

Minutes of the Meeting of the County Committee held on 16th January 2018 at the Edgar Hall, Somerton

Present: Dave Mitton (Chairman), Jenny Lawrence, Jean Allgrove, Godfrey Townrow, Anne Reeder, Rue Losey

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Loretta Whetlor and Peter Seib. The CEO reported that David Aldridge had been badly injured in a car accident and undertook to update members when more information was available. Members asked the CEO to pass on their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved. It was noted that the new office license agreement had now been signed.

3. Finance Update

The CEO updated members on the current financial position and reminded them of the challenges that came with the final year of the electoral cycle. The following resolutions were unanimously agreed:

- To approve the budget requirements for 2018/19
- To approve an increase in affiliation fees of 2% across all bands
- To recommend that we move to a four-year budget to run with the quadrennial electoral cycle
- To investigate ways to further expand our membership
- To add Loretta Whetlor, Jenny Lawrence and Simon Pritchard to the pool of online bank signatories
- To sign the CCLA Property Fund investment form
- To note that the CEO has completed and returned the declaration of compliance to the Pension's Regulator

4. Status of the Association

Members received an update from the chairman and deemed it appropriate to instruct a solicitor to review the work to date. The CEO and Chairman will arrange to meet with Rosie Parr of Lancaster Parr at the earliest opportunity, with any subsequent actions to be delegated to the Management Committee.

5. Area Meetings

Members considered feedback from the AGM and noted that additional members were still needed in the North and East areas. It was agreed that a round of meetings should be considered for the Spring and noted that Simon Pritchard would be investigating methods of delivering meetings in the East area.

6. *Reports from Representatives:*

The NALC Conference had been attended by three members from the association and had been an interesting event, with Cllr Mike Brownlow (Bruton Town Council) winning Councillor of the Year at the Star Council awards.

NALC's National Council will now be called the National Assembly and will meet 3 times a year instead of 4. Officers and committees will now be elected on a biennial cycle although it was also noted that the thresholds for some committees were less than ideal (especially for the larger/smaller council committees).

NALC would be holding another Lobby Day session in March.

Members considered a motion from SWCLCA regarding changes to data protection legislation: "To consider lobbying the government to secure financial aid for local authorities" and unanimously recommended its adoption.

7. *Service Update from the County Executive Officer*

The CEO updated members on current service demands and key issues; many of which he hoped to address through an increase in training courses over the Summer. New courses are being planned to address data protection, planning and employment procedures.

The chairman reported that the parishing of Taunton was likely to be considered further once the question of district council reorganisation has been determined.

The issue of regional devolution is also now being progressed, although work on the Productivity Plan did not meet with universal approval at a joint consultation event attended by SALC and DALC representatives.

The CEO highlighted the positive response from DCLG on the issue of referenda principles and the long overdue financial certainty this will bring for the sector over the next three years.

8. *Items from Committee Members*

Members considered SCC's proposals to withdraw funding from Speed Indicator Devices and discussed the merits of parishes working together to continue to provide SIDs. It was noted that the county council has now come forward with alternative proposals that will enable it to provide a SID programme on a full cost recovery basis.

It was agreed that this could form the basis for the next area meetings and that the CEO would liaise with Dave Grabham from SCC.

9. *Dates and times for future meetings*

County Committee: May 2018