

AVON LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

NORTH SOMERSET AREA GROUP

MINUTES of the meeting of the North Somerset Area Group of ALCA

held on Tuesday, 25 September 2018 at 10:00am
Strawberry Line Café, Yatton Railway Station, BS49 4AJ

Present: Geoff Coombs (Chairman) Barrow Gurney PC
Dick Whittington Butcombe PC
Jeremy Blatchford Nailsea TC
Joanna van Tonder (Secretary) Barrow Gurney & Brockley PCs

1. **Apologies for absence** – none received
2. **ALCA (North Somerset) AGM** – Good feedback had been received at and after the AGM. It was agreed to shorten the networking session at the start of the next AGM to 30 minutes as it was felt 45 minutes had been too long. It was agreed to plan 2019's AGM well in advance.
3. **ALCA (County) / NALC issues:**
 - a) **ALCA (County) meeting – 6 September 2018** – Members were pleased to see ALCA Executive Committee recognising Health & Wellbeing as a pressing issue.
 - b) **ALCA AGM – 6 October 2018** – All committee members confirmed they would be attending the AGM to be held in Timsbury.
 - c) **Larger Councils Forum** – JB reported turnout at the 2nd meeting held on 13/09/2018 had been very poor with interest higher amongst South Gloucestershire councils. There would be one more attempt to get the forum going but it was disappointing the larger councils were not embracing their potential role to initiate change or drive progress.
 - d) **Smaller Councils Committee** – This had failed to get off the ground with a decision taken to network instead.
4. **Town and Parish Forums**
 - a) **Autumn GENERAL T&P Forum** – With the many personnel changes experienced at NSC of late, it was suggested a "who's doing what" session would be useful together with a contribution from John Wilkinson focussing on how to improve communications between NSC and the Town and Parish Councils.

JvT

JvT to set date and liaise with Rhiannon Jones.
 - b) **Clerks' support network** – It was suggested the three new clerks to the non-member Weston PCs (St Georges, Wick St Lawrence and Kewstoke) be invited to the next coffee morning.
5. **Other NSC issues:**
 - a) **Devolution of services** – nothing to report.
 - b) **Other** – JB advised he was in the process of looking for someone to succeed him as ALCA representative on the People & Communities Board. The Board's meetings were public, however, working group meetings were closed. He suggested Dundry councillor, AS would be a good candidate and that she could be appointed in the interim if permission were granted for her to sit in,

with ratification of her appointment at the next AGM.

6. Other Town and Parish issues:

- a) **Broadband** – GC advised there were significant delays in the Gigaclear roll-out as one of their contractors, Carillion, had gone into liquidation. To date, communication had been very poor, however, Gigaclear were offering assurances that a PC liaison would be appointed. NSC's Simon Gregory had undertaken to ensure proper contact with Gigaclear was established once again. It appeared Truespeed were taking advantage of the delays.

It was noted that, as the broadband roll-out had a competitive commercial element to it, PCs would need to be careful not to be seen to be favouring one provider over the other.

DW agreed to make contact with Chris Hern regarding the PC briefings that had failed to materialise.

- b) **Airport** – It was agreed the AGM had facilitated a good discussion around the airport's plans, especially around the contentious issue of parking. DW reported there had been a parking "summit" held between some of the affected PCs to discuss the issues such as short term taxi parking and illegal car parking. It was apparent neither the airport nor NSC were planning to do much to address the problem.

It was noted the PCAA's recent response to Bristol Airport's Master Plan consultation suggested the airport proposes to expand the noise channel / widen the flight paths to distribute noise more evenly. It was agreed this would need to be monitored.

- c) **Reaching out to non-member Town & Parish Councils** – JvT reported she was reaching out to the clerks.
- d) **Other** – no other Town & Parish issues.

7. Any other business – no other business was discussed.

8. Dates for future meetings – November ? (Strawberry Line Café, Yatton)