

Report of the BALC meeting held on Thursday 25th May 2023

I attended the meeting in person at Witham Town Hall.

Cllr Martin Lee was re-elected as Chairman.

Cllr Paul Lees was re-elected as vice Chairman.

I was elected to serve on the executive committee.

The finances of the association were discussed. There was a projected deficit of £184.84. This was due to the cost of insurance. It was explained that delegates to BALC are not covered by their Parish council's insurance and therefore the association needed to purchase its own insurance policy. Negotiations are ongoing with EALC to purchase a blanket insurance which would cover all the local associations but as yet these had not come to fruition.

At the moment 35 out of the 52 Parish and Town Councils subscribe to BALC.

It was proposed and accepted that the subscription be raised to £48 per annum to cover the deficit.

It was noted that two councillors from each Town or Parish can be delegates to BALC.

The recent local elections were discussed, in particular, the late notification of the election which led to issues for some councils, and the length of time the count took. A letter of complaint is to be sent to BDC.

I presented a verbal report from the recent meeting of the LHP.

Questions were raised by members regarding:

- Surgery Liaison in the Finchingfield area
- The community safety fund.
- The levelling up fund. (Braintree rural classed as a deprived area but no funds received)
- Annual Parish Assembly and Town Meetings. It is permitted for these to be hybrid meetings and Kelvedon had 390 attendees. 60 in person the rest on-line.
- Sponsorship for SID's .
- Silver End Centenary celebrations.
- BDC Grass cutting.
- Future meetings between BALC and the BDC Executive.

Recommendations:

1. I recommend that HTC agree to increase the subscription payment to £48 per annum.
2. That HTC elect a second delegate to BALC.

Cllr Garry Warren.