

Avon Local Councils' Association

Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting **Monday 14th January 2019**

<u>Present</u>	<u>Apologies</u>
BoB Symons (Chairman)	Dick Whittington
Rhiannon Prys-Owen	Geoff Coombs
Judith Chubb-Whittle	Joanna van Tonder
Jeremy Blatchford	Noel Walter
Rosemary Naish	Clive Fricker
Kathy Thomas	Mike Drew
Dawn Drury	
Jane Stansfield	
John Malone	
Deborah White	

1.

2. Evaluation of the AGM

It was generally expressed that this was the best AGM yet. Lots of interesting topics and the Bristol Youth Council were especially inspirational. Best to keep the informal approach and not go down the debate and motions route. Resist introduction of commercial sponsors.

Suggestions for 2019 Avon and Somerset Rescue and Police and Crime Commissioner.

3. The ALCA Finance Reports for December 2018 were presented and accepted. The letters of Membership renewal have been sent.

4. Organisational Issues

a The NALC Data Sharing Agreement was signed by the CO and returned and there was a short discussion on reminding Clerks not to name individuals (public or councillors) in minutes

b Future of Larger Councils' Group. The contrast in the first two meetings was discussed and it was agreed to organise at least one more, backed up with a warning re not continuing unless supported by the membership.

c There is a need for a refresh of the LCAS panel membership and it was agreed to run a re-launch session for interested parties after in the Autumn

d It was agreed that a spot check on smaller councils to ensure they have used the grant funding to ensure they can comply with the transparency code. Regional committee members agreed to assist.

e ALCA trainers that offer to provide consultancy services need to attach a disclaimer that they are acting independently of ALCA.

Chief Officer – Deborah White

Email - avoncalc@gmail.com Tel: 07496 514035

It was agreed to put the development of a co-option policy on the March agenda, to deal with replacing Regional Committee members that don't stand or are not re-elected to office.

5. Reports

a. B&NES

The latest Parish Liaison meeting was "dire" mainly down to poor Chairmanship - no questions were allowed. Currently there are no Standing Orders for the meeting to challenge this and so they are now being developed.

A separate Rural Transport Strategy Group is being explored

b. North Somerset

There have been several changes in the Officers at NSC including a new CEO. There is an emerging Well-being agenda and how PC's relate and get involved is being promoted.

Walking the Boundaries was also raised
65 High Street Nailsea supported with NHS money and subject of a parliamentary Working Group. Recognition that Parishes are all different.

c. South Gloucestershire

There is an opportunity for ALCA with the need for a new Chairman of the T&P Forum Chairman. Unfortunately, SG ALCA are not in a position to put forward a volunteer.

CO is attending the SG Compact group

d. Parishing Bristol

There has been no response from contacts made in Stokes Croft. The Bedminster Partnership are still considering the option to explore parishing. There have been several political party meetings, with a lot of unrest and anger about development being discussed

e. Charter Trustees of Bath

The CO reported on meeting the Charter Trustees with the Chairman of NALC. The desire for CT's to be given the same powers as Local Councils was being mooted, despite expert advice that it cannot happen. There was a suggestion that Bath city forum be invited to have a presentation on what PC's can do.

6 Updates / consultations

- a. Feedback to NALC on the annual conference and AGM should include that the rooms too cramped and they tried to pack too much in.

Chief Officer – Deborah White

Email - avoncalc@gmail.com Tel: 07496 514035

There was discussion about Community Engagement, the PC supporting voluntary action as community leaders and proactive working the VCS

- b. Broadband was discussed and the Gigaclear joint WERN project. It was felt this was just too late as Truespeed were already delivering. The lack of Ultra speed broadband has been threatening economy of the area.

Any Other Business

The pricing of training was discussed, but it was felt that it should not be tempered with at this stage.

Although technically purdah does not apply to Local Councils the NALC advice is that it should be observed, particularly in councils where a Ward Member also sits on the PC, or where PC members are standing for election to the UA's.

The mental health of local councillors was discussed, as there are issues that have come about due to the stress and harassment that an occur as the result of becoming a councillor. This needs to be raised at a national level.

The next meeting will be at the Brokeridge Centre, Frampton Cotterell at 7.15 on Thursday 21st March 2019