

CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of CALC's Executive Committee held on Saturday 25th June 2016 at 10.00 am at the Community Fire Station, Penrith.

PRESENT:

Ronnie Auld
Peter Bales
Ann Byers
Jill Hay
David Huxley
Leslie Johnson
Brian Kennish
Bob Mather
Rick Petecki
David Peters

In attendance: Samantha Bagshaw, Chief Officer.

Before the meeting started, the Chairman invited members to rise for a minute's silence in remembrance of Councillor Keith Morgan, who had served as a town councillor since 1983 and been a Member of the CALC Executive for 25 years.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were received from Leith Hallatsch, Keith Hitchen, Craig Nicholson, Geoff Smith, Margaret Throp and Stan Simpson.

MINUTES

2. The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 16th January 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

3. With regard to **paragraph 8**, it was noted that the Cumbria Accessibility and Transport Partnership is no longer in existence and that a CALC representative was not required on the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust.

CALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4. It was noted that with the passing of Keith Morgan in April, the following vacancies needed to be filled:

- a) A seat on NALC's National Council
- b) A seat on the Cumbria Rural Forum

The Executive Committee agreed:

- a) That Rick Petecki would represent CALC on the National Council of NALC, with Ronnie Auld deputising.
- b) That Ronnie Auld would represent CALC on the Cumbria Rural Forum

AMENDMENTS TO CALC'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

5. It was **agreed** that CALC's representation on national and local bodies for 2015/16 be as set out in the schedule appended to these minutes. **See Appendix 1**
Agreed – Chief Officer to check if the **Rural Crime Stakeholder Group** is still in existence.

CALC FINANCE WORKING GROUP

6. The Chief Officer reported on the progress of the CALC Finance Working Group. Consideration had been given to how to secure CALC's financial future in the face of continuing budgetary pressure on the principal authorities. It was agreed that the top priority should be continuing to provide members with the best service possible. Updating the website has been part of this process.

7. The Chief Officer reported that she had also produced a factual document for the County Council, outlining the functions of CALC. **See Appendix 2**

8. the Finance Working Group recommended that a proposal for additional resources for CALC should be explored. This was considered in light of the following:

- a) Reduction in grant from Cumbria County Council
- b) Increased workload for CALC involved in supporting parishes with an increased workload due to, in part, devolution of assets/services to parish councils
- c) Challenges to secure CALC's future finances

9. Additional Workload

There was recognition that the current resources available to CALC staff were insufficient to achieve the aims that were discussed. It was suggested that additional resources, for a limited time period, would be needed to achieve them. These resources could be met from reserves.

10. The Additional Resources would fund:

1. Collation of parish data, to create a detailed picture of Cumbria's 233 parish councils. There was an in-depth survey undertaken in 2006 and since then, there hasn't been a comprehensive survey of assets run or managed by parish councils.

The purpose of collecting data is:

- a) To have an up to date list of the services and assets being delivered by pcs and the different methodology being used to deliver them.
- b) To understand what this transfer of assets and services may be saving principal authorities
- c) To understand how these changes impact on the support CALC gives
- d) To survey parishes' satisfaction with the service CALC offers and, what CALC can do to improve their service to parishes

2. The Chief Officer to attend the additional meetings with the principal authorities whilst they are endeavouring to work more closely with parish councils.
3. The organisation of a series of development days in districts to share expertise and build expertise in managing assets, budgets, running services etc
4. Developing proposals for securing income from other sources
5. Writing a Medium Term Financial Plan that addresses potential reductions in principal authority grants, to be brought to the Executive Committee in October

11. Resources

To achieve the aims above the following is proposed:

Additional hours, Chief Officer extra workload:

6 hours p/wk for 24 weeks total: **£2,764.80**

Additional hours, CALC Parish Development Officer/Admin Assistant

6 hours a week for 8 weeks total: **£724.32**

Additional travel and subsistence costs **£200.00**

Total £3,689.12

It was noted by the President of CALC that any usage of reserves must be considered very carefully.

12. It was agreed that:

- a) The Chief Officer circulate the note given to Cumbria County Council regarding CALC's functions.
- b) That a Medium Term Financial Plan/Business Plan for CALC need to be brought to the next Executive Committee.
- c) That the committee approve the additional resource requested.

CALC AGM

13. The Committee discussed the items. On the subject of a proposed increase in affiliation fees for parishes, that a budget should be drawn up which would indicate why any proposed increase was necessary and how it would be spent. The following was agreed:

- a) That the AGM should have the theme - 'Parishes' role in a changing world' and a speaker be sought to explore these issues
- b) That the Constitutional amendments should be accepted with minor amendments – see the amended constitution at **Appendix 3**
- c) That a budget for 2017/18 must be brought to the next Executive Committee meeting demonstrating the need and size of any proposed increase in subscription feeds.

- d) That before the Executive considers an additional seat for a representative for Barrow, that Barrow parish councilors should attend the South Lakeland District Association meetings and see if their involvement in this group addresses their needs for greater involvement and representation.

CUMBRIA FLOOD PARTNERSHIP

14. The Chairman reported on the last meeting of the Cumbria Flood Partnership. The partnership was updated on the progress of the flood plan. The draft plan documents (summary and main list of actions) are currently with the Minister and the Secretary of State for final comments. It will be published over summer (there will be a digital version of the plan available in November).

15. It was noted that the plans based on the flood investigations have been completed to date - speaking to communities and an overall perspective of catchments. The action plan will be a 'living plan', evolving as actions are completed or new issues emerge. The majority of actions (100 in total) in the plan are applicable across all the catchments.

16. The key areas it looks at are:

- a) Vulnerability of critical infrastructure.
- b) Role of bridges (contribution to flooding and vulnerability)
- c) Review of help reservoirs can offer.
- d) Development of natural flood management.
- e) Community flood action group development.
- f) Growth Deal bid (protect infrastructure/economic growth)
- g) Pilot catchments (in which the EA hopes to test new approaches and act as demonstrators. They are: Stcokdalewath, Braithwaite, Patterdale and Staveley).

17. Post Flood Plan publication:

- a) Engagement with communities will continue after the plan has been published.
- b) Complete remaining flood investigation reports, with additional bids for investment.
- c) Agree governance and reporting arrangements for CFP action plan.
- d) Commence actions in plans.

18. Preparation for this winter was also discussed. This was mainly from an Environment Agency perspective.

- a) Inspected over 3,300 raised defences at cost of over £1m.
- b) 159 defences damaged. 75% repaired. 100% by autumn.
- c) Repair of drains, walls, bridges (3) and A591.
- d) United Utilities looking at Thirlmere for flood storage capability.
- e) Will have removed 70,000 tonnes of gravel from river channels.
- f) Increased access to national network of pumps, sandbags and 40km of temporary defences.

LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK ITEMS

19. **Lake District National Park Partnership meeting.** The Chief Officer reported back from the meeting held at the University of Cumbria, Ambleside campus on 20th June. Items on the agenda were:

- i. The University of Cumbria Ambleside Strategy – a briefing on the progress and development of the Ambleside campus
 - ii. The Cumbria Flood Partnership – update Jim Ratcliffe, Environment Agency
 - iii. Partnership updates included:
 - **World Heritage Bid** – it was requested that all partners do everything they can to promote the World Heritage Bid for the National Park. There was discussion of the UNESCO status for the park bringing additional benefits to growth in tourism both inside and outside the national park.
 - **National Grid’s North West Coast Connections** project. These included:
 - a. Lord Clarke, Chairman of the LDNP Partnership, raising a question in the House of Lords
 - b. Friends of the Lake District/National Trust meeting with National Grid
 - c. The Chief Executive, and others, meeting MPs at Westminster to get support for their views on the National Grid’s proposals.
 - d. Representatives of the LDNPA meeting OfGen in Glasgow to discuss the proposals from National Grid.
 - e. Lord Clarke is interviewing the National Grid imminently on their proposals for the National Park.
 - iv. An update on improvements to the Partnership being implemented including changing locations for the meeting, partners hosting the meeting and informal networking sessions.
20. **Parish Member Election 2016** – Councillor Colin Barr was nominated to represent the South Distinctive Area on the National Park Authority and the Secretary of State confirmed his nomination.

TRAINING AND WEBSITE

21. The report on training was noted.

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

22. The Committee received the reports from the district associations

REPORTS FROM CALC REPRESENTATIVES

23. The Committee received a verbal update from Rick Petecki who had attended a **Public Health Alliance** meeting on 9 June 2016 on behalf of CALC. The meeting focused on the relationship between housing and health, underlining the strong links between the two, including the very damaging impact homelessness has on health. The meeting also highlighted the on-going challenges regarding affordable housing. Recent legislation has re-classified all new affordable homes as ‘starter homes’ – to be marketed at 20% below the market value to first time buyers. These homes can then be sold at full market value after 5 years. Housing Association rent reductions have also had the result of making the supply of new housing more challenging. The challenge of housing for older people was also discussed.

24. Connecting Cumbria – Brian Kennish reported that there will be clearer indications on the Connecting Cumbria website when Phase 2 is completed and when individual communities are likely to be able to access superfast broadband.

CALC PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS TO MAY 2016

25. The Committee noted the statement of payments and receipts for the period ended 30th May, 2016.

ISSUES BEFORE NALC NATIONAL COUNCIL ON 28 JUNE 2016

26. See the attached agenda for information.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

27. Saturday 22nd October

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28. The issue of security for parish councillors and clerks was raised in the wake of the recent murder of Jo Cox MP. Peter Bales reported that Allerdale Borough Council had undertaken a risk assessment for councillors and staff. It was agreed that the safety of parish councillors and staff should be highlighted in light of recent events.

Chairman

DRAFT