

Avon Local Councils' Association

Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting **Thursday 19th December 2019**

1. Present. Kathy Thomas (Chairman), Dick Whittington, Jeremy Blatchford, Geoff Coombs, Mike Drew, Cheryl Kirby, Rhiannon Prys-Owen, Noel Walter, Robert Law, Deborah White (Chief Officer).
Apologies. Dawn Drury, Gail Boyle. David Veale (not yet confirmed by Area Group)
2. The minutes of the meeting on 12th September 2019 were confirmed as a correct record
3. ALCA Finance Reports
Received and noted
4. Election of a Representative on the NALC National Assembly (Position to be confirmed by NALC)
Geoff Coombs AGREED
5. Internal organisational Issues
 - a. Update on the meeting between the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer

Spot checks on a selection of invoices received a mixed response and limiting this to the Resources Committee members was proposed.

Improved financial governance measures were discussed and additional authorisation on the Co-op bank account were AGREED.
ACTION Noel Walter to investigate and report to the Resources Committee.
 - b. Loss of a key member

The written internal procedures provided by the Hon. Treasurer were noted as very useful. The Chief Officer currently holds the passwords and codes to the bank account.

The role that the Hon. Treasurer currently performs in a voluntary capacity will need to be provided for, potentially as a paid position in the future. The Resources Committee to discuss and make a recommendation to full committee.

The membership of the Resources Committee was confirmed as Kathy Thomas, Dick Whittington and Mike Drew / Cheryl Kirby (TBC) Terms of Reference to be provided.

c. DATA security

A question was raised as to whether the CO is the Data Controller or Processor – CO to investigate how the legislation relates to a single employee organisation. ALCA is registered with the ICO and privacy notices advertised on the website.

The recent sharing of CO's employment information to the Regional Committee members to be recorded.

d. Member survey

Re-draft to focus on what ALCA currently provides and to request that members rank in terms of importance, quality. And value for money. List of what could be provided and whether this would be appreciated and comment box to capture other suggestions.

Gauge perception of value of ALCA as a regional / national lobby group. Prequal to subscription increase

e. Sponsorship

Test with limited stalls at AGM with disclaimers

f. Update on review of current website provision

The current problems with the Vision ICT website were discussed.

CO to research and has delegation to take necessary action to the same value as Vision ICT upgrade quote AGREED

g. Centre for Sustainable Energy project

The reputation of CSE was discussed.

Expressions of interest from members to be solicited with a view to staging an event. Charges to cover costs IRO £15/£30 AGREED

6. Sector Issues

a. Website accessibility regulations – raise awareness at Area Group meetings and promote NALC guidance.

b. Local Council Award Scheme – Wilts, Somerset, Avon partnership arrangement no longer operational. CO will work together as an interim measure. Some will be referred to National Pilot. Early award councils due for reaccreditation. RC member volunteers will be briefed as Assessors.

7. NALC Report.

Mike Drew has been elected as Vice Chairman (Member Services) on the NALC Executive Committee. Work being undertaken on the Code of Conduct and Website Accessibility Regulations – lobby 'government for funding to mitigate. LTN 22 revised post Ledbury TC case.

SWCLCA Report

Changed format – six monthly meetings of CO's, CALC Chairmen and NALC Reps. Alternating with CO working meetings, first of which was in December and very constructive.

Parish Bristol project.

Invitation to speak to the Liberal Democrat group of BCC.

Suggestion of an event - Building on the "Economy for the Future" event in terms of network and speakers, also using ex Neighbourhood Partnership network as invitees. Triodos Bank Community Room as a potential venue. Justin Griggs and Sue Baxter (NALC) support. Timing with elections was discussed.

Working budget to the value of up to £1,000

AGREED

8. Area Groups

North Somerset new relationships being built – noticeable change in attitude towards Local Council compared with previous administration.

South Gloucestershire – little change in new administration

B&NES – no Parish Liaison meeting has been held since the last Regional Committee meeting.

Bath – January 22nd meeting with NALC Reps. And Dine Romero, Leader of BNES council re conversion of the Charter Trustees to Local Council.

9. Any Other Business 2 Employment Tribunals and complaint adding to usual day to day workload.

10. Date next meeting 21st May Somerset Room (upstairs) Saltord Hall 19:15.

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