

Avon Local Councils' Association
Regional Committee Meeting **Thursday 6th September 2018**
Minutes

1.

Present

Noel Walter
Bob Symons
Geoff Coombs
Dick Whittington
Jeremy Blatchford
Kathy Thomas
Mike Drew
John Mallone
Jayne Stansfield
Rhiannon Prys-Owen

Apologies

Clive Fricker
Dawn Drury
Joanna Van Tonder
Rosemary Naish

2. Election of Officers on the ALCA Regional Committee

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| a. Chairman - BoB Symons | unanimous |
| b. Vice Chairman - Kathy Thomas | unanimous |
| c. NALC Representative - Mike Drew | unanimous |

3. ALCA Finance

Noel Walter

- Confirmation was sought of the decision by the Resources Committee that CO's pay for 2018-19 would be SCP 38 **AGREED**
- A recommendation was made that the subscription rate is increased by 2.5% for 2019-20, to the AGM
The discussion focused on the deficit in funding being routinely secured by the provision of training, that the subscriptions should cover core costs.
Even if all eligible councils subscribed to ALCA, there would still be a deficit in funding core costs.
Was the cost of training out of reach of tiny councils? Reserves should cover one-year expenditure, currently slightly over. A plan to reduce the reserves by offering reduced cost training was tabled. To develop a 4 year financial plan. **AGREED**
- A recommendation that the budget for 2019-20 is put to the AGM; £7,000 deficit to be covered from reserve. **AGREED**
- A proposal to accept revisions to the Finance Regulations was put forward, as suggested in Auditor's report. The last review was in 2016. The changes include the change of County Committee to Regional Committee para 9 and a control and safety device – receipts and payment, bank rec, bank statement. **AGREED**

4. Organisational Issues

Chief Officer – Deborah White
Email - avoncalc@gmail.com Tel: 07496 514035

- Final arrangements for the 2017/18 AGM at Timsbury on 6th October were discussed
- A proposal for a change in the selection of the ALCA Representation at the Royal Garden Party was made. That a citation to select all places for decision by the Regional Committee **AGREED**

5. Reports

NALC

Mike Drew

The new NALC strategy, lobbying and service support conversation was noted

The NALC AGM / conference is now fully booked

It was noted that the Larger Councils conference was impacted on by the timing of the NALC AGM and so moved to Spring

Larger Councils

BoB Symons

The Inaugural meeting was held on 26th March. 10 Local Councils were represented (18 people) - non ALCA members were included.

Support was shown to continue meeting six monthly. Topics for discussion included ICO fines, youth provision, travellers, working with WECA.

B&NES

Kathy Thomas

Rosemary Naish has secured a seat on the joint Chairman's' meeting working with BNES – working better with BNES through the Charter.

Parish Liaison meetings – B&NES wanted a Council wanted a small group to do the agenda setting – RN declined and the agenda will still be set at the ALCA meeting. Work being one to persuade Local Councils to engage with ALCA

North Somerset

Geoff Coombs

COE, Head of Dev and Director of Finance moved on and so new communication channels will need to be established.

Successful AGM, with input from Bristol Airport management Clerks network co-ordinated by Joanna Van Tonder is proving successful

South Gloucestershire

BoB Symons

Poor attendance, but now have full committee.

A question was raised - Loosing ground in UA's? Suggestion to Invite leaders and COE of UAs to meet with us. With Devolution services are being stretched and discussions need to be had.

There is general discontent in communities with local government
What's in it for us? Unless Local Councils get involved in health UA's will be in trouble. Preventative work with children equates to £22 per £1 spent.

Social Isolation and loneliness – work to best practice.

A letter to Gary Porter, Chairman of the LGA was proposed

ACTION

Chief Officer – Deborah White

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Parishing

Rhiannon Prys-Owen

The Conservatives and Lib Dems will support it if the other party make the proposal.

Discussions have been had with the Trustee of Vol. Org working in Hartcliffe and Withywood. (Community Activist). In general the community have disassociated themselves with Bristol City Council and maybe prepared to listen re the formation of Local Councils

The other areas selected are Clifton and Bedminster

Bath Wena Hobhouse – negative response

Communication with Adam Shepperd (UWE) – Pippa Goldfinger re Frome TC experience

Talks needed with Pat Rooney, Ina Boulton and Shirley Potts re South Gloucestershire un-parished areas

ACTION

6. Updates / consultations

- Rural Bus Services – ALCA response. Franchising through WECA. UA not giving subsidy. The suggestion was made to strap public transport and develop Comm. Trans.
- Superfast Broadband – NS & BNEs connecting Devon and Somerset Gigastore- delivery to an agreed subset of parishes – coms difficult. Roll out celebrated but on the ground communities are saying that the service is not being delivered. Post code on Open Reach website – overall view not possible.
Feedback needed from Parishes for Geoff to rattle cages.
- JSP next steps. WECA waiting for inspector response – hearing sessions
- Health and Well Being – clinical commissioning groups. Cities of Service – volunteering on reducing isolation. Role for Local Councils for discussion at next meeting

7. Any Other Business

- Local Councils taking on consultants not registered for HMRC
- Innovative approaches to reducing litter – group of parishes working together potential.

8. Date and location of the next meeting
TBC

B&NES in December