequently signed by Chairman.

4. Finance

4.1 Budget Report – A revised report was tabled at the meeting.

The Treasurer explained the report and gave a commentary on the current progress against budget, and the expected outcome to the end of year figures.

The Treasurer commented that the report reflects the work of the Staff. Cllr Mrs Jackman thanked all concerned.

The Chairman, Cllr Gili-Ross, gave an overview on the meeting held between ECC and the EALC in December 2014 when Cllr Hirst, Cllr Mrs Twitchen, Cllr Page met with Cllr Gili-Ross, Cllr Jackman, Cllr Davey and Cllr McPherson-Davis. Joy Darby (EALC CEO) and Angela Balcombe (ECC) were also present. The meeting focused on what the EALC did and the how it assisted the

Communities in Essex by helping to build development in the Local Council Tier. The EALC was asked to ensure that ECC was given the recognition in respect of how it assists the Local Councils by the financial support it gives to EALC.

New footers are now in place acknowledging the significant contribution to EALC, by ECC.

Cllr Peter Davey explained that the pressures remain the same and ECC must justify the grants it gives and EALC must ensure that the contribution it makes due to the grants is recognised.

Cllr John Gili-Ross has written to David Finch at ECC thanking him for continuing with the CIF Funding. Parish Councils are being asked to write and thank him personally.

(Carol Hartley left the meeting)

5. Buildings Management

The CEO reported that the following work was being considered

- Door thresholds require lowering – Health and Safety issue
- Water leak – pressure gauge to be fitted
- New computer for training room to be ordered

6. New Initiatives and Other Matters for Decision

6.1 Members Expenses Openness – web site request – Decision Required

Matter deferred to next meeting.

7. Essex Matters

7.1 Essex County Council

Apologies were received from Cllr Mick Page and Angie Balcombe.

Members noted that there was a 0% on the ECC rates for 2015

Members were reminded to consider purdah in the weeks leading up to the elections.

7.2 Police Partnership Conference

With thanks to a grant from the Crime Commissioner the cost per delegate will be reduced to £20 per head.

Speakers will include Nick Alston – Crime Commissioner and it is hoped that The Chief Constable will also be present.

Policing Essex – the EALC to supply 4 hot subjects

Gypsy and Traveller Liaison

Specials

Community messaging

Working in partnership

Experts Panel – for question and answer session.

7.3 Police and Crime Commissioners Rural Crime Forum 6th October 2014 – Notes of Meeting.

Noted

7.4 EALC President Update

Deferred to the next agenda

7.5 Local Councils Awards Scheme

Cllr John Gili-Ross congratulated Cllr Peter Davey as Chairman of the Essex Accreditation Panel on the results of the National Pilot.

7.5.1 Pilot Results

Gold Standard Accredited

Council Danbury Parish Council
Waltham Abbey Town Council
Loughton Town Council

Foundation Standard Accredited

Great Maplestead Parish Council
Little Braxted Parish Council
Ongar Town Council
Wakes Colne Parish Council
Waltham Abbey Town Council
West Bergholt Parish Council
Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre Parish Council

7.5.2 Feedback on Pilot from Cllr Peter Davey – Panel Chair

Cllr Peter Davey acknowledged the work of the EALC Staff that helped support this process, along with the panel. The scheme had met some resistance but the positives outweighed the sceptics and we now need to move forward.

Cllr Gili-Ross was asked by the Colchester Association what there was in it for the Parish Councils. He explained that the accreditation checked the processes and procedures that Councils have in place, and gives Councils a good way of ensuring the development and robust work of a Local Council. Cllr Gili-Ross asked why wouldn't a Council want to go through the process if they working within the law. The Chairman will be promoting this as he tours the County.

As a result NALC Council of the week is Danbury Parish Council. All Councils accredited will become Council of the week.

7.5.3 Executive Decisions about the future management of the scheme

Members were asked to consider the following

The Executive agreed that the EALC should continue to process this scheme.

- Composition of Panel

Cllr Davey agreed that the composition of the panel should continue, and the Membership will be considered in due process.

- Chairman of Panel

Cllr Peter Davey wished to continue as Chairman. This was proposed by Cllr Stuart Berlyn and agreed by the Executive.

- Publicity of the results

The presentation of awards at full District, Borough and the City Council Meetings was a great benefit to promoting the previous Quality Council scheme.

Officers to make a plan on the publicity procedures

- Presentations to the Councils

Presentations to be made at all levels

- Costs

The costs will be similar to the previous Quality Council Scheme.

7.6 Staff Reports

Reports tabled and accepted by Marisa Baltrock, Sian Morris and Pearl Willcox.

The CEO reported that an update to the composition of the Course flyers had been accomplished, with thanks to ECC and some additional information being supplied.

Staff had been given some new responsibilities with Sian moving from the apprentice role to support training.

Currently no funding for new apprentice

7.7 Essex Rural Partnership – Community Action Group Minutes 10th June 2014.

Noted

Cllr Mrs Jackman asked Members if they would like Brian Goodwin invited to come and give a presentation before one of the Executive meetings. Mrs Darby commented that he will be at the Police Conference. Members agreed at this point they did not require him to speak.

8. Regional Matters – Update

Nothing reported

9. National Matters

9.1 NALC Council member Update – Cllr John Buchanan gave his apologies

9.2 NALC Council Meeting – Cllr Hayward briefly reported in the absence of Cllr Buchanan:

Appointments had been made to Committees and unfortunately Cllr John Buchanan was no longer a member of the Policy Committee. It should be noted the seats for this committee are highly contested.

New Chief Executive is providing more information on a regular basis, which has been welcomed.

9.3 All Party Parliamentary Group on Broadband.

Cllr John Gili-Ross to present to the group in February at the NALC invitation.

Cllr Gili-Ross to attend an Essex Broadband meeting in January.

10. Meeting Dates 2015

Date	Venue	Time
19th March 2015	42B High Street Great Dunmow	2pm – 4pm
14th May 2015	42B High Street Great Dunmow	2pm – 4pm
23rd July 2015	42B High Street Great Dunmow	2pm – 4pm
10th September 2015	42B High Street Great Dunmow	2pm – 4pm
19th November 2015 (Annual Meeting)	42B High Street Great Dunmow	10am – 12 noon
24 th September 2015 70 th Annual General Meeting	Foakes Hall	PM

11. Feedback and Next Agenda

11.1 Feedback 15 minutes of open forum for members to raise issues of mutual interest

- Purdah information to go to Executive Members ASAP
- Relationships between the tiers

12. Meeting Closure

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

Date..... Signature