

Essex Association of Local Councils
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LARGER
LOCAL COUNCIL FORUM

13th FEBRUARY 2018 10.00 am – 12.30 noon

hosted by
WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

Present:

Cllr Peter Davey	Ingatestone & Fryerning PC Chair EALC	Cllr Jim Devlin Chairman	Billericay TC
Cllr Stuart Berlyn Vice Chairman	Danbury PC	Deborah Tonkiss	Billericay TC Clerk
Mark Squire	Loughton TC/SLCC	Cllr Jo Clark	Billericay TC
Cllr David Wixley	Loughton TC	Cllr James Henshaw	Billericay TC
Joy Darby	EALC CEO	Cllr Terry Moore	Dunnow TC
Pearl Willcox	EALC Executive County Training Officer	Charlene Slade	CEO Designate
Tory Melhuish	Gallerywood Clerk	Clare Milligan	Great Baddow Clerk
Cllr Val Chiswell	Great Baddow PC	Amanda Hilton	Hebridge Clerk
Karen Hilton	Heybridge Deputy Clerk	Cllr John Harrison	Heybridge PC
Cllr Pete Burgess	Heybridge PC	Cllr John Spademan	Stanway PC
Sarah Greateorex	Halstead TC Clerk	Cllr Malcolm Fincken	Halstead TC
Cllr Peter Caulfield	Halstead TC	Cllr Dave Gronland	Halstead TC

Also present

Speaker: Dawn Wood

In the Chair: Cllr Jim Devlin

Opening Introductions by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed delegates saying it was good to see everyone in Halstead for this morning's LLCF meeting & that he was especially looking forward to the

presentation by the Atlantic Rower Dawn Wood to whom he welcomed to the meeting. The Chairman thanked Halstead Town Council for acting as hosts.

The list of apologies received was read out by Pearl Willcox

Cllr Linda Belgrove	Alresford PC	Mike Letch Clerk	Broomfield/Ongar Town Clerk
Cllr Smruti Patel	Buckhurst Hill PC	Liz Petyt-Start Clerk	Buckhurst Hill
Cllrs Roy & Sue Martin	Hockley PC	Jane Coleman Town Clerk	Maldon TC
Karen Hawkes Town Clerk	Woodham Ferrers TC	Cllr Wendy Stamp	Burnham on Crouch TC
Beverley Rumsey Town Clerk	Epping TC	Suzanne Walker Clerk	Great Notley PC/ SLCC
Helen Symmons Town Clerk	Leigh on Sea TC	Cllr Sheila Jackman	North Weald Bassett PC
Lisa Courtney Town Clerk	Saffron Walden TC	Cathryn Carlisle	Shalford/The Sailings/Radwinter/Helions Bumpstead
David Lines Clerk	Stanway PC	Petra Palfreyman Town Clerk	West Mersea TC
James Sheehy Town Clerk	Witham TC	Nikki Smith Deputy Clerk	Witham TC

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Larger Local Council Form

Cllr Jim Devlin told delegates both he and Cllr Stuart Berlyn were both willing to stand again this year as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively if no further nominations were received.

Cllr Jim Devlin called for nominations for Chairman – no nominations were received so Cllr Jim Devlin was proposed as Chairman for the coming year by Cllr Peter Davey and seconded by Cllr John Spademan.

Cllr Jim Devlin then called for nominations for Vice-Chairman – no nominations were received so Cllr Stuart Berlyn was proposed by Cllr Jim Devlin and seconded by Cllr Peter Davey.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th June 2019 having been circulated along with apology list were agreed and signed by the Chairman Cllr Jim Devlin.

Welcome from Cllr Malcolm Fincken from Halstead Town Council

Cllr Malcolm Fincken welcomed those present on behalf of Halstead Town Council. Halstead is a traditional market town, with a population of over 11,000 & has a small market on a Friday. Halstead is twinned with the French town of Haubourdin in northern France, close to Lille. The Town boasts its own Heritage Museum. Halstead is also famous for "Halstead in Bloom" from 2004-2008 Halstead was awarded Silver Gilt status & from 2009-2019 has attained a Gold award & was also judged Best Town.

Presentation by Dawn Wood – Row Aurora Challenge

Delegates listened to Dawn talk enthusiastically about her challenge of rowing the Atlantic. Dawn is an endorsed yachtmaster & an accredited instructor in many maritime disciplines. Dawn has worked commercially on the water for 16 years as a police boat skipper. Dawn first started working for the police 23 years ago as a PC at Southend. Dawn first became involved in coastal rowing in 2014 when her home town of Burnham on Crouch set up a rowing club. Dawn was approached by the president Charlie Pitcher & was asked her to help with a ocean rowing project in China. Dawn took up the project which ended with 10 students taking part in a 300 mile ocean row into Hongkong. Dawn quickly realised that she could not continue to work in the ocean rowing industry without taking on an ocean project herself. Row Aurora Solo Atlantic Challenge was established in April 2018 with a start date of January 2019 in mind by the 25th February 2019 Dawn was the proud owner of the title "Ocean Rower" and a successful solo and unsupported independent row across the Atlantic Ocean from Gran Canaria to Barbados. Dawn said that it was a very simple basic life but the most liberating experience she has ever down all 51 days, 17 hours & 15 minutes it took her to achieve it & there was never a point when she wanted to give up!!

Dawns next adventure is to row to the Artic but this time not alone, she will be taking her husband with her. This adventure is planned for August this year.

Dawn then took various questions for the delegates present.

The Chairman thanked Dawn for a truly inspiring presentation & for coming to the meeting.

LCC Update

Mark Squire, Town Clerk at Loughton Town Council, gave the SLCC update.

14 November 2019 saw the Joint networking event with EALC/SLCC Networking Event at South Woodham Ferrers TC. Over 60 Essex Clerks attended at it was the largest gathering since the event came into being some 15 years ago. Opening subjects were not particularly light hearted. Ian Smith, the SLCC National Employment Advisor talked about and answered questions about bullying in the sector which unfortunately continues within our profession.

Linda Hedley the Association of Local Council Clerks (ALCC) also gave an engaging talk on her experiences as a long serving Clerk and how to deal with poor behaviour. Joy also spoke about HR/employment training and the importance of each Council having a personnel/HR committee.

In the afternoon Sarah Sapsford, Essex County Council, Community Engagement Manager talked about social exclusion in the community

Mark Neville, Essex Dementia Friendly Co-ordinator then finished with information about creating dementia friendly environments.

Apart from the speakers, the importance of networking and support amongst Clerks on the day cannot be underestimated. Although the content of this day was rather serious, it's not always so heavy.

On 17th January 2020 –our latest social event was expertly organised by Barbara Larken, commencing with a visit and guided tour of New Hall School, Springfield, which is a grade 1 listed building, purchased by Henry VIII in 1516 and frequently visited by him. It is now a private school with many magnificent original features. This was followed by our annual Clerks lunch at Great Baddow.

The next SLCCC AGM and training day will be held on 25th June 2020 – the venue to be confirmed

As ever thanks to Suzanne Walker and Abigail Wood who provide mentor support to new Clerks

Suzanne Walker and myself continue to give support to EALC New Clerks briefing course

Lastly another thank you to Joy for the close cooperation enjoyed over the years. We look forward to maintaining the strong working relations with Charlene in the years to come.

The Chairman thanked Mark Squire for his update on SLCC matters.

NALC Update

Cllr Peter Davey the EALC NALC Representative gave an update to delegates. The full NALC update is attached with these minutes.

- Lobby Day 2020 will be on the 10th March.
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The Chairman thanked Cllr Peter Davey for his update on NALC matters.

EALC Update by Joy Darby, CEO & Charlene Slade, CEO Designate

Cllr Peter Davey took the opportunity to thank Joy for all of her extremely hard work at the EALC & had gone beyond & above with everything she had done & explained to

the delegates present that it would probably be the last time many of them saw Joy with her retirement date closely approaching.

The Chairman of the LCCF, Jim Devlin also thanked Joy for all of her hard work & everything she had done for the Association & for the LCCF.

Open Forum Time

Cllr David Wixley, Loughton Town Council asked if any of the other Town/Parish Councils had heard anything regarding celebrations for V J Day. Other delegates said they had heard nothing.

Cllr David Spademan, Stanway Parish Council requested that Cllr Davey's report was sent out to members attending today's LCCF to which Pearl agreed she would do.

Cllr Stuart Berlyn said that they had received information from Chelmsford City Council regarding the Community Governance Review.

The next meetings of the Larger Local Councils

The next meeting will be hosted by Loughton Town Council on the 17th June 2020.

The Chairman thanked Halstead Town Council for hosting the meeting and to Pearl for arranging the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.15pm

Signed..... Date