

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

Annual General Meeting 2022

Notes of the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils held on Saturday the 29th October 2022

This was a virtual meeting held on the Teams platform starting at 10.30am

Present:

Name	Council	Name	Council
Sonia Hutchinson	Chief Officer CALC	Gordon Nicolson	Lazonby PC
Sue Castle-Clarke	Chair CALC	Bob Kelly	Millom TC
David Graham	President	Meg Hancock	Newby PC
Holly Ho	Alston TC	Phil Hancock	Morland PC
Peter Smillie	Arnside PC	John Houghton	Natland PC
Peter Greifenberg	Beetham PC	Lynn Bell	Pennington PC
Alison Riddell	Brampton PC	Dave Knaggs	Penrith TC
David Wilson	Brigham PC	Valerie Bowen	Penrith TC
Nick Ford	Cleator Moor TC	Viv Tunnadine	Penrith TC
Jonathan Davies	Clifton CC	Doug Sim	St Bees PC
Trevor Allison	Cummersdale PC	Mark Kidd	Staveley with Ings PC
Judith Derbyshire	Dacre PC	Julia Dobson	Wetheral PC
Ann Byers	Dalston PC	Mike Higginbotham	Wetheral PC
Bryan Craig	Dalston PC	Christine Hallatsch	Windermere & Bowness TC
Andy Pratt	Drigg & Carleton PC	Leith Hallatsch	Windermere & Bowness TC
Lorna Baker	Kirkby Thore PC	William Miskelly	Workington TC
Jane Tea	Kirkoswald PC	Howard Cox	FairFuelUK.com
Philip Thompson	Lakes PC	Steve Shaw	Power for People

In attendance: Rachael Kelly, (Town & Parish Development Officer), Lindsay Nicholson and Chis Shaw (Parish Support Officers) and Kate McGibbon (Project Officer – resilience)

Cllr. Sue Castle-Clarke, Chair of CALC, opened the meeting.

Part 1

The Chair welcomed the guest speakers advising that the first part of CALC's annual general meeting involves 2 speakers, Steve Shaw of 'Power for People' and Howard Cox for 'FairFuelUK.com'.

Steve Shaw – Power for People

Steve introduced Power for People, whose aim is to accelerate the transition to renewable energy, and to also make sure that local people and local communities' benefit.

The key topics covered included

What community energy generates in relation to the total generating capacity of the UK.

The potential for community energy to grow in the next 10 years.
 What solutions are being proposed.
 What Power for the People have done – i.e. the drafting of the local electricity bill.
 What support there is in Parliament.
 What parish councils can do to help.

Howard Cox – FairFuelUK.com

Howard introduced FairFuelUK.com and explained how they campaign on a number of issues including ending the war on motorists. Fair Fuel UK have recently published a report about the economy, economic impacts of the 2030 diesel petrol bans and are lobbying on setting up 'PumpWatch' to independently monitor prices at fuel forecourts throughout the UK.

Part 2

Business Agenda – D. Graham president presiding

1. Apologies

Parish / Town Council	Parish/Town Council
Allhallows PC	
Bolton PC	
Brough PC	
Gilcruix PC	
Hayton and Mealo PC	
Parton PC	
Plumbland PC	
Stanwix Rural PC	
Ulpha PM	
Clerk Lynn Bell	Pennington PC
Cllr. W. Huck	Burneside PC
Cllr. J. Raine	Crosby Ravensworth PC
Cllr. K Tripp	Windermere TC

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th October 2021

The following amendments were agreed:

Cllr. Davies attended on behalf of Clifton, not Penrith Town Council

David Graham was recorded as Cllr David Graham, when not a councillor

Following the above changes the minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the President

3. Presentation of the CALC 2021/22 Annual Review

S. Hutchinson advised that the annual review had been circulated prior to the meeting and hoped all had an opportunity to read through the review. S. Hutchinson advised that there had been a lot of parish and town council projects included within the review and that it was

brilliant to see what parish and town councils have been doing for biodiversity. The Annual Review was noted as received.

4. Presentation of the Statement of Accounts

In the absence of the Honorary Treasurer, the Chief Officer, S. Hutchinson presented the Statement of Accounts, which have been audited and signed off by Saint & Co.

S. Hutchinson advised that a grant for £37,000 had been received from Public Health in the financial year 2021/22, the funding was to establish a temporary Resilience Project Officer role within CALC. As the staffing appointment for this role was after the year end, this grant makes the reserves at the end of the financial year look far greater than they are in reality as the monies from this bid are being spent during 2022/2023. Also due to some vacancies in early 2022, the salary costs were not as high as anticipated, this again giving a further increase to the reserves.

Cllr. J Davies raised the following questions:

There are two lines for radioactive waste management, what's that covering, please?

There is a zoom outgoing of £124. Is that factual?

Honoraria. What's that actually cover?. There's a £500 amount.

S. Hutchinson responded:

During the financial year, monies were received towards officer costs at CALC and they were paid out to two members of staff at the time.

CALC are supported by Cumbria County Council ICT services and are unable to establish a zoom account on County Council laptops. So at the very beginning, when we were dealing with Covid and before we moved on to Teams, the previous Chief Executive had to take out a zoom account on her own private laptop to engage with parish councils who were utilizing zoom. This is the reimbursement for that charge.

Honoraria are amounts of money that are paid to cover expenses incurred by those individuals that are entitled to receive it within the CALC Constitution.

The Statement of Accounts were noted as received.

5. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected for 2022/2023

President Mr. D. Graham

Hon Treasurer Ms. J Hardy

S. Hutchinson advised that J. Hardy intends to retire from this role at the end of the financial year.

6. Appointment of Auditors

The reappointment of Saint and Co as the Association's auditors was approved.

7. Appointment of Executive Committee

The president asked the members to approve the nominations to the Executive from the District Associations.

The nominations to the Executive from the District Associations were approved.

8. To determine the annual increase of the CALC subscription fees for 2023/24.

For the year 2023/24, the AGM approved an increase of £5,373 in the portion of CALC membership fees, including an increase to the CALC membership fee for all parish meetings by £1.00 (2022/23 £36.00 fee for parish meetings becomes £37.00 in 2023/24).

9. Proposed change to the legal structure of CALC

Questions were raised both verbally and on the “chat” about consultation with local councils. All councils were invited to the Q&A Session held 17th October 2022 and then to the AGM to put their views across. The AGM date had been deferred for 5 weeks, allowing councils extra time to discuss the proposed change to the legal structure of CALC and the draft CIO constitution document.

Following a lengthy discussion, the AGM approved the draft constitution for future implementation by CALC and agreed that it may be used to support an application to the Charity Commission for Cumbria Association of Local Councils to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

CONCLUDING REMARKS – Cllr. Sue Castle-Clarke, Chair of CALC, stated that the cost-of-living squeeze affects all local councils, which are in a unique place to help communities through the economic challenges that lie ahead. Support for the Local Electricity Bill and for PumpWatch are two things that councils can do straight away, with no costs attached.

Cllr. Castle-Clarke then closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and patience.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm