

Avon Local Councils' Association Regional Committee Meeting Monday 20th November 2017

Minutes

1. **Present:** BoB Symons, Dick Whittington, Kathy Thomas, Mike Drew, Geoff Coombs, Clive Fricker, Noel Walter, Deborah White

Apologies: Rhiannon Prys Owen, Rosemary Naish, Dawn Drury, John Malone, Joanna Van Tonder, Jeremy Blatchford, Judith Chubb Whittle

2. Election of the Officials to the Regional Committee

- a. Chairman – BoB Symons, unopposed. AGREED unanimous
- b. Vice Chairman – Kathy Thomas, unopposed. AGREED unanimous
- c. NALC Representative – Mike Drew, unopposed. AGREED unanimous
- d. HR Group – BoB Symons, Kathy Thomas, Dick Whittington

3. Finance Report

Noel Walter

a. General report – Accounts are healthy with income from training above predicted levels. Income surpassed. Pension = £40 per month. 1% this year – 2% next year

b. An explanation was given of the recommendation from the Auditor to write off £100 from the 2011-12 audit and the £45.59 from the 2015-16 audit. £100 Identified by Auditor in 2010 as a result of moving from income and expenditure accounting to receipts and payments accounting. Also noted in 2013 report.

£45.59 is money still left on franking machine. Credit used by NW and reclaimed and therefore no actual loss.

It was AGREED unanimously to write off both amounts.

4. Organisational Issues

a. Feedback from ALCA AGM

Generally agreed that this was a good meeting. Good Speaker well received. Dealing with Regional Committee vacancies was unopposed as a change to the constitution. All three volunteers in SG will be invited to join forces as a UA Area Group and one will be elected to join the Regional Committee.

b. Update on ALCA strategy. The discussion centred on the idea of Health & Well Being as a focus of the ALCA Strategy. There was recognition that there are limits on what a CALC can do other than give encouragement for LC's to develop services. An ALCA conference / seminar was suggested to look at what LC's do already and how can it be developed i.e. Skate park, park, Community Pride, defibs. Gauge interest – tell us what you have done. Encourage best practice, developing case studies and gauging interest in new service provision.

Also, ALCA UA groups to talk to UA's – how can we help? E.g. Trading standards – schemes to reduce scams on vulnerable people.

c. GDPR – implications for ALCA and LC's. Until the final guidance is available, do nothing. Amendments to the Bill are still going through parliament and the new legislation will take up to 2 years to implement. Use the text from the 21st Sept letter from Jonathan Owen (NALC Chief Exec) to reassure panicking Clerks

d. Transparency code RC members agreed to being allocated a selection of smaller councils that have received the grant to do some compliancy
ACTION CO

e. Time of Regional Committee meetings. This meeting was scheduled for an evening to enable members working during the day to attend. They still didn't attend. It was AGREED to try day time meetings during the winter months and evening meetings during the summer.

f. Attendance at the Frome Town Council conference in February. It was AGREED that any RC members wishing to attend would be funded by ALCA.
ACTION CO

5. NALC Business

a. MD has been elected onto the NALC Management and Larger Councils committees.

The NALC is currently reviewing its Strategic Plan. Ongoing work includes:

- lobbying government on the likely impact of GDPR.
- Drafting a new model Clerks employment contract.
- There are some finance issues – AON withdrawal, new service paid quarterly and reduced.
- Agreed new constitution – streamlined committees

BS has put his name forward for election onto the Smaller Councils committee. Support from the ALCA RC was unanimous

ACTION CO - Note to SWLACA national members.

b. KT and MD fed back highlights from the NALC conference and AGM

- 2 motions - 5 year land supply - slows down development and 100% rate relief on toilets.
- The Mayor of Milton Keynes Council gave interesting insight into a fully parished urban district
- Sajid Javid MP almost promised that referendum principles won't be applied to LC's, but may be in the future.
- Angela Rippon on Dementia Friendly Communities – fit with ALCA H&WB Strategy

6. Area reports

a. Bristol

b. B&NES - Parish Charter beginning to gel. There was some discussion about CIL and the bulk of the funding and how it is spent (after 15% taken out). Originally LCs were encouraged to bid, then offer withdrawal – looking for definitive answer on how should work CIL work. ALCA seminar?

Library services BNES keen to transfer of liability to LC's . Should also be transferring the asset.
RC support for Social Media training. Discussion on use of FB – training on using it safely

c. North Somerset

NS planning Forum - Non CIL area
Broadband no info coming out.
Clerks network. JVT – coffee morning.
Hot topics for Forum meetings include - Cyber crime, safeguarding H&W and GDPR.
Spring Forum could focus on H&WB
Parish Liaison Officers being withdrawn – action to find out info.
Devo – to smaller parishes – ideas being explored with the Director around clustering.
The idea of a Larger Councils' forum is supported

d. South Gloucestershire

SG no consultation on CIL decided by Officers as general capital.
Agreed to support Larger Councils.
T&P Forum working up the parish charter, many councillors are double hatters which casts doubt on it quality
6 SG reps. Will be invited to form a working group and a Regional Committee rep. will be selected from that group.

7. Updates / consultations

- a. Disqualification of councillors - What happens if after elected - elected unopposed?
- b. WECA Strategy - Context – causing confusing WECA version of JSP (includes NS) then separate Mayoral plan
Comment as ALCA – rushing to defeat 5 year land supply – not going to work.
Common features i.e. green belt
MD gave an explanation on the process re Inspector and consultation. RC agenda item following Area Group discussions.

8. Any Other Business

ACTION CO – write to each to ask for policy for dissemination of CIL funds
Examples of really good websites – ask for recommendations.
New External Auditors.
Discussion on specification for IA.
Surveys – unanswerable NALC expertise. Had to tick a box even if it didn't apply
Frome confer – 8th Feb. £99 Offer to whole committee. ALCA to pay.
Free fringe event will be advertised in "In Short"

9. Next meeting - 13th February 2018, 10:30 Long Ashton Community Centre.