

Avon Local Councils' Association
Regional Committee Meeting **Thursday 12th September 2019**

Minutes

1. **Present:** Geoff Coombs, Jeremy Blatchford, Dick Whittington, Rhiannon Prys-Owen, Robert Law, Gail Boyle, Kathy Thomas

Apologies: Dawn Drury, Jayne Stansfield, Noel Walter.

2. **Election of Officers**

- a. Chairman = Kathy Thomas
- b. Vice Chairman = Jeremy Blatchford.
- c. NALC Representative = Mike Drew (in his absence, providing he accepts)

3. **ALCA Finance**

- The subscription rate is increased by 2.5% for 2020-21 **AGREED**
The discussion covered the need to raise the income within the next few years, to ensure subscriptions cover costs.
CO Action - comparison with other CALCs
- Recommend the budget for 2020-21 to the AGM; **AGREED**
- Review of the Finance Regs – Last reviewed in 2018 and need to be done regularly for audit purposes. Put on the agenda for the first meeting after the AGM for small working party to execute. **AGREED**

4. **Organisational Issues**

- a. Report from the Resources Committee
 - i NJC pay award 2019/20 - Back dated to first April **AGREED**
ACTION Treasurer
 - ii Future support staff strategy. KT and DW updated the committee on the discussions at the recent Resources Committee meeting and several suggestions were volunteered. Such as finding an Independent Administrator. RC to report back That KT and DW continue to explore was **AGREED**
ACTION GB to send Admin role from BCC to CO
 - iii Role of RC Committee Members
Representing PCs at regional and national levels.

Talking to Chairmen – sharing Good Practice Learning from other councils. Disseminating information e.g. Automated Speed Watch. Hold an ideas forum for Good Practice sharing
Being more outward looking
Explore the commonalities and differences of the Area Groups

- b. Arrangements for the 2018/19 AGM at Flax Bourton on 5th October
Two speakers - Well Being project 65 High Street and climate change
Present motions from Area Groups to be noted
Help with setting up from 10:00
Light refreshments (cake) only
- c. ALCA Representation at the NALC AGM
CO and NALC rep. Booked in and for conference and accommodation
Dawn booked in for conference only
ACTION Request that Dawn reports back to Regional Committee
Kathy's accommodation – that ALCA will pay was **AGREED**

5. Area Reports

- a. B&NES New Lib Dem. majority at B&NES council – settling in and enthusiastic.
Engagement team - Clerks Forum six monthly. Survey of PCs.
Community Empowerment Fund - pot of money based on population matched by PC. Joint ventures with the PC = 18 mth period.
Rural Transport and unregulated B&B. Airport Expansion. Selling verges to public
- b. North Somerset Dramatic changes at NSC - Independents in coalition with Labour, Lib Dems and Greens. Almost all new councillors and senior officers – Need for ALCA to re-establish contacts. Seem to be pro Parishes. 2 annual forum – to discuss new arrangements – T&P Summit. October (after ALCA AGM)
- c. South Gloucestershire Successful AGM. 4 Reps appointed and 2 motions proposed to NALC
- d. Parishing Election of city councillors and City Mayor next May, already campaigning and reshaping
Suggestion of an event or mini conference speakers from other new councils - September 2020
Discussion with Greater Bedminster / Knowle / Witherwood / Charter Trustees of Bath.
- e. NALC

6 Updates / consultations

- a. 4 Motions to NALC Policy Committee – complication of Election expenses, Home Zones, Developer Management of Open Spaces and Impact of Planning decisions on neighbouring authority.
- b. SWCLCA proposal – quarterly meetings under revue
- c. Training report – BAGC and Chairman Training scheduled session in each UA up until end of year. A scheduled Planning in Plain English, 2 Cyber Protection and a Playground Inspection session. Also, At Your Place sessions booked in most weeks throughout September and October

- d. 5G Broadband consultation – encourage input into consultation

Any Other Business

Wilts CALC will no longer be co-ordinating Local Council Award Scheme. NALC are piloting a nations assessment scheme. Need for local assessors in the meantime. GB volunteered to assist.

The next meeting will be in North Somerset in December