

**Essex Association of Local Councils**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LARGER**  
**LOCAL COUNCIL FORUM**  
**12<sup>th</sup> October 2016**  
**10.00 am – 12.30 noon**  
 hosted by  
**Halstead Town Council at Queens Hall, Halstead**

**Present:**

Cllr Daniel Spillman	Epping TC	Cllr John Gili-Ross	West Bergholt PC EALC Chair
Cllr Peter Davey	Ingatstone & Fryerning PC & EALC Vice-Chair	Cllr Stuart Berlyn	Danbury PC
Cllr Vivien Chapman	Brightlingsea TC	Cllr David Wixley	Loughton TC
Mryna Liles Clerk	Frinton & Walton TC	Jane Coleman Clerk	Maldon TC
Cllr Vic Leach	Hawkwell PC	Barbara Larkin Clerk	Springfield PC
Cllr Jim Devlin	Billericay TC	Cllr Jo Clark	Billericay TC
Mark Squire	Witham TC	Sarah Greatorex Clerk	Halstead TC
Community Officer	Canvey Island TC	Suzanne Walker	Gt Notley PC
Ellea Hunt Clerk	Canvey Island TC	Cllr James Browning	Ongar TC
Karen Hawkes Clerk	Sth Woodham Ferrers	Cathy Carlisle Clerk	Shalford PC
Linda Golding	EALC Assist. CEO	Cllr Mike Radley	Halstead TC
Cllr Roy Martin	Hockley PC	Cllr Sue Martin	Hockley PC
Cllr Veronic Randall	Hockley PC	Cllr Bob Jenkins Cllr	West Mersea TC

**Also present during the morning Speakers:**

**Essex Police & Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst**  
**Smartwater – Steve Wills**

**In the Chair: Cllr Stuart Berlyn**

## Opening Introductions by the Vice-Chairman

Cllr Stuart Berlyn welcomed everyone to. He told the meeting that Chairman Cllr Keith Miles has sent his apologies as he had a hospital appointment this morning which he was unable to change. The meeting is smaller than recent ones as it appears the date has clashed with a number of things happening around the County including Chairmans Day at the EALC which has prevented Joy Darby joining us as she usually does. However I am pleased to report we still have 20 councils due to attend with 26 delegates.

A warm welcome to Roger Hirst the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner who is attending this meeting for the first time in his new post.

Stephen Wills will be joining us around 10.30 to speak about Smartwater and we hope you will find this interesting.

At the last meeting a Councillor asked how we can encourage younger Councillors and Cllr Danny Spillman from Epping TC, who some of you have met before, has come to give us some ideas. Danny is probably the youngest Councillor in Essex. Luckily his university schedule allowed him time to join us this morning.

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

## The long list of apologies was read out by Linda Golding

<b>Cllr Keith Miles</b>	<b>S.W.Ferrers TC</b>	<b>Joy Darby</b>	<b>CEO EALC</b>
<b>Angie Balcombe</b>	<b>ECC</b>	<b>Pearl Willcox</b>	<b>EALC Training Officer</b>
<b>Margaret Saunders</b>	<b>Danbury PC</b>	<b>Aimi Middlehurst</b>	<b>Ongar TC Clerk</b>
<b>Jannetta Sosin</b>	<b>Gt Baddow PC</b>	<b>Kevin O'Brien</b>	<b>Buckhurst Hill PC</b>
<b>Cllr Alan Acott</b>	<b>Canvey Island TC</b>	<b>Cllr Patrick Horner</b>	<b>Witham TC</b>
<b>Clerk</b>	<b>Heybridge PC</b>	<b>Kathryn Richmond Town Clerk</b>	<b>Waltham Abbey TC</b>
<b>Enid Walsh Clerk</b>	<b>Loughton TC</b>	<b>Mike Letch Clerk</b>	<b>Hockley PC</b>
<b>Cllr Alan Acott</b>	<b>Canvey Island TC</b>	<b>Cllr Richard Hyland</b>	<b>Galleywood PC</b>
<b>Paul Beckerson Clerk</b>	<b>Leigh-on-Sea TC</b>	<b>Beverley Rumsey Clerk</b>	<b>Epping TC</b>
<b>Cllr Gill Gibson</b>	<b>Rochford PC</b>	<b>Cllr Jerry Gibson</b>	<b>Rochford PC</b>

<b>Cllr P Heady</b>	<b>Gt Notley PC</b>	<b>Cllr Brian Rolfe</b>	<b>Lawford PC</b>
<b>Mike Squire Clerk</b>	<b>Witham TC</b>		

## **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### **Welcome from Halstead Town Council by the Town Clerk Sarah Greatorex**

Sarah welcomed everyone to The Queens Hall in Halstead on behalf of Halstead Town Council. She told the meeting it was her first LLCF meeting having taken over as Town Clerk from Mike Murkin who had retired.

She went through the Housekeeping and hoped everyone would enjoy the speakers.

### **Presentation by the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst**

He told the meeting this was not his first time in Halstead as he had canvassed here during his campaign to become Police and Crime Commissioner and it was now good to be here in Office! He said he was well on the way to developing the proposed Police and Crime Plan and this can be found on the Essex Police Website.

Roger spoke for some 30 minutes to delegates and some of the key points he talked about were:-

-  Funding is very tight
-  Policing costs the people in Essex 43p a day
-  Setting Police Strategy for Essex now
-  The Police and Crime Plan is on the Police Website now
-  More emphasis on local police presence
-  Being tough on Anti Social Behaviour helps stop crime later
-  £100,000 funding for cyber crime – boys 12 – 15 particularly vulnerable
-  Clamping down on violence
-  British Policing Model works well
-  Substantial drop in homicide rate



Tougher on domestic abuse and handling victims better – level reported getting better



Smart phones for Police have gone down well and saves time



Special Constable for every community



Make our roads safer



Three main emergency services working together

Roger then took numerous questions on varied subjects to do with local policing in the delegates area and took time to give detailed answers.

The Chairman thanked The Police and Crime Commissioner for joining the meeting.

### **NALC UPDATE**

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

He told the meeting how important it was for all Councils to write and object to the Government's planned capping of Parish and Town Council Precepts. The EALC had unanimously voted at the Annual General Meeting in September against this and the CEO had already written to all the Essex MP's asking them to vote against the motion. He urged all Councils to write with their own objections as soon as possible as the closing date for the Consultation is the 28th October 2016. He said all Council's would be affected if this went ahead and they would be unable to do what they now do for their communities.

Sitting on the Finance Committee at NALC he said there had been lots of progress and the NALC Offices had received a good response from real estate professionals. Including various valuations which had enabled the directorate to increase the balance sheet valuation of the premises to £2.5m.

The question of Affiliation Fees was still being looked into. The idea of alternative funding was also being looked at. The EALC CEO sits on a task and finish group for affiliation fees. The NALC CEO is making savings internally whilst identifying alternative sources of income and it is hoped the loss this year of £125,000 will be reduced to £10,000 next year and going forward to break even - but still offering the same service to the County Associations and members.

The Vice Chairman thanked Peter for his update.

### **SLCC UPDATE**

As Enid Walsh had sent her apologies to the meeting The Vice Chairman welcomed Myrna Liles, Town Clerk at Frinton and Walton, to give the SLCC Update.

She told the meeting there had been problems with some audits round the County on variances. The difficulties in getting Councillors to respond to Consultation Documents.

Dates for Clerk's diaries:- SLCC Networking Day at Danbury Parish Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The Annual New Year Lunch on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The AGM and Training Day on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### **'Smartwater' Presentation by Stephen Wills**

Stephen told the meeting he had previously been a police officer with the Met Police but now worked for Smartwater. He gave an interesting and informative brief presentation about the company and the product they produce, explaining how it worked and the good results it had. He told the meeting Smartwater do far more than manufacture and supply traceable liquid products they are passionate about crime fighting. The work is carried out as part of a crime reduction programme called The Smartwater Strategy™. He demonstrated how when applied to items such as jewellery and other materials the liquid can be seen under an ultraviolet light. Each liquid is unique and has a traceable number. Criminals do not like Smartwater and it is a good deterrent when used and they are aware it is likely to be on items they would normally steal. Not only is it used on household items, cars, boats etc but on lead roofs and pipes anything that is removable.

Stephen took some questions from delegates.

The Vice Chairman thanked Stephen for his presentation.

### **EALC UPDATE**

Cllr John Gili-Ross Chairman of the EALC told the meeting the Annual General Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September had been a very good event and had received good feedback. A large number of Councils had been represented at the event this year.

It had been agreed at the AGM that the EALC Affiliation Fee for 2017/18 would be increased by 2%. The NALC Affiliation Fee will be increased by 1.9%. Anyone wishing to know the increase in money terms should contact Carol Hartley at the EALC Office who would be able to give the figure to Councils.

Cllr Gili-Ross reiterated how important it was for Councils to respond to the Consultation about Capping and what it would mean to each Council if the Precept is capped by Government.

### **PRESENTATION BY CLLR DANNY SPILLMAN FROM EPPING TOWN COUNCIL ON HOW TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME COUNCILLORS**

Danny is understood to be the youngest Councillor in Essex.

Danny told the meeting he himself had become a Councillor at Epping Town Council through political support. He felt young people are not normally interested in

becoming Councillors, that they thought all Councillors had to wear suits, and it needed a clearer job description of what the role actually consists of.

He felt going out and talking to students at senior schools would help, explaining to them what the job entails. More resources were needed for campaigning and that political parties could encourage young people, although obviously Parish and Town Councils are not political themselves. More young people's views could be sought on subjects affecting their area, which would encourage them to take an interest in where they live, as they are the future of that area. Youth Councils were another avenue to be considered.

He told delegates when he had first joined the Town Council he most probably was more "political" but having worked in and for the community over the past months he now cared more about that and the "political" side had disappeared.

Danny took a couple of questions from delegates.

The Vice Chairman thanked Danny for giving up his University time to attend the meeting and wished him well with his studies.

**Open Forum Time**

No items for discussion

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

Next meeting will be hosted by Dunmow Town Council and is scheduled to be held on the 15th February 2017 when Cllr Rodney Bass should be joining us with an ECC update.

**Thanks to Halstead Town Council for hosting the meeting and providing the refreshments.**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.20**

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