

Avon Local Councils Association
Draft Minutes of the County Committee Meeting Monday 21st September 2015

1. Present

BoB Symons
Rod Lees
Hannah Saunders
Rhiannon Prys-Owen
Geoff Coombs
Tony Heaford
Noel Walter

Apologies

Mike Petersen
Mike Drew
Malcolm Watson

The notes of the Strategy Meeting on 26th August 2015 were accepted as a correct record of the meeting

2. ALCA Finance

The predicted deficit at the 14/15 AGM for this financial year is now unlikely to happen and a credit IRO £2,000i is more likely

The question from NALC re subscription was explained – The Hon. Treasurer used a fast payment system and NALC are Co-op bank customers that don't do Fast Payments. The Calculation from NALC has not taken in the reduced subs agreed by JO for a new member trial has not been included nor part year members pro rata subscriptions, which will be challenged before a payment is made.

If all Local Councils join ALCA / NALC then some free training / reduced membership could be considered in the future

3. Arrangements for the AGM

The key speaker will be Dave Johnson – Senior UWE Planning lecturer who is briefed to put the West of England Planning in context and outline the potential for Local Council involvement in the future

The county Secretary is also supporting a UWE Planning Student through Agency Research Project to explore Neighbourhood Planning, Community Infrastructure Levy and New Homes Bonus which could result in an event to inform LC's in the New Year

If President Tony Crouch is unavailable to Chair the AGM then the host parish council, in this case Long Ashton, will be requested to provide a deputy to Chair the meeting. Clerk has been approached to have someone on standby.

4. The emerging ALCA Development Strategy

A question was raised on the number of meetings and some discussion on the different arrangements for Area Group meetings in the 3 UA areas, such

as joint UA and ALCA Planning meetings in North Somerset. In B&NES the Planning Training courses were supported by PDM separately from ALCA.

There was also discussion on how to get to Chairmen of Councils for direct information – Dropbox that Chairman can dip into?

5. Forward strategy for ALCA Training

Malcolm Watson has resigned as Training Lead.

It was PROPOSED and AGREED to continue with just the Training Co-ordinator (County Secretary) for the time being to streamline the process.

It was proposed that new training opportunities were developed in line with assisting LC to achieve the levels of the Local Council Award Scheme. The Yatton PC experience is that with the new LCAS Councillors have to “own” the award and be more involved at Quality level.

The discussion centred around:

- Using external agencies to deliver on their expertise e.g. CVS for Equal Opportunities training.
- UWE supporting CPD for Town and Parish Councils and research methodology training.
- Children and Young people’s needs in rural area.
- LEP training resources and European funding

Currently under development are:

- Foundation Level Clerks training
- Planning – Presentation at SG ALCA Area Group, sessions presented by Planning Dept. in B&NES, need for session on dealing with predatory developers in NS. Possible future use of UA retirees, Senior Planning Officers
- Training needs surveys at Area Groups
- Clerks Networking events

It was AGREED:

- The need for a Training schedule so that LC can plan for budgeting etc.,
- All training leaders will be paid

6. Representation at the NALC Conference and AGM was AGREED

Rod Lees – 27th only

Mike Drew

Geoff Coombs

County Secretary

7. Any Other Business

Rural Broadband – 5% left behind after roll out - field trial. Identifying areas.
Geoff Coombs to lead.

Next meeting Tuesday 1st December 2015 10:30 Warmley Clocktower