

## Eden Association of Local Councils

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Eden Association of Local Councils held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this was a virtual meeting.

Present:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Parish Council</b>
Sue Castle-Clarke	Chair EALC & Ousby PC
Jane Tea	Vice Chair EALC & Kirkoswald PC
Joan Raine	Crosby Ravensworth PC
Val Vamplew	Mallerstang PM
June Watson	Murton PC
Meg Hancock	Newby PM
Phil Hancock	Morland PC
Bob Towers	Skelton PC
Lesley Robson	Morland PC
Frances Lee	Mungrisdale PC
Chloe Randall	Shap PC
Mary Robinson	Ainstable PC
Stephen Crowsley	Castle Sowerby PC
Samantha Bagshaw	Chief Officer, CALC
Amanda McCleery	Parish Liaison Officer, CALC

In attendance Sonia Hutchinson (Parish Development Officer).

Sue Castle-Clarke (Acting Chair) welcomed all those present to the EALC AGM 2020 and explained that following the formal business of the AGM the guest speaker would be Angela Lewis from "Fields in Trust".

## **Part 1**

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from

Andrew Bedford Brough PC

Ailsa McKenzie Brough PC

Pat Jones Brough PC

Barton PC

Bolton PC

Mungrisdale PC

Grattan Bowen, Penrith TC

### **2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

### **3. Matters Arising**

Sue Castle-Clarke pointed out some of the topics that were identified at the last AGM as possible workshops: -

Planning had been suggested and CALC have delivered a number of planning sessions over the last year;

Keeping Communities tidy was also suggested but it was felt that individual councils are in the best position to decide what they want to undertake as a council;

Social media and marketing, again this is something that is delivered by CALC as a training session for individuals or councils as a whole.

Sue Castle-Clarke asked if anyone has any topics they would like to see as workshops in the coming year.

Jane Tea pointed out that there will be a joint workshop being held with County Council and Eden District Council on Covid-19 at the end of July.

If anyone has any ideas they would like an opportunity to discuss through a Clerk Forum or workshop please email Sonia and let her know.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

Sue Castle-Clarke read out the Chairman's report as outlined below: -

#### Summary

Plans for a programme of interactive workshops have been interrupted in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic but Eden Association of Local Councils has continued to build on the success of interactive workshops and has introduced virtual

networking events to help councillors and clerks stay in touch and remain up-to-speed.

#### District officers

At the September 2019 AGM, a district officer team was elected comprising Sue Castle-Clarke as Chairperson, Jane Tea as Vice-Chairperson and Sonia Hutchinson as Parish Liaison Officer. Sue and Jane were also elected as Eden representatives at the CALC.

#### Executive meetings

Interactive forum and virtual networking events

Early in the year prior to the Covid-19 lockdown, Eden Association of Local Councils offered town and parish councils and parish meetings within Eden the opportunity to rub shoulders, compare notes and share ideas through an interactive councillor and clerk forum workshop on 'finance and transparency'. Town and parish councils were asked if they had fully thrown open their doors.

The Covid-19 lockdown has dramatically changed how local councils may go about their activities. To enable clerks and councillors to get a handle on new ways of communicating and working, virtual networking events have been held, in which almost two thirds of Eden's parishes have participated.

An additional interactive virtual event is planned before the summer break to give towns and parishes the opportunity to link with colleagues at Cumbria County Council and Eden District Council.

#### Clerks' support

Clerks are the backbone of every parish council. Their continuous professional development has been supported by Sonia, our Parish Liaison Officer, through various 1:1 coaching sessions for new and experienced clerks throughout the district.

I would like to thank our Vice-Chairperson, Jane Tea, Parish Liaison Officer, Sonia Hutchinson and colleagues at Cumbria Association of Local Councils, Eden District Council and Cumbria County Councils for all their help and support in making possible the success of this challenging year.

I also wish to thank Eden's town and parish councils, parish meetings and clerks for their time and participation at our forum and networking events and encourage you to continue having your say in shaping the future of our communities as we emerge from the Covid-19 lockdown and establish a new 'normal'.

Jane Tea then thanked Sue Castle-Clarke for all the work she has done for the Eden Association in the last year.

## **5. Election of Officers**

Sue Castle-Clarke, Ousby PC was nominated and duly elected as Chairman and Jane Tea, Kirkoswald PC was nominated and duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

## 6. Election of Representatives to the CALC Executive

Sue Castle-Clarke, Ousby PC and Jane Tea, Kirkoswald PC were elected as the representatives on the CALC Executive Committee.

Sue Castle-Clarke closed the business section of the AGM and asked Angela Lewis to give her talk on “Protecting Parks for future generations.

### Part 2

Angela gave a presentation which covered: -

Fields in Trust strategy - Green Spaces for Good (GSfG) sets out why we protect, support and champion parks and green spaces.

Parks and green spaces are places of joy and togetherness enjoyed by the entire community from pre-school children through to retired adults. We all have fond memories of our favourite places to play, to enjoy sport and to access the natural world. Parks provide places for exhilarating fun – or a moment of quiet reflection.

Yet we know that these much-loved green spaces are vulnerable to development if they are not protected - and once a park is gone, it is gone forever

Fields in Trust Research –

- » Robust economic valuation of parks and green spaces.
- » HM Treasury Green Book approved methodology to measure the value of non-market goods.
- » Business case to demonstrate the value of parks and green spaces to counter the cost.

Results of the research –

- » Maximising Health outcomes
- » Minimising NHS Costs
- » Using outdoor spaces as the hub of the community
- » Analysis of the green spaces across the country and what they are used for

Fields in Trust Effect –

Building on our Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces research findings we have developed the Green Space Index to illustrate the situation and provide analysis on the social benefits parks and green spaces bring to communities. Through our GSfG strategy we are creating an evidence-led approach and calling for parks and green spaces to be revalued, not for what they cost to maintain but for the value they contribute to society

What are the opportunities for councils –

- » Asset transfer of green spaces to T&PCs
- » Opportunity empowers T&PCs to consider protection of new and existing green spaces

- » Safeguards against future local government reorganisation – merging into new council boundaries
- » Protects against town and village green spaces being absorbed into new strategic frameworks less sympathetic to local green spaces...

Protection of green spaces –

- » Most parks and green spaces have no statutory protection.
- » Independent of the planning process
- » Significantly less susceptible to development
- » No disposal of land
- » Ownership, management and maintenance retained by landowner
- » Flexible and robust protection method
- » Fields in Trust work collaboratively with our partners and funders to protect this land through a *Minute of Agreement* – a binding commitment with the landowner – which allows it to be secured in perpetuity, for current and future generations to enjoy.

Full presentation will be circulated with the minutes.

The meeting closed at 8pm

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