



NORTHUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the meeting of the County Committee at 10am on Saturday 17th June 2023 at County Hall Morpeth. Northumberland

Present in person: Cllrs: Alex Wallace, Gwen Woodman, John Potts, David Francis, Paul Vaughan, Mike Wood, Paul Dancer, Alan Sambrook, Alan Taylor, John Tully, Monica Anderton, Adam Hoff, Gillian Turner. David Nicholson.

Present online: Cllrs: Martin Dickson-Green, Colin Wakeling Karen Overbury and Viola Rook.

Also Present

Mr Graeme Popay – Chief Officer [Actions marked as GP]

1: Welcome.

Chair Cllr Alex Wallace welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2: Apologies for Absence.

Cllr: Paul Claridge.

3: Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th April 2023

All agreed to accept the minute as a true record.

4: Matter Arising

None

5: Finance

A financial report was tabled showing the current position

Outcome - All agreed to accept the report.

Alex noted that the Cllr Gillian Turner would be standing down as treasurer at the AGM and we did need to think about a successor.

6: Training & Mentoring

GP reported that the Financial Training from Steve Parkinson was proving to be very popular with over 20 Cllrs booked on so far. GP had come to an arrangement with Durham & Cleveland ALC to share their training offer with the County – this had been well received and 15 booked onto their recent online course.

It was agreed to form a Training Working Group to identify the type of training required across the County – Cllrs to email GP to show their interest in joining this group.

Online briefings with NCC this quarter have included: Fix My Street, Bio Diversity Net Gain, Planning Enforcement, Neighbourhood Planning and Local Services.



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A meeting with NCC Executive Director of Place and Regeneration Simon Neilson was very productive, Simon was happy to assist in finding out how NALC could access the NCC training platform used by County Cllrs and how TC/PCs could use the County Job vacancy website to advertise vacancies.

7: Purpose of the Committee (Action from 14th April Meeting)

Members discussed the purpose and aims. The NALC Constitution states that the aims and objects of the Association are to take all such steps as may be necessary or desirable in the interest of parishes and in particular:

to protect and promote the interests, rights, functions, and privileges of members;

to assist members in the performance of their duties and to promote and develop the economic, social, cultural and recreational life of parishes;

to promote a widespread and well-informed interest in local government;

to promote good local government.

In addition it was agreed that this would include representing the County view to the National Association of Local Councils and NCC and when requested to appoint representatives to NCC committees and working groups etc

8: County Conference

GP reported that NCC had preferred Thursday 5th October. 2:00pm – 6:00pm at County Hall.

A market place setting followed by a plenary starting at 4:00pm led by Glen Sanderson to include Q&A session. Refreshment and a buffet provided by NCC

It would be advertised in the July ENews with bookings via Eventbrite – this would be free.

9: Northumberland Electoral Review

Discussion on proposed new electoral arrangements for Northumberland.

Members thought some of the changes were based on a numerical reasoning rather than logical geographical reasoning.

8: National issues

David Francis gave a verbal report on national key issues

9: Issues raised by Committee members

Bus services on the A1 – raised by Cllr Wakeling who had joined online but had left the meeting early. Cllr Alex Wallace asked GP to advise Cllr Wakeling to speak to Neil Easton at NCC.

NALCs work in Newcastle – raised by Cllr Wakeling – Cllr Wakeling was not on the call. GP advised members that a second meeting of Town/Parish/Community Councils in



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Newcastle with the CEO of Newcastle City was planned at the Civic Centre on the 13th September.

Cllr John Tulley asked members views on the following – Should a TC charge a political Group for holding a meeting in Council buildings? It was suggested to Cllr Tulley that a member of the TC could propose this at full council and a vote taken. Member also commented that the work of a PC/TC should not be based on party politics

Cllr John Tulley asked members views regarding claiming expenses/allowances from their PC/TC. Discussion over the distinct difference between an allowance and expenses. Cllr David Francis recalled that NCC did have an remuneration panel in the past .

ACTION GP to contact NCC to investigate how this should be handled.

10: Topics of Future meetings

No time to available to discuss.

11: Any Other Urgent Business

None

12: Future Meeting of the Committee

Next meetings:

County Committee - Saturday 9th September - 10.00am Stakeford and Bomarsund Social Welfare Centre. Stakeford. Northumberland NE62 5UD

AGM (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE) - Saturday 28th October - 10.00am Stakeford and Bomarsund Social Welfare Centre. Stakeford. Northumberland NE62 5UD

Meeting Closed at 12:00 noon