

**Essex Association of Local Councils**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LARGER**  
**LOCAL COUNCIL FORUM**  
**12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 10.00 am – 12.30pm**  
**Hosted by Springfield Parish Council**

**Present:**

<b>Cllr Peter Davey</b>	<b>Ingatstone &amp; Fryerning PC Vice-Chair EALC</b>	<b>Cllr Susan Sullivan</b>	<b>Springfield PC</b>
<b>Cllr Vivien Chapman</b>	<b>Brightlingsea TC</b>	<b>Cllr Colin Golding</b>	<b>Shalford PC</b>
<b>Cllr Lew Schnurr</b>	<b>Heybridge PC</b>	<b>Cllr Patrick Horner</b>	<b>Witham TC</b>
<b>Cllr Sheila Jackman</b>	<b>EALC Exec North Weald PC</b>	<b>Cllr Phil Milne</b>	<b>Dunmow TC</b>
<b>Cllr Jim Devlin</b>	<b>Billericay TC</b>	<b>Cllr Jo Clark</b>	<b>Billericay TC</b>
<b>Cllr Barbara Scruton</b>	<b>Epping TC</b>	<b>Helen Symonds</b>	<b>Leigh on Sea TC</b>
<b>Cllr David Wixley</b>	<b>Loughton TC</b>	<b>Cllr Bob Tout</b>	<b>Rochford PC</b>
<b>Cllr Keith Miles</b>	<b>Sth Woodham Ferrers TC</b>	<b>Tiptree PC</b>	<b>Cllr Joyce Bunney</b>
<b>Cllr Lew Schnurr</b>	<b>Heybridge PC</b>	<b>Joy Darby</b>	<b>CEO EALC</b>
<b>Linda Golding</b>	<b>EALC Assist. CEO</b>	<b>Louise Gambardella</b>	<b>EALC</b>
<b>Jane Coleman Clerk</b>	<b>Maldon Town Council</b>		

**Also present during the morning Speaker: Nick Alston & Suzanne Harris**

**In the Chair: Cllr Keith Miles**

**Opening Introductions by the Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed everyone. He told the meeting this was a very small meeting compared to recent ones, mostly due to a number of the regular attendees

giving apologies due to sickness and a course running at the EALC offices. However 15 Councils were represented by 16 delegates.

He extended a warm welcome back to Nick Alston. He told delegates Nick had come to speak at the Larger Local Council Forum when he first became the Essex Police and Crime and his understanding was this morning Nick was going to speak about his time in office.

The second speaker would be Suzanne Harris from the RCCE who had agreed to join us at short notice and will be giving a presentation about Fly tipping – a subject which currently concerns a lot of the Councils in Essex.

Hosting this meeting for the first time is Springfield Parish Council and Chairman Cllr Sue Sullivan would be welcoming everyone.

**The list of apologies was read out by Linda Golding**

<b>Beverley Rumsey Clerk</b>	<b>Epping TC</b>	<b>Cllr Alan Acott</b>	<b>Canvey Island TC</b>
<b>Enid Walsh Clerk</b>	<b>Loughton TC</b>	<b>Cllrs Roy &amp; Sue Martin</b>	<b>Hockley PC</b>
<b>Margaret Saunders</b>	<b>Danbury PC</b>	<b>Cllr Stuart Berlyn</b>	<b>Danbury PC</b>
<b>Deborah Tonkiss Clk</b>	<b>Billericay TC</b>	<b>Mark Squire Clk</b>	<b>Witham TC</b>
<b>Mike Letch Clk</b>	<b>Broomfield PC</b>	<b>Suzanne Walker Clk</b>	<b>Gt Notley PC</b>
<b>Angie Balcombe</b>	<b>ECC</b>	<b>Pearl Willcox</b>	<b>EALC</b>

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 having been circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**Welcome from Springfield Parish Council by the Chairman Cllr Sue Sullivan**

Sue welcomed everyone to Springfield. She apologised for the traffic jams around the area which caused delegate’s journeys to take much longer than they should have done this morning. She told delegates Springfield is an urban parish and a small area geographically divided by the London to Norwich railway line. It was still a very much growing area with a large number of new homes either being, or due to be, built. Beaulieu Park being one of them where there would be a new community centre which would come from the Section 106 monies There would be a new railway station at

Boreham to help with the added number of commuters. In the future it may see Springfield Parish splitting into two separate parishes.

### **Presentation by Nick Alston the former Police and Crime Commissioner**

Nick gave a very interesting presentation to delegates telling them how he was an Essex boy born in an Essex police station. His strong ties with Essex, why he decided to become the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, the way he shaped the position and the people involved. He had six weeks to implement a police and crime plan and budget which had proved hard work. His belief that partnership working was and is the best way forward and particularly to improve the working relationship with the Criminal Justice System and trying to get it right with all committees. His achievements and why he decided not to stand for another term in office. Since leaving the post he has become Chair of Anglia Ruskin University's Policing Institute for the Eastern Region.

He thanked the Essex Association and its members for all the work they do.

Nick recommended [essexfuture.org.uk](http://essexfuture.org.uk) was a good website to visit.

The Chairman thanked Nick for his interesting and informative presentation.

Nick stayed at the meeting to hear the Fly Tipping presentation.

### **Presentation by Suzanne Harris from the RCCE on the subject of Fly Tipping**

Suzanne showed slides during her presentation of terrible examples of fly tipping in Essex.

- She talked about the work being done to try to combat this with the police and the Environment Agencies.
- Working on a task and finish group which is making good headway.
- The cost of clearing the rubbish which amounts to thousands of pounds
- Trying to catch the criminals who are dumping it.
- Examples of up to 116 lorry loads dumped on private land.
- Who is responsible for clearing it.
- The public should not tamper with the rubbish in any way.
- Always use reliable reputable people to dispose of your rubbish and get a receipt

Suzanne took several questions from delegates and answered their queries and listened to their views.

### **No SLCC update as Enid Walsh had sent her apologies**

### **NALC Update**

Cllr Peter Davey the EALC NALC Representative gave an update to delegates.

**NALC Annual Conference and Exhibition Monday 30<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 31st October 2017** which is an essential event for Councillors, council officers, county association members and officers as local councils join with other parts of the public sector (including the government and principal authorities), private sector and voluntary sector to discuss the key policy issues of the moment. The important themes will centre on partnership working, local economic development, sustainability, health and wellbeing, housing and planning, openness and transparency. This two-day event will celebrate NALC being 70 years old and Milton Keynes city being 50 years old this year too. The event is sponsored by BHIB Insurance Brokers, CCLA and DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd. Speakers this year include Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Angela Rippon, broadcaster and celebrity on Dementia, Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the LGA, Fiona Stafford, academic and broadcaster, Cllr Peter Marland, leader of Milton Keynes Council, Dr Jane Martin, Committee for Standards and Public Life, Sarah Richards, chief executive of the Planning Inspectorate and Rob Varley, chief executive of the Met Office. We will also be announcing the winners from our Star Councils 2017 shortlist.

### **Review of NALC's Governance - background**

Agreed by AGM as a priority for this year Task & Finish Group set up with 19 CALC responses received giving a mixed picture which is available on the NALC website. Considered at the National Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> July and approved as a recommendation to the AGM to be held this month.

### **NALC senior leadership Team: Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of Association**

- National Council elects Chairman of Association and two vice-Chairmen NALC's senior leadership team
- One vice-chairman to be assigned finance remit responsible for strengthened oversight of financial policy.
- The other vice-chairman would generally act for the Chairman at meetings, delegations, events etc. where appropriate.
- 2 yearly elections, limited to maximum of 2 consecutive terms.
- New Management Board - replacing Executive Committee Responsibility to focus on internal management and governance of the Association, allocating resources to priorities determined by National Council and AGM, ensuring delivery of strategic plan objectives.
- Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Association plus 6 other members elected from National Council and the Chairs of Policy and Finance & Scrutiny Committees to be members. Total membership 9
- Expectation that frequency of meeting will increase, particularly with use of telephone and Skype conferences.

### **New Finance and Scrutiny Committee**

- Clearer division of responsibility between role of management board (setting budgets and day to day management of finances) and this committee which is responsible for finance scrutiny.
- Finance control not management. Committee reports ultimately to National Council but via Management Board to enable them to take appropriate action

- Responsible for increased scrutiny of financial processes including meeting financial and income targets. Oversight of new corporate governance framework including risk, contract procedure, health checking.
- 5 members elected by National Council giving a total of 6 members
- Able to set up detailed scrutiny TFGs to do in-depth work

### **New Policy Committee**

- 7 members elected by National Council
- Reports direct to National Assembly
- Develops detailed policies in support of Assembly
- Recommends annual manifesto/ prospectus to AGM
- Oversees policy campaigns & public affairs work
- Chairman of Association ex-officio

### **Larger and Smaller Councils Committees to remain the same with the task of defining what a small and large council is.**

#### **Next steps**

- Report and endorsement at AGM
  - Role profiles to be rewritten Terms of reference to be drafted and approved by National Council/ committees for implementation from October 2017
- Any new structure will be reviewed after 12 months.

**The Scrutiny Panel** met with the NALC External Auditors Milton Avis LLP (which is a practice of accountants in the West End of London having been established for over 30 years) on the 5<sup>th</sup> July who gave an unqualified audit. They also drafted the financial introduction to the accounts to explain the various year-end movements for the NALC 2016 / 17 year-end.

At this meeting Peter told the meeting he was appointed Chair of the Scrutiny Panel following Roger Greenwood's resignation until the elections at the AGM in October. The Scrutiny Panel met again on the 16<sup>th</sup> August to assess and interview potential external auditors for the 2018/19 financial year and he had also chaired another meeting to receive an update on nalc's position to date against the key budget headings and he was satisfied that at this point in time they are on track.

**The Chairman thanked Peter for his update and also for the work he has done on our behalf at NALC.**

### **EALC Update**

Joy Darby and Louise Gambardella gave the EALC Update.

- Highways Briefing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Foakes Hall which is free of charge
- New course Calendar now available on website
- Launch of new Essex County Council Local Service Fund which will be managed by Louise at the EALC

Due to the late start of the meeting there was no Open Forum Time at this meeting.

**The next meetings of the Larger Local Councils**

Next meeting will be hosted by Mersey Town Council and is scheduled to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Mersea Centre, High Street, West Mersea when the main speaker will be from Citizan who will be coming to talk about their archaeology findings on the beach near Mersea Island following the high tides in early January 2017.

**Thanks to Springfield Parish Council for hosting the meeting.**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.45**

**Signed..... Date .....**