

Minutes of the meeting of the County Committee held on June 23rd 2017 at the Edgar Hall, Somerton

Present: Dave Mitton (Chairman), Jean Allgrove, Jenny Lawrence, Godfrey Townrow, Loretta Whetlor

In attendance: Justin Robinson (CEO)

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from David Aldridge, Rue Losey, Claire Wright, Ann Reeder, Terry Philpott and Peter Seib

The CEO informed members that Chris Britton had sadly passed away and that Antony Carr had now resigned as a parish councillor.

2) Recruitment of a new staff member

The chairman updated members on meetings he had held with the CEO regarding the need for an additional member of staff to replace Sam Winter. It was agreed that the Management Committee should seek to recruit an Assistant CEO, to initially work for 15 hours a week, on a salary scale of points 22-25 on the NJC scale.

3) Arrangements for the AGM

It was agreed that the format for the previous year's AGM had worked well and that attendance had been good. It was felt that it would be best to stick to the same formula, depending on the availability of guest speakers. It was agreed that David Fothergill and David Warburton should be invited as guest speakers and that a free lunch should be provided.

The annual report should also be kept to the same format, with contributions from representatives as previously.

4) Status of the Association

The chairman reminded members that principle agreement had been given by members at the AGM to change the status of the association to a not for profit company limited by guarantee. Draft articles of association would now be finalised and circulated to County Committee members for further comment.

5) Finance Update

The CEO was in the process of finalising the end of year accounts prior to submission to Apsleys. Once Apsleys has reported, it will be possible to close the Natwest accounts down as previously agreed and open a new savings account with Aldermore.

The CCLA Property Fund will first require a report from an IFA, as the association is classified as a small investor. This report should be available for consideration at the next meeting of the committee.

6) Representatives Reports

Loretta Whetlor had attended the NALC Spring Conference which had been a very impressive event. Several committee members had also attended the SWCLA's conference at Taunton Rugby Club; the event had been very well attended with some excellent speakers, including the new head of the parish council's unit at DCLG. Loretta and the chairman had also attended a joint meeting with Devon on devolution and productivity.

7) Services update

The CEO reported that it had been a slow start to the year with training but bookings were looking far better for summer. New courses were being planned to cover information governance, safeguarding/equalities and internal/external audit.

The Transparency Fund is still open to applications and further work was needed to ensure that councils are now compliant.

The CEO was in the process of meeting with all the district council Standards Committees to discuss ways in which the association might be able to assist with some of the cases referred to the monitoring officers. This had been well received to date.

8) Items from members

Godfrey Townrow raised the issue of the disproportionate guarantees being requested by Mavern Insurance. As Mavern are used by AON, it was agreed that this issue should be raised with NALC.

Jenny Lawrence reported that the SPFA AGM would be on 19th September.

Next meeting: TBC for late August