

**Notes of the Bath & North East Somerset Area Group
of the Avon Local Councils Association
held on Wednesday 17th January 2019
Saltford Hall at 7:30 pm**

Deborah White	B&NES ALCA Chief Officer		
Kathryn Manchee	Camerton PC	Lynda Robertson	Midsomer Norton TC
Brian Edwards	Camerton PC	Richard Robertson	Midsomer Norton TC
Rosemary Naish	Clutton PC	Geoff Davis	Monkton Combe PC
Dawn Drury	Compton Dando PC	Jeff Humphries	Paulton PC
Jane Griffiths	Compton Martin PC	Tanya West	Peasedown St John PC
John Twist	Corston PC	Kathy Thomas	Peasedown St John PC
Kathryn Manchee	Dunkerton & Tunley PC	Lottie Smith Collins	Saltford PC
David Orme	Dunkerton & Tunley PC	Jean Fossaceco	Shoscombe PC
Martin Robinson	Dunkerton & Tunley PC	Chris Gittins	Timsbury PC
Kathryn Manchee	Englishcombe PC	Veronica Packham	Timsbury PC
Robert Law	Englishcombe PC	Hilary Collins	Ubley PC
Cheryl Scott	Keynsham TC	Richard Ireland	West Harptree PC

1. Welcome and to record any **apologies** for absence see below

Sarah Orme	Batheaston PC	John Harvey	Stanton Drew PC
Jon Cooper	Bathford PC	Richard Clist	Swainswick PC
Kirsty Headlong	Chew Magna PC	Sue Dyer	Whitchurch PC
Trudi Gilbank	Farmborough PC	Ashton Broad	Whitchurch PC
Kirsty Headlong	High Littleton PC		

2. To APPROVE the notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th September 2018 meeting as a correct record

The notes were approved and signed by the chair – Rosemary Naish

Updates:

Cotswold AONB

There was no update

Mendip AONB

There was no update

Joint Local Access Forum

Kathy Thomas

Although Kathy does not represent ALCA on the Joint Access Forum she reported that the group consider development and legislation that affect access to the countryside. They members are particularly concerned about large developments and how access to the country side is maintained. She recently attended a training day on “Don’t Lose Your Way”.

Bath Heritage Site Steering Group

There was no update

Robert Law

B&NES Parish Charter update

Rosemary was reported that at the Parish Liaison the chair did not permit discussion on a number of items. See next item. The minutes of the meeting have been circulated to town and parish councils.

Rosemary Naish

Parish Liaison

Although much has been done to improve the working relationship between town and parish councils there is not a protocol for running of the Liaison Meeting. It was agreed that this should be addressed.

Rosemary Naish

Report from the Executive Committee of ALCA

Deborah White reported that "The larger council group" met in South Glos, and was deemed to be a success. There is not much support in the B&NES and North Somerset. For clarification large councils are likely to have different issues than the majority of councils, the idea of the group is to give an opportunity to address any such issues. Consideration to appointing a representative for "larger councils" was discussed but no proposal made.

Rosemary Naish

3 Report from Deborah White

Training

Congratulations to Cheryl Scott (Keynsham) for achieving her CiLCA qualification. There will only be one "Being a Good Councillor" and one "Planning" training courses up to the elections. Bookings can be taken in advance for "Being a Good Councillor" at the Councils own venue after the elections (up to 15 councillors per course).

Deborah advised the meeting that in addition to ALCA's training programme there is Planning consultancy advice available but not under the ALCA banner.

Changes to CiLCA – the introductory course is soon to become mandatory

Grants for Campaigns

Deborah reported that NALC has given advice to councils regarding giving grants to campaigns such as against the Joint Spatial Plan which she will circulate for general information.

Parishing of urban areas

There has been some limited interest in parishing in Bristol, in Bath although there is one ward showing an interest the councillors cannot decide who should put it forward.

High Speed Broadband

WERN are producing a schedule for working with parish clusters

Chartered Trustees of Bath

Deborah reported that she had attended the AGM with Sue Baxter the chair of NALC. There are 10 cities in the UK with chartered trustees. Sue Baxter spoke on the value of parish councils.

4 CIL Training Event

It was agreed that the training event was very useful for those all those who attended.

5 New planning framework

The update session was very useful and the details are available from B&NES

6 Don't Lose Your Way

Kathy Thomas encouraged councils to review rights of ways within their parishes to ensure that they are not lost.

7 Rural Transport. - Timsbury

Timsbury parish expressed concern about the bus subsidy and community transport budget that is set by B&NES.

The issue of residents without cars living in rural communities was discussed.

Councillors/parishes were encouraged to get involved with the Rural Transport Partnership Group. Paul Myers is the cabinet councillor to contact.

Rosemary Naish advised the meeting that it is possible to obtain funds for a Community Bus service and quoted a figure of £150,000 that she had negotiated to improve the service to Bath from areas around her parish. She told the meeting that she had been helped by two other groups to get the group set up.

8 Further devolution of services. - Timsbury

The issue was raised about the difficulties caused to Town and Parish Councils when services are devolved at a late stage. It would be helpful for parishes when determining their budgets and precepts if B&NES took this into consideration.

9 To DECIDE on the priorities for the agenda of the next Parishes Liaison Meeting

- The role of the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and town and parish councils
- Protocol for running the Parish Liaison Meetings
- Agenda items from Timsbury relating to budget setting and rural transport

To CONFIRM dates for future B&NES Area Group and Parish Liaison Meetings

<u>Dates for future Area Group meetings</u>	<u>Date of next Parish Liaison meeting</u>
No further dates as these fall after the elections in May 2019	Wednesday 6 th March 2019

To SUGGEST future speakers, workshops or training requests for Area Group meetings

There were no suggestions

Any other business.

Three items were raised

- B&NES has produced a DRAFT Capital Asset Transfer document that is out for consultation until the end of January.
- A number of councils have been approached by the Somerset District Miner's Welfare Trust asking for details of the deeds of Miner's Welfare land/property which councils have an interest in. The advice from ALCA is that the councils are not the correct body to have been approached and that the trust should approach the trustees so councils are advised not to respond. There was a further discussion and clarification regarding Sole Trustees and Guardian Trustees. If in doubt seek advice from ALCA in the first instance. It was stressed that the accounts for trust accounts must be separate from the council's.
- Clarification was given that although other authorities are charging councils to run elections B&NES will cover the cost of the May 2019 election. By elections other than following the death of a councillor will be funded by the parish/town council and as yet the cost is not clear.

Date of Next Meeting

TBA after the elections for parish and town councillors in May 2019