

Essex Association of Local Councils
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LARGER
LOCAL COUNCIL FORUM
21st February 2017 10.00 am – 12.30 noon
 hosted by
Dunmow Town Council at Foakes Hall, Gt Dunmow

Present:

Cllr Peter Davey	Ingatestone & Fryerning PC Vice-Chair EALC	Cllr John Gili-Ross	West Bergholt PC EALC Chair
Cllr Vivien Chapman	Brightlingsea TC	Cllr Stuart Berlyn	Danbury PC
Cllr Susan Sullivan	Springfield PC	Mike Letch Clerk	Hockley PC
Mryna Liles Clerk	Frinton & Walton TC	Kathryn Richmond Town Clerk	Waltham Abbey TC
Cllr Alan Acott	Canvey Island TC	Enid Walsh Clerk	Loughton TC
Cllr Peter Greig	Canvey Island TC	Cathy Carlisle Clerk	Shalford PC
Mark Squire	Witham TC	Cllr Colin Golding	Shalford PC
Cllr Kate Evans	Marks Tey PC	Suzanne Walker	Gt Notley PC
Steve Marriott Clerk	Marks Tey PC	Cllr James Browning	Ongar TC
Cllr Abdul Hafiz	Maldon TC	Cllr Ron Ramage	Witham TC
Cllr Veronica Randall	Hockley PC	Cllr Patrick Horner	Witham TC
Cllr Roy Martin	Hockley PC	Cllr Sue Martin	Hockley PC
Linda Golding	EALC Assist. CEO	Pear Willcox	County Training Officer
Caroline Fuller Clerk	Dunmow TC	Cllr Danielle Frost	Dunmow TC Mayor
Cllr Phil Milne	Dunmow TC	Mrs June Milne	Flich Trials
Angie Balcombe	ECC	Mark Jones	Flich Trials
Cllr Dave Gronland	Halstead TC	Cllr Jeanette Stilts	Maldon TC
Aibi Wood	Ingatestone & Fryerning PC	Clr Dawn Jelley	Ingatestone & Fryerning PC
Cllr Lew Schnurr	Heybridge PC	Cllr Mick Radley	Halstead TC

Cllr Edwards	Heybridge PC	Cllr Sheila Jackman	EALC Exec North Weald PC
Kevin O'Brien	Buckhurst Hill PC		

Also present during the morning Speaker: Cllr Rodney Bass

In the Chair: Cllr Keith Miles

Opening Introductions by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone. He told the meeting, as you know these meetings have grown in size over the past few years and numbers like this morning are no longer uncommon to us now as we have regular attendees which is really encouraging. Today we should have **24** councils due to attend with a record number of delegates.

He offered a special welcome to those attending a LLCF meeting for the first time and hoped we would see them again at future meetings. In particular he mentioned the Clerk Steve Mariott and Cllr Kate Evans from Marks Tey Parish Council. Marks Tey would be hosting the next meeting.

A warm welcome back was extended to Cllr Rodney Bass who joined the meeting for the last time this morning. Cllr Bass has decided not to stand for re-election at Essex County Council in the May. The Chairman said it was a great shame from our point of view, as our meetings always have a large attendance when he comes - probably due to his well known controversial subjects such as potholes and street lighting!

On behalf of our hosts Dunmow Town Council June Milne and Mark Jones will be showing some slides and talking us through how the Flich Trials came about and what happens today.

Cllr Abdul Hafiz will talk and show some photographs of the successful Christmas Fair held in Maldon just before Christmas.

As usual we will try to keep to time so nothing has to be rushed.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Chairman:

Cllr Keith Miles told the meeting he was happy to stand again as Chairman if there were no other nominations.

There were no nominations from the floor

Motion: Cllr Keith Miles to become Chairman

This was proposed By Cllr Peter Davey – Ingatestone & Fryerning PC

Seconded by Cllr Roy Martin – Hockley Parish Council

Motion was carried

Vice-Chairman

Cllr Stuart Berlyn told the meeting he was happy to stand again as Vice Chairman if there were no other nominations.

There were no nominations from the floor

Motion: Cllr Stuart Berlyn to become Vice-Chairman

This was proposed by Peter Davey – Ingatestone & Fryerning PC

Seconded by Kathryn Richmond – Town Clerk at Waltham Abbey Town Council

Motion was carried

The list of apologies was read out by Linda Golding

Cllr Daniel Spillman	Epping TC	Joy Darby	CEO EALC
Cllr David Wixley	Loughton TC	Jannetta Sosin	Gt Baddow PC
Margaret Saunders	Danbury PC	Aimi Middlehurst	Ongar TC Clerk
Cllr Jim Devlin	Billericay TC	Cllr Richard Hyland	Galleywood PC
Cllr Vic Leach	Hawkwell PC		

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th October 2016 having been circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Welcome from Dunmow Town Council by the Mayor Cllr Danielle Frost

Danielle welcomed everyone to Foakes Hall in Great Dunmow on behalf of Dunmow Town Council. She told the meeting she had lived in the town for 15 years now and thought it was a great place to be and she had herself sat on the Flich Trials Committee. The Town Council, and many volunteers, strive to protect the town and it had come 5th Place in the High Street Awards 2015.

Presentation: Cllr Rodney Bass

Cllr Bass opened his presentation by sending good wishes back to all the Parish and Town Council and that he had enjoyed coming to the Larger Local Forum Meetings and it proved there was vibrancy in our local councils. He said he had told Essex County Council back in 2013 that he would not be standing again at their 2017 elections. He

would have completed 50 years service to Local Government and felt it was good to step down before becoming decreped!!

During that time he had served as a Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation between 2003 and 2007 and again in 2013 to 2015. He talked of how the budgets had decreased over the years and the cutbacks now being faced. The "hot topics" of potholes and street lights for which he was famous, giving the reasons behind his decisions. He went briefly through the full circle of his time at Essex County Council bringing delegates up to date with the much needed plans for the A120 and A12 improvements. He concluded by saying he hoped the improvements to these roads would prove to be his legacy!

Cllr Bass took questions from the floor from a number of Council representatives subjects including:-

- Street lights being up graded to LED
- Local development plans
- Sadlers Farm Roundabout at Canvey Island
- Repeatedly having to report potholes
- Street light repairs and removal
- By pass Danbury

The Chairman thanked Cllr Bass for his interesting presentation.
Cllr Bass received applause from delegates

Presentation to Cllr Bass by Cllr John-Gili-Ross on behalf of the EALC

Chairman of the EALC, Cllr John Gili-Ross then presented Cllr Bass with two gifts from the Association and thanked him for always being willing to come and speak at the Forum and wished him a happy retirement.

NALC Update

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

Cllr Davey told delegates he represents the EALC at NALC. At the annual meeting in December last Cllr Sue Baxter became the Chairman and Cllr Ken Browse and Cllr Derek Liddell Vice Chairs.

- Cllr Peter Davey appointed to the Finance Committee
- Cllr Peter Davey sits on the NALC Task and Finish Group of 109 Great Russell Street and significant progress has been made over the course of the last 12 months
- 2 New Councils have been created and a drive to get more existing Councils in Membership through the CALCs is underway.
- Referendum Principles have not been applied to the parish sector
- Neighbourhood Plans are to be seen as an important part of the LDP and if in place a potential development must not compromise the plan

- Structure review of NALC – Cllr Davey updated members on the current initiative instigated at NALC to review all TORs for the Committees.
- The introduction of management accounts within NALC has been requested to enable reaction to current as opposed to historical trends.
- Lobby Day – 28th March 2017 Cllr John Gili-Ross to attend with Cllr Davey to discuss:
 - How Local Councils can help ensure that housing targets can be achieved through robust and sustainable Neighbourhood Plans. This particularly in the context of the white paper, “Fixing Our Broken Housing Market” where the consultation period is due to end on 2nd May.
 - District and Borough Councils have the ability to prevent local communities from creating a Parish or Community Council, in spite of a majority vote supporting the initiative.
 - There are concerns with Local Authority that have implemented charging schemes for the handling of waste and recycling which is one of the factors responsible for the increase in fly tipping across Essex.
 - The opportunity to discuss how the EALC could help MP’s in their work as an Essex MP.

SLCC UPDATE

Enid Walsh, Secretary to the Essex Branch of the SLCC gave a brief update including:

- The Annual New Year Lunch on the 27th January 2017 had taken place
- Changes had taken place to the proposed Trade Union. It had now been split from the main Society. Annual membership will be £10. Offering independent Clerk support and advice
- The AGM and Training Day on the 16th March 2017 at Springfield when the speakers are:-

Travellers - Culture & Challenges; ECTU - Services & Powers:

Steve Andrews, Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Manager

ALCC: Lesley Sung, ALCC Regional Representative

Crimestoppers: Stuart Rawlins, Chairman, Essex Crimestoppers

Dementia Friends: Sally Faulkner, Dementia Friends Champion (Volunteer)

The Chairman thanked Enid for her update.

PRESENTATION: The Great Dunmow 2016 Flich Trials

By June Milne and Mark Jones

Delegates enjoyed a presentation about the history of how the Flich Trials came about and were shown photographs of the event held in Gt. Dunmow every 4 years. More information about the trials can be found in the Great Dunmow Museum in Mill Lane.

- Earliest Origin dates back to 1104 and the Augustinian Priory of Little Dunmow founded by Lady Juga Baynard
- Lord of the Manor Reginald Fitzwalter and his wife dressed themselves as humble folk and begged the blessing of the Prior a year and a day after marriage. The Prior impressed by their devotion bestowed upon them a Flich of Bacon.
- The trials were transferred from Little Dunmow to Gt Dunmow in 1832 but then lapsed over the following years.
- In 1855 the Trials were once again staged in Great Dunmow and have been held regularly.
- Today's Trial is presided over by a judge with counsel representing the claimants. Held on Talberds Ley
- Successful couples are carried shoulder high by bearers in the ancient Flich Chair. Unsuccessful couples have to walk behind the chair.
- Dunmow is unique in continuing to reward marital harmony with a flich of bacon.
- Each trial brings amusement, entertaining and renewed community spirit.

The Chairman thanked June and Mark for their presentation.

EALC Update

As the CEO Joy Darby had given her apologies the Chairman Cllr John Gili-Ross Chairman of the EALC gave the EALC update on her behalf.

- He told the meeting about the staff changes that had taken place in the EALC offices.
- The planned Police Conference which will be taking place at Foakes Hall on the 7th June
- The EALC Annual General Meeting and ECC Conference on the 19th September at Foakes Hall.

PRESENTATION: Maldon Town Christmas Fair

Cllrs Abdul Hafiz and Jeanette Stilts from Maldon Town Council showed photographs from the Fair held in November last and told how successful it had been. Cllr Jeanette Stilts told of the hard work it takes to arrange such an event, that plans for the next one were commencing that evening. Local businesses sponsored it.

It started in May 2015 when 3 Town Councillors, Michael Pearlman, Jeanette Stilts and Abdul Hafiz, put forward the idea to take over the Christmas event as it was failing. It was decided to combine the Christmas Light switch on with the late night shopping. The date was for the 3rd Thursday in November 40 stalls, a real Reindeer and Father Christmas was booked. In 2016 we had stalls asking to come back at the beginning of the year. 50 stalls were booked and a theme of Shakespearian (Vintage) Christmas

was set. Street entertainment was also added this year More visitors arrived this year and comments were very positive.

The 2017 Fair will be held on the 30th November.

Open Forum Time

- Cllr Keith Miles opened the forum time asking delegates to give their views about the preparation and producing of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Several delegates gave instances, advice and recommendations from their own Council's experience.

- Other subjects covered where Other subjects covered where tackling gun crime in Witham and Nitrous Oxide gas abuse in South Woodham Ferrers and Canvey Island.
-
- Cllr Peter Davey updated delegates on the Local Council Award Scheme.
- A request for someone to come along and speak about Travellers at a meeting was noted.

The next meetings of the Larger Local Councils

Next meeting will be hosted by Marks Tey Parish Council and is scheduled to be held on the 14th June 2017 when Adnams Brewery will be giving a presentation.

The October meeting still has a venue to be decided but the speakers will be Nick Alston and Citizan 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 Dunmow Town Council for hosting the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.25

Signed..... Date