



## COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Colchester Association of Local Councils meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>. June 2015 at 7pm in the Marks Tey Village Hall

Present: Cllr John Gili-Ross (JGR) (Chairman), Sheila Beeton & Brian Hindley (Dedham), Mick Mead & Lance Williams (Gt. Horkesley), Simon Dougherty & Alan Frost (Abberton and Langenhoe), Shaun Boughton, Neil Lodge & Ian Endean (Wivenhoe TC), Christina Edwards (Treasurer), Steve Bays (Tiptree), Robert Johnstone (Myland), Carole Sutton (Stanway), Chris Boyle (Birch), Lawrence Alexander (Fordham), Linda Gossett (Copford and Easthorpe), Alan Walker (Marks Tey).

Apologies for absence were received from East Donyland PC, Cllr Jackie Maclean (Stanway), Dick Young (Messing cum Inworth), Malcolm Bartier and East Mersea PC

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>. March 2015 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

The Chairman then introduced the guest speaker Mr. Chris Stevenson Chairman of West Bergholt PC and Chairman of the Neighbourhood plan steering group of West Bergholt. Chris Stevenson (CS) started his presentation by speaking about the Presentation coverage of Neighbourhood planning, The Process (How do I get what I want legally), The approach in West Bergholt and Lessons learned. CS went on to talk about the Localism act and quoted "Planning should be a positive process, where people come together and agree a vision for the future of the place where they live. It should also - crucially - be a system that delivers more growth. Our aim with the Localism Bill is not to prevent new building, but to promote it" Greg Clark, Pro-localism and pro-development: A speech to the Adam Smith Institute, 2 February 2011

Nick Boles "Housing the next generation" speech to Policy Exchange 10<sup>th</sup>. January 2013 stated "Neighbourhood plans are the key to unlocking more house-building. If you give people power, they will use it responsibly. If you explain to them what their community and their country needs, they will do their bit to make sure it is provided. And if you give them a stake in a future in which beautifully designed homes with easy access to green space are, once again affordable for working people on ordinary wages, they will do what it takes to bring that future about" CS went to mention about the show maps of the UK and how the growth of neighbourhood planning has evolved in recent years. The next topic of discussion was the approach West Bergholt undertook and the timeline from inception in 2013 to a predicted date of 2017.

CS informed the meeting of the facets of West Bergholt approach and he listed a number of ways of spreading the word.

- ❖ Workshops
- ❖ Use of village bulletin
- ❖ Paper and electronic questionnaires
- ❖ Use of the website
- ❖ A dedicated Facebook page
- ❖ Focus at Annual Parish meetings
- ❖ An exhibition
- ❖ Visiting clubs and societies

CS also informed the meeting of what the plan should contain

- Make the document short about 30 pages but beware of appendices
- Vision and objectives
- Evidence – documented factual matters of people have told you
- A separate section on the land-use and housing aspect
- A project and community focus on other non-planning matters

CS then went onto Housing options and gave the 3 options that West Bergholt considered and what the likely impact would be to the community.

Key Challenges Faced by most Communities are

- ◆ Setting up Forums
- ◆ Engaging hard to reach groups
- ◆ Understanding what land use planning policies are
- ◆ Project planning and Process
- ◆ Need for evidence
- ◆ Writing policy
- ◆ Resourcing
- ◆ Even More Challenges!
- ◆ SEA
- ◆ Engaging constructively
- ◆ Separating fact from opinion
- ◆ Supporting statements
- ◆ Engaging Consultants
- ◆ Staying engaged

In CS concluding presentation remarks he informed the meeting that it is a complex programme and looks daunting at first sight, it is a plan lead approach and the most important task is forward planning needs leadership.

JGR thanked CS for his presentation and asked for any questions.

CS was asked about the cost of such a project. CS answered by saying that the average cost is about £15,000 and to date WB has spent £5,000.

CS was asked whether WB found it was worth all the effort and time. CS replied by saying that Colchester Borough Council planners were extremely helpful with questions and the use of the local plan.

The secretary was asked to circulate a copy of the presentation slides to anyone who requested them. They will also be available on the CALC website ([www.essexinfo.net](http://www.essexinfo.net) : then select page 4 NP Presentation)

JGR then thanked CS again for his presentation and the brought the meeting back to the agenda.

4) Election of Officers. At the last meeting the Chairman was the only position filled and the remainder of officers would be elected at this meeting.

JGR called for a nomination of Vice-Chairman. Robert Johnstone was proposed by Wivenhoe TC and seconded by Dedham PC. This was carried unanimously

JGR wanted to record a vote of thanks to Christina Edwards who was standing down as Treasurer for all the years after stepping into the breach.

JGR proposed that the Secretary (Kevin Money) be treasurer this was seconded by Brian Hindley and carried unanimously.

JGR proposed and seconded by Robert Johnstone that Malcolm Bartier continues as Governance Board representative. This was agreed unanimously.

JGR informed the meeting that the LHP panel member from CALC was on an invitation basis. As the Chair he was willing to remain on the LHP. This was carried unanimously. Robert Johnstone agreed to remain as the deputy.

5) To receive reports:

**Treasurer report:** The bank balance is £1634.30p as at 31.05.15

There are mandates to be signed for new signatories

**LHP report:**

Robert Johnstone informed the meeting that he attended the last meeting only to find that he had received the paperwork the night before the meeting and that not all the paperwork was in his

**Page 2**

CALC Secretary – Kevin Money - Telephone – 01376 521616 e-mail: [calc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:calc.clerk@gmail.com)  
postal address - 25 Boydin Close Witham Essex CM8 1PD

Chairman - John Gili-Ross - 01206 242236 or 07957804621 e-mail - [john.giliross@gmail.com](mailto:john.giliross@gmail.com)

bundle. All monies for 2015/16 have been allocated and the programme monies for 2015/16 will not be released until 2016/17.

**Governance Board report:**

In Malcolm Bartier's absence he had supplied a "nothing to report" to the secretary before the meeting

**EALC Report:**

Brian Hindley was unable to make the meeting. However as JGR is the Chairman of EALC he was able to fill in the gaps.

EALC is arranging a meeting with all new MP's at the end of June 2015

There will be a new president elected at the September AGM and the guest speakers so far is The Chief Constable of Essex and Local MP's

**6) Information Sharing:**

Alan Walker (Marks Tey PC) asked the members if they are having problems with the "Home to School transport" run by ECC. Their problem is that an estate in Marks Tey is serving 2 schools in different directions and that the estate is split in half. Wivenhoe TC informed Alan Walker of a meeting being held in Chelmsford but thought that nothing good will come out of the problem. Wivenhoe TC is building a pontoon to allow small boats into the river. They have to raise £75,000 to build. Has any TC or PC other suggestions for funding such a project.

Dedham PC brought to the attention of members their problem regarding Police and Neighbourhood watch. They have lost their PCSO after he set up the neighbourhood watch scheme in Dedham. They now feel let down by the police. The crime report is difficult to obtain and the PC is not kept in the know regarding crime in the area. Can this please be raised at the next LCAP meeting?

Great Horkesley are hosting a neighbourhood meeting in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. week of September.

The next CALC meeting is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>. September 2015 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....Chairman :     Dated 3<sup>rd</sup>. September 2015  
**John Gili-Ross**