

Minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting of the Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils

Held at Kettering Conference Centre, Kettering
Saturday 1 October 2022

Item																											
<p>1. Welcome & housekeeping.</p> <p>Northants CALC Deputy CEO, Lesley Sambrook Smith opened the meeting and welcomed delegates. There were 163 attendees in total, with 116 registered councillors and clerks representing over ninety member councils. The meeting was chaired by Mike Scott (MS), Chair of Northants CALC, who welcomed everyone to the meeting, including delegates, VIP guests, and sponsors.</p>																											
<p>2. Appointment of President for 2022/23.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Jeffrey Greenwell be appointed as President for 2022/23. MS thanked him for his service to the Association.</p>																											
<p>3. Appointment of Auditor for the year ending 31 March 2023.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Kate Brown Accountant be appointed as the auditor for the year ending 31 March 2023.</p>																											
<p>4. Appointment of Directors for 2022/23.</p> <p>The Appointments Panel recommended the following for reappointment at the AGM:</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>No.</th><th>Name</th><th>Qualifying Council</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1.</td><td>Peter Allen</td><td>Towcester Town Council</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Ally Chang</td><td>Finedon Town Council</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>David Fuller</td><td>Oundle Town Council</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>Lynn Lavender</td><td>Ashton Parish Council</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>Richard Lewis</td><td>Rushden Town Council</td></tr><tr><td>6.</td><td>Geoff Paul</td><td>Moulton Parish Council</td></tr><tr><td>7.</td><td>Mike Scott</td><td>Great Addington Parish Council</td></tr><tr><td>8.</td><td>Lynne Taylor</td><td>Daventry Town Council</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>RESOLVED: That the eight candidates be appointed en bloc as directors for the year 2022/23.</p>	No.	Name	Qualifying Council	1.	Peter Allen	Towcester Town Council	2.	Ally Chang	Finedon Town Council	3.	David Fuller	Oundle Town Council	4.	Lynn Lavender	Ashton Parish Council	5.	Richard Lewis	Rushden Town Council	6.	Geoff Paul	Moulton Parish Council	7.	Mike Scott	Great Addington Parish Council	8.	Lynne Taylor	Daventry Town Council
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<p>5. To approve the minutes of the 74th AGM held on 2 October 2021</p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting and were signed by the chair.</p>																											

6. To receive the Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2022

MS commended the Annual Report and Accounts to the AGM.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report & Accounts be received and noted.

7. To determine subscription levels for the year ending 31 March 2024.

The board of directors recommended that the per council element of the Northants CALC membership fee for the year starting 1 April 2023 and ending 31 March 2024 be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2022 – 8.8%) from £166.76 to £181.43 and that the per elector element of the Northants CALC membership fee for the year starting 1 April 2023 and ending 31 March 2024 be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2022 – 8.8%) from 25.02 pence to 27.23 pence.

Larger councils (10,000 – 30,000 electorate) are charged a fixed fee for membership of Northants CALC. The board of directors recommends to the AGM that the fixed fee per council for the year starting 1 April 2023 and ending 31 March 2024 be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2021 – 8.8%) from £2,668.14 to £2,902.93 per council. The total fee payable will therefore be (£2,902.93 + NALC Affiliation fee). The equivalent fee for super councils (30,000 + electors) is increased from £4,846.91 to £5,273.44. The total fee payable will therefore be (£5,273.44 + NALC Affiliation fee).

Parish Meetings with less than 100 electors AND no precept are offered affiliate membership for 2023/24 free of charge. The maximum fee that any council or parish meeting pays is capped at £1 per elector.

RESOLVED: That the board's recommendations be approved.

8. CiLCA, Councillor Development Framework, & LCAS Awards

MS recognised the officers that had completed their Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) since the last conference:

Firstname	Surname	Council
Maureen	Holliday	Pitsford Parish Council
Clare	Valentine	Kilsby Parish Council
Marion	Goodman	Northampton Town Council
Emma	Needham	Crick Parish Council
Andy	Tennet	Tiffield Parish Council
Ally	Chang	Finedon Town Council

MS then recognised the councillors that have achieved an award under the Councillor Development Framework (CDF). A list of 46 names was read out by DM

And finally, MS recognised Irthlingborough Town Council for achieving "Quality" standard in the Local Council Award Scheme.

9. Council of the Year Award

DM read out the commendation for the Council of the Year, which was awarded to Moulton Parish Council. DM said: "*All great councils need three things: a great clerk, a great chair, and a great team of councillors. Moulton Parish Council has those ingredients in spades, with a small staff team that is led by a passionate, dedicated, and exceptional clerk.*" "*The parish council will be having a genuine impact on people's quality of life and health and wellbeing. Most importantly, the upstream money that this council is investing will be saving tens, maybe even hundreds, of times more than that further downstream. Just the services it provides that reduce loneliness and social isolation could be saving millions of pounds.*"

The award was presented by Northants CALC President, Jeffrey Greenwell, to the chair of Moulton Parish Council, Cllr David Aarons, and vice chair, Cllr Geoff Paul.

10. Northants CALC Past, Present, & Future

DM gave a presentation looking back over the 75-year history of the Association and picking out the key moments along the way. He then looked at what the next five to ten years might bring for the parish and town council sector and what the Association needs to do to support member councils. At the end of the presentation, DM formally launched *The History of the Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils and its predecessors between 1947 and 2012 (Updated 2022)*, which had been updated for the 75th Anniversary by Eric Franklin.

11. Morning Breakout Session

a) What Can Parish & Town Councils Do About the Cost-of-Living Crisis?

DM facilitated a discussion on the cost-of-living crisis focusing on what councils can do directly to reduce their own costs (e.g., energy), what they can do to help residents to reduce their costs, and what they can do to support other agencies who are trying to help residents. Suggestions from the floor ranged from warm rooms to community larders, and from community solar schemes to debt management advice. Notes were circulated after the meeting.

b) Local Policing & Community Safety – Working in Partnership with Northamptonshire Police

Chief Inspector Nathan Murray highlighted that to match the geography of the unitary councils in the county, there is now the North and West Local Policing Area, along with a Countywide Community Safety Department. One focus of the force strategy is local policing, and this is partially being fuelled from the Locally Identified Priorities surveys. During the question section, the need for communication streams to be centralised was raised – as well as issues relating to speeding and the relevance of the Neighbourhood Watch to Northamptonshire Police.

12. Afternoon Breakout Session

a) Question Time Panel (West Northamptonshire)

DM chaired a panel comprising Keith Stevens – Chair, NALC, Anna Earnshaw, CEO, WNC, and ACC Ash Tuckley – Northants Police. The questions included the role of parish and town councils in health and wellbeing, rural transport, remote meetings, civility and respect, and parish-sponsored PCSOs. DM thanked the panellists for engaging with the session and for their forthright responses.

b) Question Time Panel (North Northamptonshire)

MS chaired a panel comprising Jonathan Owen – CEO, NALC, David Watts – Executive Director, NNC, and Ch Sup Adam Ward – Northants Police. The questions ranged from considering how to get people involved in the community and that “*there is no such thing as a hard-to-reach community, we just don’t know what mechanism to use to reach them*”, to discussions around how traveller sites were policed and when static sites would be provided by NNC (David Watts confirmed that the Travellers Plan will be released soon). A point was raised regarding how councils can partner to support each other and how local bus services are practically non-existent in the rural areas of the county. MS thanked all the panellists for taking part.

13. Climate Change & What Parish & Town Councils Can Do About It

Ed Gemmell is a parish councillor and chairman of the Climate Emergency Working Party in Hazlemere and is on NALC's climate emergency committee. He is also a Buckinghamshire Unitary Councillor sitting on the Transport Environment and Climate Change Committee and a member of the LGA's Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board. He works as Managing Director of Scientists Warning Europe and has just started a political party called The Climate Party.

Ed gave an overview of the climate crisis and described the progress, or lack thereof, that had been made at COP26. He described some of the initiatives that Hazlemere Parish Council has implemented, including Bee Squared (wildflower planting), a Repair Café and advanced recycling, and a series of open talks on climate issues. The council aims to reach net zero by 2030 and has a range of plans in the pipeline, including Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) and a food-waste reduction scheme.

LSS thanked Ed for his inspirational presentation and reminded delegates about the Northants CALC Climate Conference on 22 November 2022.

14. Prize Draw & Closing Remarks

DM asked Ed Gemmell to draw the winner of the prize draw. The £300 in vouchers and a bottle of Prosecco, generously donated by Wicksteed Playgrounds, was won by Watford Parish Council.

MS thanked everyone that had taken part in the conference, especially the sponsors and exhibitors whose generous support enabled the event to take place at the Kettering Conference Centre. He also thanked the special guests, speakers, and panellists and the staff at Northants CALC for all the arrangements.

In closing, MS thanked all the delegates for their interaction and engagement with the sessions, which had made the event such a success.

15. Close.

MS announced that the 76th Annual Conference will take place on Saturday 7 October 2023 at Moulton Community Centre, and he asked people to put the date in their diaries.

The conference closed at 3:45 p.m.

Signed: _____

Date: _____