|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **c/o Town Hall****High Street****Lewes** **East Sussex****BN 2QS** | **LEWES DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** |

**DRAFT**

Minutes of a meeting of Lewes District Association of Councils

held on Tuesday 15th February 2022 at 1.30 via zoom

Present: Cllr S Catlin, Chairman (Lewes), Cllr C Armitage (Newick), Cllr C Baker (Iford), Cllr N Beaumont (Plumpton), Cllr M Brown (Seaford), Cllr F Harrison (Kingston), Cllr S Hitchcock (South Heighton), Cllr K Jordan (Chailey), Cllr H Martin (Wivesfield) Cllr L Mills (Telscombe), Cllr R O’Keeffe (Lewes), Cllr J Scaife (Piddingdoe), Cllr D Seabrook (Peacehaven), Cllr G Sims (Ringmer) and Cllr V Tickner (Westmeston)

In attendance: Trevor Leggo (CEO ESALC) and Emma Tingley (Lewes Town Council)

**Apologies for absence:** were received from Ken Dry (Clerk, Newhaven), Adam Chugg (Clerk, Seaford) Cllr S Carroll (Rodmell) and Tamsyn d’Arienzo (Hamsey)

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

**Finance Report:** The Chairman gave an oral update. The Current Account currently had a balance of £815.19 and the Premium Account a balance of £27.59. Members considered transferring some monies from the C/A into the P/A, however interest rates remain low.

Members **agreed** to keep both bank accounts as they were.

**Internet Banking:** Members were asked to consider internet banking in light of the Barclays Bank Branch closure in Lewes. Several Members reported that their Parishes had moved over to internet banking due to branch closures and this worked well.

It was **agreed** that the Chair and Secretary investigate and adopt internet banking.

**Update on Parishes of the Lower Ouse (POLO):** Trevor reported that he received a copy of the latest minutes of POLO and within the document there was a minute regarding the Safer C7 Project report and next stage. Rather than read the Minutes to the Meeting Mr Leggo proposed that the extract from the Minutes be circulated to Members with the draft Minutes of today’s meeting. Cllr Scaife informed Members that a new Steering Committee had been established consisting of the proposed delivery team, the panel of Parish Chairs and co-opted non-voting members. County Councillors and Lewes District Councillors for the OUSE Valley had been invited to be co-opted members. The first meeting on 17th February would discuss moving the Safer C7 Project forward. Cllr Scaife would be attending the meeting would seek permission to forward the Minutes of that meeting to Members in due course.

The Chair reported that Lewes Town Council had provided a grant of £3000 to the Kingston Road Residents Association towards the C7 project and there was concern about what would happen to that money if the project did not go ahead.

**Community Safety:** It had been hoped that Inspector Justin Ingham could of presented at the meeting today however, he had a previous appointment. Trevor had a report that Insp. Ingham had produced and with Insp. Ingham’s permission Trevor would circulate to LDALC Members. The report was a 10 slide Powerpoint presentation. The report looked at the structure of the three Safety Advisory Groups; Seahaven, Lewes and Rural CSAG Groups and partnership arrangements and issues that the CSAG groups would be looking at and the frequency of their discussion. The structure of CSAG was being used as the model for the rest of Sussex. CSAG’s will report to the Joint Action Committee on which Cllr J Denis sits. When Members received the report it may provoke questions that Insp. Ingham could respond to directly.

Trevor then touched upon Electric Scooters. He had been raising the issue of the non-enforcement of Escooters with Sussex Police who had an ambivalent approach on the matter. The Government had allowed Escooters to be used on public roads and cycles lanes in selected areas in the UK. Retailers were not giving clear guidance to purchasers that they can not be used on highways or pavement but only private land with the consent of the landowner. Escooters are not taxed or insured. After an incident, Trevor had raised this issue formally in a Police Engagement Group that he attends; this had raised the profile on the dangers of Escooters on public highways or pavements.

It was **agreed** that LDALC write collectively to Insp. Ingham regarding the dangers of Escooter & Bikes on pavements especially in Peacehaven, Lewes and Telscombe and the lack of Police Officers in Parishes to deal with anti-social behaviour.

**Housing Need:** Cllr Beamount reported that the Parish Councils of Barcombe, Chailey, Ditchling, East Chiltington, Hamsey, Newick, Plumpton, Ringmer, Streat, Westmeston and Wivesfield had written to the Secretary of State regarding the standard method to determine housing need. This was an issue that affected both East and West Sussex. On 23rd March, Trevor would be attending a Lobby Day with MP’s where issues would be raised where it was felt MP’s should have a greater awareness of and the top issue to be discussed was the housing algorithm.

Cllr Beumont stressed to the meeting that this concern was growing not only in Lewes District but in Rother, Wealden, Mid-Sussex District Council, Arun and Chichester. Local Councils were fighting back against the targets then had been given. Arun District Council Planning had been placed into special measures because they had failed to hit housing numbers. Another concern for increased housing was the lack of sustainability and infrastructure.

The meeting touched upon the issue of Community Land Trust an organisation who provide affordable housing for people with local connections. Several of the Members towns and parishes had land trusts.

It was **agreed** to invite Lewes District Council Planning Officers and officers from the SDNPA to a future meeting of LDALC and that this issue be discussed at the LDALC conference.

It was **agreed** to write to Southern Water/OFWAT regarding drainage in Member Parishes for current housing developments and any future developments. An invitation could be extended to Southern Water to attend the LDALC Conference. Parishes with specific drainage/water issues should email Emma or Trevor so a letter to OFWAT could be specific. Any outcome would be discussed at the next meeting.

**LDALC Conference:**  It was proposed to hold the Annual Conference in September or October 2022. It was hoped that Lewes District Council would host their Parishes. Members were urged to send subjects that they would wish to discuss at the conference.

It was **agreed** to hold the LDALC Conference in September or October 2022.

**Twenty’s Plenty:** This item was deferred until the next meeting.

**Electric Vehicle Charging:** The Chairman asked Members how many electric vehicle chargers were installed in their Parish/Town and to let Emma know so there was a list available. Currently charges were installed in the following areas:

Newhaven 1

Lewes Waiting for installation in Lewes District car parks

Peacehaven 1

Telscombe 1

Trevor informed the meeting that Kate Richardson LDC had written to all Parish/Town Clerks explaining that LDC in conjunction with Eastbourne were precuring a new contract for the provision of 7 – 22 kw electric vehicle infrastructure aimed at Council owned car parks. Response from all Lewes Parishes had been good and they had all been listed to be associated with the contract. If the Parish decided they would like and EV point then they could be part of the contract to have installation of the EV point. The supply, installation etc would be funded by the provider. Those in the community who would wish to use the point would pay at the charger to the supplier.

**Highways Issues:** It was reported that several Parishes struggled with engagement with ESCC Highways. Trevor was meeting with an ESCC Highways Cabinet Member on 8th March. If Members had any matters they wished to be raised please email Trevor.

**Next Agenda:** The Chairman asked that at the next meeting could Members advise how they report LDALC meetings to their respective Councils.

**AOB:** A question was raised regarding The Boundary Commission changing constituency boundaries. Westmeston Parish would be moved into Wealden constituency but would remain in Lewes District. Trevor explained that districts and constituencies were not always contiguous.

Another question was raised regarding TAX Digital and the implications it would have if any on Parishes. Trevor would take advice on this.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting would be held on 9th May 2022 at 3pm via zoom.