

## **AVON LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION**

### **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AREA GROUP**

Minutes of the Annual General meeting of the South Gloucestershire Area Group held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at The Jubilee Centre, Bradley Stoke.

Present: Elizabeth Shepherd (Chair & Downend & Bromely Heath), David Bell (ALCA Vice President), Deborah White (ALCA County Secretary) David Soar & Veronica Soar (Bitton), Tom Aditya (Bradley Stoke), Sharon Petela (Bradley Stoke), Elaine Hardwicke (Bradley Stoke), Pat Hockey (Frampton Cotterell), Roger Unwin (Tytherington, Martin Summers (Wickwar).

Apologies: Malcolm Watson (Pucklechurch & Wick & Abson), Bob Symons (Pucklechurch), Hannah Saunders (Charfield & Cromhall), Patchway Town Council, John Davis (Dodington), Beverley Ewing (Clerk to Mangotsfield Parish Council)

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of the Area Group AGM held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

The minutes were agreed and passed.

#### **3. Matters arising**

There have been some changes to part-night street lighting which include the lights now going out at 1.15 am in winter and 2.15 am in summer.

A pilot scheme in Charfield with LED lighting being installed as part of a long term programme to change street lights to LED over a period of years. This will be followed with LED lighting on 'A' roads and in Hanham.

David Bell reported that the review of the Quality Parish Scheme is still ongoing, with nothing finalised yet. It is hoped that this would be completed in the Summer 2014.

There are still some areas that have no direct bus link to Southmead Hospital and the situation is far from satisfactory.

#### **4. ALCA Constitution**

The Chairman read a report of the Working Party on revisions to the existing ALCA Constitution. A copy of the proposed revised Constitution had been circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting for members to note. Any amendments to this would need to be tabled in accordance with the current Constitution by member councils.

## **5. Elections**

The Secretary reported that she had received the following nominations by the closing date for nominations:

Chairman: Elizabeth Shepherd

Vice Chairman: Malcolm Watson

Representatives to ALCA Executive: Hannah Saunders and Bob Symons.

It was agreed that they be duly elected.

Following the close of nominations the Secretary had received 3 nominations for the remaining ALCA Executive place: Tom Aditya, Elaine Hardwick and Mike Drew

On finding that ALCA Executive meetings were usually held during the day, Elaine withdrew her nomination due to work commitments.

Pat Hockey did not wish to carry on as Secretary to the Group. No nomination had been received for Secretary. After discussion, Tom Aditya agreed to take on the role of Secretary to the Area Group and the meeting agreed that Mike Drew be the third representative to the ALCA Executive.

The Chairman extended thanks to Pat for her sterling work over the years.

## **6. Any other business**

Pat said that one reason for her standing down was because with ever increasing localism she could envisage a situation in future whereby she could find herself having a conflict of interest and as a South Gloucestershire Councillor obviously her first duty was to the Unitary Authority.

In answer to a question whether parishes have an option to keep their present lights and not change to LED, Pat said that this would not be an option because of cost savings and carbon footprint savings.

Tom Aditya had recently attended an Equalities Forum which focused on dealing with hate crime and harassment.

David Bell reported that the next Public Transport Forum was scheduled to take place on 9<sup>th</sup> June at Kingswood Civic Centre. Pat commented that town and parish councils should receive notification of these meetings and she would chase this up to ensure this happened in future.

## **7. Date and Venue of Next Meeting.**

To be agreed by the Chairman and Secretary.