

MINUTES of the **71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** held on 17th November 2018 at Ditton Community Centre.

PRESENT: 123 people from 79 Councils, including members of the Executive Committee.

APOLOGIES: Representatives from Ash, Aylesham, Bean, Broadstairs & St Peters, Charing, Chestfield, Cliffsend, Cranbrook & Sissinghurst, Eynsford, Hadlow, Ightham, Newnham, Sellindge, Selling, Shipbourne, Stalisfield, Stanford, Sutton by Dover, Teston, Tunstall, Ulcombe, Upchurch, Wingham, Wye with Hinxhill.

Apologies were also received from the following Executive Committee members: Andrew Bowles (Vice President), Richard King (Vice President), Nigel Whitburn (Vice President), Gurvinder Sandher (Vice President), Ms Caroline Shaw (Vice President), Ms Jenny Harris (Dover), Ms Pat Banks (Gravesham), Chris Buckwell (Medway) and Larry Abraham (Sevenoaks).

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, Local Councils Adviser and Learning & Development Manager, Finance & Administration Manager and Communications Officer.

1. PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION: The President welcomed delegates to the Annual Meeting and introduced the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chief Executive and the Vice Presidents in attendance: Bob Scruton, Richard Parry and John Wilson. The President then reminded members to sign the attendance sheets, to wait for the microphone if they wished to speak and state their name and Council and to note that only those holding green papers were eligible to vote. Finally, he reminded delegates of the usual rules of debate and only the proposer and seconder could speak twice on an issue, and that members should make up their own minds when voting. He also reminded members of paragraph 4(i) of the KALC Constitution on amendments "*Amendments to such motions should normally be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive at least seven running days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Extraordinary motions may be submitted to the Finance & General Purposes Sub-Committee no later than fourteen clear running days before the date of the Annual General Meeting for a decision on whether it is sufficiently important to warrant being put forward for urgent debate at the Annual General Meeting.*" The President reported that no extraordinary motions or amendments had been received within the deadline.

2. MINUTES OF THE 70th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The Minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated with the Agenda, were **AGREED** as a true record and signed by the President.

3. MATTERS ARISING: Members NOTED the paper dealing with action taken on the resolution carried at the 2017 AGM to ensure that rural villages and isolated communities in Kent had the right to impose 20 mile an hour limits and that if Councils did impose a limit then they would need to enforce it and not rely on others.

4. ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2017/2018: The Annual Report had been circulated with the agenda. The KALC Chairman introduced the Report and Audited Accounts. It had been a challenging year for everyone in central and local government. Central Government was focused on Brexit and principal authorities continued to face significant financial pressures at the same time as facing growing demand for many of their services. A key theme at both national and county level was partnership working between principal authorities and local councils and also between local councils themselves. KALC had been promoting the LGA/NALC One Community Guide, which set out a series of core principles to effectively working in partnership. It included twelve case studies, one of which was from Kent – The

Village Caretaker Scheme, which was a cluster of 4 Parish Councils (Wittersham, Kenardington, Stone Cum Ebony and Warehorne) working together with Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council.

The Chairman reported that it was pleasing to see that Government was not intending to introduce referendum principles on our sector for 2019/2020, which followed extensive lobbying by NALC and KALC. However, if councils were looking to significantly increase their precept, they should be able to explain why it was being increased and explain how they had engaged with their residents on the proposed increase.

Housing numbers and planning generally remained a key issue for KALC, along with HGVs using unsuitable roads and HGV fly parking, where KALC continued to work closely with Kent and Medway MPs, Kent County Council and Kent Police in pursuing this at county and national level. The Chairman thanked the members of the KALC Transport Advisory Committee and KALC Planning Advisory Committee for their work on these important issues.

The Chairman announced the launch of the new KALC website and KALC's Local Elections 2019 campaign. The Chairman encouraged members to visit the new website and reminded delegates that all councillors and clerks could register to have access to the members area of the website.

The KALC Chairman reminded members that the 2016 AGM had agreed a budget deficit of £2,575 for 2017/2018. However, due to generating additional income from training, KALC was able to turn the deficit into a small surplus of £2,811.

The Annual Accounts showed that there was £72,054 in reserves. There was a contingent liability note to the Accounts relating to debt on withdrawal for the Pensions Trust of £18,762 at 31 March 2018. This would only be triggered if all KALC staff members left the scheme and no new employees entered the scheme within 12 months, although the Trustee had discretion to extend the period of grace facility from 12 months to up to 36 months. All KALC staff were enrolled with the Pensions Trust. The KALC Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee had invested £40,349 of the reserves into the CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund, which was showing a steady rate of return as shown by the £2,118 dividend income, and an increase in the unrealised gain on the CCLA investment of £1,393 this year and was valued at £45,979 at 31 March 2018. As previously agreed by the KALC Executive Committee, £1,500 had been placed into the Relocation/Redevelopment Fund in case KALC needed to move offices at the end of the lease with Dover District Council, which had 18 months left to run.

There was one question from the floor about why there was a Bad Debt of £1,500 in the Accounts. It was explained that a commercial company had agreed to take out an annual advertising/sponsorship package with KALC, but at the end of the financial year had not provided payment. KALC had not advertised the company in KALC News or at Conferences as it had been awaiting payment before providing those opportunities.

On the proposal of the KALC Chairman and the seconding by the KALC Vice-Chairman, the meeting then **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to receive and adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for 2017/2018.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR: The KALC Chairman reported that the Executive Committee proposed the re-election of John Rivers as President and that no other proposals had been received by the Chief Executive by the 26 October 2018 deadline. On the proposal of the KALC Chairman and the seconding by the KALC Vice-Chairman, John Rivers was **UNANIMOUSLY RE-ELECTED** as President.

The President then explained that KALC currently had 7 Vice Presidents who were standing for re-election. The President reported that pen-pictures and photos of each candidate had been placed on the KALC website in advance of the meeting. The Executive Committee proposed the re-election of those 7 Vice-Presidents. No other proposals for Vice-President had been received by the Chief Executive by the 26 October 2018 deadline. The KALC Chairman then proposed on behalf of the Executive Committee, and the KALC Vice-Chairman seconded, the re-election of the following 7 Vice-Presidents for a further 3-year term:

Richard King, Bob Scruton, Nigel Whitburn, Andrew Bowles, Gurvinder Sandher, Ms Caroline Shaw and Richard Parry.

The election of these Vice-Presidents was **AGREED by a large majority, with 3 ABSTENTIONS.**

The President reported that the Executive Committee proposed that Kreston Reeves should continue as Auditor for a further 3-year term and that no other proposals had been received by the Chief Executive by the 26 October 2018 deadline. The President then proposed, with a Secunder from the floor, the appointment of Kreston Reeves as Auditor, which was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** by the meeting.

6. APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The President reported that since 31 March 2018 many Area Committees had held their own Annual Meetings where they elected their two representatives for the Executive Committee. As a result of the Area Committee Annual Meetings, members NOTED the following changes to the Executive Committee that had been set out in the Annual Report:

Ashford	Ms A Breese had taken one of the two vacant positions, with the other position currently vacant
Thanet	T King and Ms R Binks had been replaced by A Bayles, with the other position currently vacant
Tunbridge Wells	D Henshaw had been replaced by A Harris

7. SUBSCRIPTION SCALE FOR 2019/2020: Papers were previously circulated with the agenda, including the draft Budget for 2019/2020 and Explanatory Notes. The KALC Chairman proposed the motion and explained that, after careful consideration, the KALC Executive Committee had decided to recommend that the membership subscription fee should be increased by raising the maximum/cap by £25 from £1,215 to £1,240. The subscription fees for 2019/2020 would be based on Band D equivalent property figures for 2018/2019. The 58p per band D equivalent property figure would remain the same, as would the Standing Charge of £60. £2,090 would then be used from reserves to cover the anticipated deficit, unless of course KALC could generate additional income from other sources during the year.

The KALC Vice-Chairman then seconded the motion. There was one question from the floor about why income from Courses and Seminars was expected to be significantly lower than 2017/2018. It was explained that this was primarily due to KALC having held four GDPR workshops during 2017/2018 that had been full on each occasion, but these were not foreseen to be re-run in 2019/2020.

The President then put the motion to the vote that for 2019/2020 the subscription rate be based on equivalent Band D properties for 2018/2019 as set out below.

“58p per equivalent band D property subject to a maximum of £1,240, plus a standing charge of £60, all subject to VAT, and that all Councils should pay at least the NALC subscription plus 1p per equivalent band D property”.

and the motion was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.**

8. REVISED KALC CONSTITUTION: John Rivers, Chairman of the Constitution Working Group, explained that there were a number of minor changes to the Constitution, including referring to “KALC” instead of “County Association” and some re-ordering and formatting.

The main changes to the revised Constitution were to: Paragraph 5.2 which removed the requirement for the President and Vice-Presidents to stand down after serving two 3-year terms of office – this was because there was already a mechanism in place to remove people if required; and to Appendix 1, which provided Role Descriptions for the President and Vice-Presidents. The motion was proposed and seconded from the floor. There were no questions from the floor.

The President then put the motion to the vote that the revised Constitution should be adopted and was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.**

9. KALC STRATEGIC PLAN: John Rivers, Chairman of the Membership Survey and Strategic Plan Working Group, explained that the main changes to the Strategic Plan were predominantly around amending some of the dates and tidying up. The motion was proposed and seconded from the floor. There were no questions from the floor.

The President then put the motion to the vote that the Strategic Plan should be adopted and was **AGREED by a large majority, with 1 ABSTENTION.**

10. MOTION FROM LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL: Members NOTED that Langdon Parish Council had withdrawn the motion. The Council had thanked those Councils that had provided very useful information about their own issues with railway station parking charges.

11. MOTION FROM SWALE AREA COMMITTEE: The motion had been circulated with the Agenda. The proposer, Cllr Brian Clarke, Bredgar Parish Council, introduced the motion as set out below. Cllr Clarke explained that the motion was intended to add to the Wingham Parish Council motion agreed at last year’s AGM on 20mph speed limits. The case for having 20mph speed limits was now proven and the Area Committee wanted to see that happening more across Kent. There seemed to be too many obstacles in the way that Kent County Council was interpreting the national guidelines. The Area Committee wanted all traffic to go slower through Kent villages. They didn’t want expensive traffic calming measures, which were likely to lead to increased noise and air pollution. Effective enforcement was needed. The proposal to “Make KCC a 20mph Local Authority” was about getting KCC to change the way it looked at the national guidelines and be much more in favour of taking forward such schemes. KCC could set a policy that if a new development was in a residential area then it should have 20mph limits. Slowing down traffic would help people’s health & well-being and enable them to come out and be more active.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Richard Palmer, Newington Parish Council, who explained that safety was a key concern. If people were hit by a car travelling at 20mph they were 90% more likely to survive or not suffer life-threatening injuries. It was about making residential roads safer for our communities. Not until drivers were caught speeding were they put on a safety awareness course. Another problem was air pollution and air quality. In London, a lot of areas were now 20mph due to trying to reduce air pollution. Driving at a consistent 20mph reduced air pollution,

as opposed to speeding up and slowing down which increased air pollution. Some people were afraid to go out because of the speed of traffic in their area. Where communities wanted 20mph speed limits, it should then be supported by KCC.

There were a wide range of views from the floor either in support or against the motion, which included: according to Department for Transport (DfT) research, almost nine in ten drivers ignored speed limits; 86% of car drivers broke 20mph speed limits last year, which coincided with a sharp increase in deaths on the slowest roads; 11,207 people were injured in 20mph zones, a 44% increase in 12 months; 53 people were killed on those roads, which was an increase of 77% in 12 months; the AA said that if councils wanted better compliance they need to be more targeted with 20mph limits, rather than imposing an across-the-board limit; KCC's policy was deliberately focused towards areas where spending public money would produce road safety or public health benefits; at the KCC Highways seminar earlier in November, the KCC Director for Highways, Transportation and Waste had said that all aspects of road safety were his number one priority; 7,000 people had been killed or injured on Kent roads which was unacceptable; speed awareness courses were excellent and all drivers should go on one; KCC and the police should extend police awareness courses and there should be regular driving tests; 20mph speed limits should be put where they are needed and truly justified; it was time to review both the amount and speed of traffic and 20mph should be targeted rather than a blanket approach; the motion in 2017 had given Parish Councils the option to introduce 20mph speed limits, but this motion seemed to imply speed limits very widely; traffic calming worked dramatically to slow traffic down; you couldn't have both slowing down and better air quality; the focus should be on saving lives; there should be a 3-pronged approach from KCC (speed awareness, Speedwatch and 20s Plenty); Croydon had achieved 20s plenty; drivers in London spent time more time looking at their speedometers than looking at the road, which had resulted in an increase in accidents in Islington; a 20mph limit should be implemented wisely and not have a blanket approach; teaching road safety to children should be a priority.

The proposer and seconder confirmed that the motion was not for a blanket approach, it was where residents and Parish Councils wanted to do it and for KCC to be more flexible in interpreting DfT rules. The National Institute of Clinical Excellence and Imperial College of London had said that 20mph saved lives and saved people from life-suffering injuries.

The President then put the motion to the vote:

KALC should take action to support the "20's Plenty for Kent" proposal to "Make KCC a 20mph Local Authority".

In summary requiring KCC to;

- *Change interpretation of DfT setting local speed limits guidance to make schemes affordable;*
- *Set default speed limit of 20mph in all new residential developments.*
- *Implement schemes supported by residents where funding already exists and support local*
- *communities to source funding for new schemes; and*
- *Open up potential external funding by using 20mph as a tool to increase active travel.*

and the motion was **AGREED by a majority, with 61 FOR, 34 AGAINST and 5 ABSTENTIONS.**

12. MOTION FROM SWALE AREA COMMITTEE: The motion had been circulated with the Agenda. The proposer, Cllr Brian Clarke, Bredgar Parish Council, introduced the motion as set out below. Cllr Clarke explained that there was recognition that speed limit enforcement was not

going to be a top priority for the police. However, enforcement was important, as if there was a greater risk that drivers would get caught, they were more likely to obey speed limits. The police could delegate enforcement powers, possibly to speed wardens in the local authority, and KALC should lobby the Police & Crime Commissioner about the prospects of delegating police powers.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Richard Palmer, Newington Parish Council.

There were a wide range of views from the floor either in support or against the motion, which included: enforcement was the key to solving the problem; average speed cameras was another option, which would eventually be self-financing; Kent Police was increasing its rural police team, KCC was promoting education for drivers, road engineering, advanced signage and SID; concern was expressed about using volunteers; police would prosecute on the evidence of dash cams from a private citizen; PCSOs were not authorised to take enforcement action; if Parish Councils wanted to do something they should also approach the police in addition to KALC; the KALC Executive Committee should discuss average speed cameras at its next meeting; the motion was an extension of community involvement and if the community was involved in enforcement it was more likely to stop drivers speeding in future.

The President then put the motion to the vote:

KALC should lobby Kent Police to delegate enforcement powers to local authorities and/or trained civilians to deliver more frequent and less costly enforcement of speed limits.

and the motion was **AGREED** by a majority, with **72 FOR**, **38 AGAINST** and **12 ABSTENTIONS**.

13. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND TRAINING/INFORMATION DAYS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2018/2019 AND FOR 2019/2020: A paper which had been circulated with the Agenda was NOTED.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: There was no other business.

The President then thanked members for attending and the meeting closed at 12.50pm

President

17th November 2018