

Avon Local Councils' Association
County Committee Meeting **MINUTES** Monday 4th July 2016

1. **Present:** Mike Drew, BoB Symons (Chairman), Jeremy Blatchford, Rod Lees, Rosemary Naish, Dick Whittington, Tony Heaford, Geoff Coombs, Noel Walter (Hon. Treasurer), Deborah White (County Secretary)
Apologies: Hannah Saunders and Judith Chubb-Whittle

2. **To receive an update on the ALCA accounts**

On target to finish the year in profit, mainly due to training income.

The ALCA reserve funds and future potential future profit were discussed and ideas tabled around reducing subscriptions, grant funding LC's to complete LCAS and reducing training fees etc.,

Using the available resources to support the further development of the ALCA offer to LC's was also discussed, including increasing the financial support for administration of the Area Groups, widening training offer to cover new subject matter e.g. community engagement, social media training and services to support mental health initiatives in the community

It was AGREED to grow the service as opposed to reducing subscriptions.

3. **Organisational Issues**

ALCA's future identity - the general dislike of "Avon" and the past discussions on the West of England were raised. In light of the considerable developments towards a sub-regional identity, a Doodle Poll to gauge the appetite for a name change was supported.

To table name change at the 2016 AGM was AGREED

The disadvantages of the County Secretary title were discussed. A change to "Chief Officer" was proposed by RL, seconded by RN
AGREED

To propose the nomination of Rhiannon Prys-Owen as a co-opted non-voting member of the County Committee (in line with 2014 constitution). She has expressed an interest in supporting ALCA in the parishing of Bristol, following her house move to the city and resignation from Yatton Parish Council. AGREED

Arrangements for the AGM 8th October 2016

- Midsomer Norton TC (not Hollies),
- Key speaker Jonathan Owen - Devolution. Vice Chancellor of UWE Stephen West has also been invited but no response to date.

ACTION – CO to send out the task timetable and collate the Annual Report

The result of the Devolution Deal decision was discussed and in particular the relationship between the Devo Deal participants and NS. There are still many unknowns e.g. New Sec. of State?

The importance of WE partnership updates was raised and it was suggested that the SG Devolution slides are share for information.

Possible options for Area Group meeting admin. support were discussed – Employees within the Sector on contract / SLA's with VCS to provide / self-employed etc.,

Meetings Administrators £8.71. + on costs AGREED

That AG's make their own arrangements from these options was also AGREED

4. Area reports

North Somerset

Successful AGM - GC (Chairman) JB (Vice Chairman) DW and RL Reps.

Speaker NS Director of Development David Carter was followed by a Week of action. TPC were given demonstrations e.g. Pot holes with a view to the future possible devolution of local tasks.

The 2 meetings with the Planning team work well. The 2 other NS meetings need better coordination.

HWB Board aim is for 30% reduction in people using MH services through T&PC activity. Police and Crime Commissioner – A&S police acute stress (safeguarding issues)

South Gloucestershire

One AG meeting focussing on NP meeting was relatively successful but the existence of the T&P Forum still causes friction – yet to be resolved

B&NES

Following the Parish Liaison meeting in May RN and JCW met with Cllrs. Tim Warren & Paul Myers. There is a new Cabinet post Devolocal led by Cllr. Paul Myers

Extra 19th July meeting - Parish Charter review / Devolution

Parish Charters - NS never agreed by TPC but on website. SG in cupboard.

5. To agree ALCA's input into NALC initiatives:

Star Councils

ACTIONS - RN to nominate Westfield and Chew Valley NP (Joint Working) MD to nominate Yate. RL to nominate Nailsea.

This does not exclude CC members making other nominations
DEADLINE 31st July 2016

NALC fee structure review

MD explained the review of the NALC subscriptions and the pros and cons of Council Tax Base and Electorate and the potential impact of both systems on each UA were discussed. Each CC Member is encouraged to make their view known in the review.

CALC baseline survey

It was AGREED that ALCA would participate.
The suggestion of a satisfaction survey was made (MD)

LCR Opinion Survey

Each CC Member is encouraged to participate
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KM9XGDY>

6. To agree actions on individual council issues:

Paulton Parish Council. Invoicing for services from April 2016 to May 2016.

The process for ceasing membership was discussed. It was confirmed that this was carried out as set out in the ALCA Constitution (indicative price sent in November, notification of final cost in February for 31st March payment). The PPC decision to cancel membership was 2 months late and in the meantime the Advice Service was being fully utilised, by members of PPC, but in particular by the new Clerk and books ordered.

To request that these options are tabled on a PPC full council agenda:

- To honour the invoices sent for 20 books at non-membership price
- To request to pay for two-months ALCA / NALC membership and books at membership price
- To request that ALCA considers crediting the supplied books in exchange for full membership being renewed.

Following the move of the Clerk from Keynsham TC (non-member council) to Paulton PC, who have since decided belatedly to cease membership, the SLCC / NALC protocol i.e. SLCC membership Clerks are to actively encourage their councils to take (in PPC's case – to continue) CALC/NALC membership and vice versa was raised and discussed.

The ALCA CO has been nominated as the National CALC rep. on the SLCC / NALC Joint Working Board.

Kelston Parish Meeting. To NOTE that KPM has aspirations to deliver high speed broadband to its residents using Public Works Loan Board funding (IRO £200,000). It has now been established that to do this will necessitate KPM becoming a Parish Council. The governance review process and the speed at which this can be achieved is in the gift of B&NES Council.

Keynsham Town Council. The request for councillor training to be delivered by Sussex CALC to both KTC and Paulton PC was discussed, including ALCA training already delivered with the last 12 months, KTC's attendance at B&NES AG meetings etc.,

ACTION – CO to meet the new Clerk at KTC and work with SALC to deliver the service to mutual benefit.

7. **Next meeting** September 2016 pre AGM. Venue in SG to be confirmed
8. **Any Other Business**

There were no items of AOB