

AVON LOCAL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION

North Somerset Group Annual General Meeting

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 22nd June 2017 at 1930hrs at
Venue: The Old School Rooms, Congresbury. BS49 5DX**

Present: Cllr Geoff Coombs Barrow Gurney; Cllr Charles Cave Long Ashton; Cllr Jeremy Blatchford Nailsea; Cllr Lesley Cottrell Portishead; Cllr Becka Spinks Yatton; Cllr Angela Haden Banwell; Cllr Steve Hartrew Bleadon; Cllr Roger Daniels Burrington; Cllr J Ashman Cleeve; Cllr Graham Hill Clevedon; Cllr Jane Moss Flax Bourton ; Joanna van Tonder Parish Clerk Brockley and Barrow Gurney; Rhiannon Prys-Owen North Somerset ALCA; Liz Greaves Parish Clerk Congresbury

Apologies: Cllr Rod Lees Nailsea; Cllr Roger Griffin Flax Bourton; Cllr Mike Sewell Kingston Seymour; Cllr Bob Taylor Backwell; Cllr Mo Bowerman Backwell; Cllr Bob Symons ALCA; Deborah White ALCA.

NB It was noted that the Parish Council Airport Association was also holding its AGM this evening and some Councillors would be attending that AGM.

Guest Speaker: John Baker Independent Planning Consultant – 'Crossing boundaries'

1 Introduction. The North Somerset ALCA Chairman Geoff Coombs (Barrow Gurney) introduced himself as the current Chair of North Somerset ALCA and welcomed everyone to the AGM. Cllr Coombs then notified the meeting of the sad deaths of Peter Sewell and Derek Head and asked that we all recognise the enormous contribution that both had made to their Parish Councils. Peter Sewell also made a significant contribution to the work of ALCA at both local and regional levels and his knowledge and expertise will be a loss to the organisation.

2 Election of Chairman. Rhiannon Prys-Owen was asked to manage the proceedings whilst the members elected the Chair. It was proposed by Cllr C Cave (Long Ashton) and seconded by Cllr Jeremy Blatchford (Nailsea) that Cllr Geoff Coombs be elected to fill the post of Chairman for the ensuing year. This was agreed unanimously with thanks to Geoff for all his work and commitment to North Somerset ALCA.

Cllr Geoff Coombs then proposed that we move the election of other Officers and representatives to item 9 on the agenda.

3. Guest Speaker: Cllr Coombs welcomed John Baker an Independent Consultant with a great deal of knowledge and experience of the planning issues and developments in North Somerset, regionally and nationally.

Planning is a contentious issue and crosses public and private boundaries. It also changes when there is a new government with their differing approaches to planning. Local Authorities can spend considerable time developing plans only to have them changed by government. Despite this they have to look ahead as Development Plans are very important in determining how places work and the infrastructure needed. Transport, railways and economies all cross boundaries and Local Authorities have a duty to cooperate and work on regional strategies. The three combined authorities in the West of England have developed the Joint Spatial Plan which will be subject to inspection to ensure that it is sound.

The three levels of planning, Neighbourhood Plans, Local Authority and Regional Plans have to meet the requirements of Government to develop the growth of local and national economy. Participation of communities is essential if the Plans are to reflect the character and sense of place of the specific areas. The risk if the plan is deemed not to be sound is planning by appeal which does not benefit communities or local authorities. More sustainable development requires confidence, certainty and plans that demonstrate leadership and this is what attracts government funds to a region.

There are two dilemmas in planning: How do you reconcile strategic and local needs? How do you meet the long-term views of people? Often democratic processes and plan making decisions result in short term plans to meet current housing needs. Government wants more housing and developers question the deliverability of the numbers. Is there a better way forward that can be less adversarial? Working with

developers to look at how areas work and where the networks are so that the subsequent plan decides the infrastructure needed? This would lead to a less fragmented approach to planning.

The policy on Green Belt needs to change as the interpretation is often misleading. With good planning legislation authorities can protect large parts of the Green Belt and develop some areas without damaging the rural aspects of the region.

A general discussion followed where attendees had the opportunity to discuss the points made. Cllr Coombs thanked John for contributing to the AGM.

4. North Somerset ALCA 2016-17: Cllr Coombs provided an overview of the key activities of NS ALCA organisation which included: 4 T&P Council Forums; Attendance at the West of England Joint Spatial Plan Workshop- "Boosting affordable housing"; ALCA South West Conference; Youth Conference in partnership with Voluntary Action North Somerset. He also provided information on the national and regional structure; training and accreditation and the current membership in North Somerset.

5. Reports from NS ALCA Representatives: Cllr Jeremy Blatchford submitted a comprehensive report from the People and Communities Board **(See attached)**

There were no reports submitted from the CPRE and the Airport Association.

Action: Rhiannon Prys-Owen to contact Cllr Georgie Bigg and Cllr David Glynn to request reports for circulation.

6. Minutes of the AGM held on 16th June 2016. The minutes were agreed and approved by the members.

7. Election of Vice Chairman. It was proposed by Cllr Coombs and seconded by Cllr Blatchford that Cllr Dick Whittington be nominated to fill the post of Vice-Chairman, for the ensuing year, to be confirmed at the next meeting of the new Committee.

6. Election of Secretary.

It was proposed and seconded that Joanna Van Tonder be appointed Secretary for the ensuing year.

7. Appointment of four Representatives to ALCA Executive Committee.

It was proposed and approved by the attendees that Cllrs Geoff Coombs (Barrow Gurney) Jeremy Blatchford (Nailsea) and Dick Whittington (Butcombe) and Joanna Van Tonder would represent the Group on the ALCA Executive Committee.

8. Representative Appointments.

The following representatives were agreed by the meeting:

- a. **North Somerset People & Communities Partnership** – Cllr Jeremy Blatchford; (Nailsea)
- b. **Bristol International Airport Transport Forum** - Cllr David Glynn (Wrington).in his absence
- c. **CPRE** - Cllr Georgie Bigg (Wrington) in her absence

9. Discuss future priorities for the joint meetings with North Somerset Council and what do T&P Councils want from ALCA? Cllr Dick Whittington.

- Possible larger Council Forum
- Core activities of the Councils and sharing experiences – what works well, shared resource, and expertise.
- A platform for linking the Clerks and providing support
- More pressure on NSC to provide early notification of devolved services before budget decisions have to be made. Devolved in a more organised way.
- The pressures of Health and Social Care. The responsibility of T&P Councils – Health and Well-being Champion.
- Mental Health Services for both children and adults
- Continue with Planning meetings
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults –

- Cybercrime and keeping safe on line.
- Broadband services to the area
- ALCA could organise conferences and workshops on some of the issues identified.

Any other business:

Cllr Coombs thanked Rhiannon Prys-Owen and Cllr Rod Lees for all their work in supporting North Somerset ALCA

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed :

Date : 22nd June 2017

DRAFT