

CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of CALC's Executive Committee held on Saturday 22nd October 2016 at 10.00 am at the Community Fire Station, Penrith.

PRESENT:

Ronnie Auld
Peter Bales
Ann Byers
Leith Hallatsch
Keith Hitchen
David Huxley till 10.30am
Leslie Johnson
Brian Kennish
Bob Mather
Rick Petecki
David Peters
Margaret Throp

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 Geoff Smith, who had served on the Executive in his role as the Chairman of Allerdale District Association and who had also been a longstanding councillor and Chairman of Crosscanonby Parish Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were received from Jill Hay.

MINUTES

2. The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 25th June 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

3. The Chief Officer reported back to the committee on progress with the projects that had been agreed to be undertaken with additional funding. The consultation on devolution had not yet taken place but there has been success in sourcing additional funding for CALC in the form of a Service Level Agreement with Eden District Council with regard to work on devolving services and/or assets to parishes, plus assisting with their work to move towards a fully electronic system of consultation on planning applications.

BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

4. The budget for 2017/18 and budget outline for 2018/19 were noted. There was discussion on the recommendation for increasing CALC affiliation fees. The significant increase in NALC subscription fees, based on a larger electorate figure, an increase of £4,000 in 2016/17 was of concern to members. Plus, on top, an agreed 1.9% increase in both 2017/18 and 18/19 of NALC's fees.

It was suggested that CALC's affiliation fees for 2017/18 should increase by at least 2% to cover the increase in NALC's costs.

Cllr D Huxley left the meeting at 10.30am

There was also discussions about how to address the increased in affiliation fees from NALC for the current year, 2016/17 and the need to re-look at the formula for calculating CALC's own affiliation fees,

It was **agreed** that the following would be recommended to the AGM:

1. That CALC's affiliation fees increase in 2017/18 by 2%
2. That the increase in NALC's affiliation fees for the current year, 2016/17, be met out of CALC reserves.
3. That the CALC Executive would look at the CALC charging structure before the 2017 AGM with a view to amending it if necessary.

There was a further suggestion that CALC sends out 'Why CALC Matters' document to parish councils when asking for an increase in its affiliation fees for next year.

CALC PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS TO SEPTEMBER 2016

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

Action: to write to NuGen regarding the outstanding invoice for CALC's time spent engaging with NuGen's Moorside project.

Action: to review the system for managing CALC's accounts, including considering electronic banking, to bring back to the January Executive meeting.

CALC UPDATES

6. The Chief Officer's updates were noted. The Chief Officer made particular reference to the National Grid's North West Coast Connection project. CALC had arranged 5 workshops for parish councils and then had to change the date and re-organise them. The Chief Officer reported that she was going to write to the National Grid expressing concern over the length of time of the public consultation, given the postponement of the early sight of the proposals, the fact the consultation includes the Christmas holiday period and that now CALC's workshops have been postponed, it reduces even further the time allowed for consultation.

STAFF PENSION PROVISION

7. The Chief Officer left the room whilst the Executive discussed pension arrangements for the Chief Officer post.

It was **agreed** that staff salaries would increase by 1% in line with the NJC agreement for the sector.

It was **agreed** that the Chief Officer post would attract a 7.5% employer contribution to an eligible pension plan (the details of which plan to be agreed between CALC and the individual officer). This contribution would be payable from 1 April 2016.

It was **agreed** that CALC's employees' salary scales will be reviewed before the April meeting of the CALC Executive

LETTER FROM BARROW DISTRICT PARISHES

8. The question of appropriate representation for the parish councils in Barrow district was discussed. It was felt that there was no reason why these parishes should not send a representative to sit on the CALC Executive. However, as the CALC constitution requires the District Association to elect its representative, then the parishes must set up a District Association. If the notice of this is brought back to the Executive, before the June Executive Committee meeting at the latest, then arrangements can be made to alter the Constitution. In the meantime, councillors from the parishes will be welcome to attend the South Lakeland District Association meetings.

The following was agreed:

- That Askham and Ireleth PC, Dalton TC and be asked to form a District Association.
- That the District Association elects a representative to sit on the CALC Executive
- That this additional seat is recommended to the Annual General Meeting in 2017
- That in the interim, the parish councillors are welcome to attend South Lakeland District Association meetings

9. The committee discussed the government's proposal to introduce precept referendum principles to parish councils, whereby if they wish to raise their precept by more than 2% a referendum supporting that would be required.

There was concern about the inclusion of this item on the agenda for the AGM.

It was **agreed** that:

1. The item be removed from the AGM agenda
2. the Chief Officer responds to the DCLG consultation on behalf of CALC expressing concern about the proposal.

10. **LDNPA PARTNERSHIP MEETING**

the Committee discussed CALC's role on the Partnership. It was noted that despite CALC being one of the smallest organisations in the partnership, it was very important that CALC is represented there. It was also recognized that the Parish Forum is an important vehicle for engaging with the parish councils of the LDNP.

The 10th Anniversary of the partnership was also discussed and the progress made in that time was noted. There are benefits to membership ie being able to contribute to the park plan via the partnership. The valuable benefits of networking was also commented on. The recent UNESCO visit was highlighted as was the team's interest in finding out more about the vibrant communities of the Lake District.

11. **CUMBRIA LEADER'S BOARD REPORT - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Chairman reported back to the committee on the recent Cumbria Leaders Board meeting. He highlighted the government's commitment to improving broadband coverage by the end of the parliament as well as the challenges and responsibilities faced by Cumbria in receiving vulnerable refugees.

Other issues discussed:

Police are keen to hear of any incidents of hate crime in Cumbria, they reported a spike in incidents after the referendum.

Cumbria Deal – the County Council signaled its wish to not pursue a combined mayoral authority, however the District leaders indicated they may explore whether there is any appetite from government to engage with a Cumbria Deal without the County Council.

Cllr Colin Glover was elected Chairman and Cllr Alan Smith was elected Vice Chair.

It was also discussed that the Executive Committee should be able to make comments on the agendas for both the CLB and CEG.

It was **agreed** that agendas for both the Cumbria Leaders and the Chief Executive's Group should be circulated to Executive members before the meetings and any comments fed back to either the Chairman (or Vice Chairman if attending) or the Chief Officer.

12 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016**

The draft agenda for the AGM was noted.

The following was **agreed**:

1. to recommend St and Co as the auditors for CALC for the coming year
2. That the chief officer would attempt to contact Miss J Clarke before the AGM regarding her role as Vice President of CALC

13. **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS**

The committee noted the reports from the District Associations.

14 **UPDATES FROM CALC REPRESENTATIVES**

Connecting Cumbria

CALC's Connecting Cumbria representative reported back from the last meeting that there had been discussion about improving the 4G network in Cumbria. EE are making it available for the emergency services and are bidding for the public contract, however there are issues over the ability to share masts. EE is currently putting masts in not-spots in the county, including the National Park where the LDNPA are keen to improve communications.

Agreed – that the Connecting Cumbria report should be circulated to the committee members.

Health and Wellbeing Forum

The CALC representative reported back that there was discussion around the relationship between poor housing and health and well-being. There is concern about the poor condition of some privately rented houses.

The Dementia Friendly project was also discussed. Across Cumbria shops, restaurants, bus stops, cinemas are all being urged to become 'dementia friendly'. This is a drive across many different areas of life to be aware of the issues that affect an increasing number of the elderly population of the county.

15 **NALC - MATTERS BEFORE THE AGM ON 20TH OCTOBER 2016**

The Vice Chairman reported that the main topics of discussion at the NALC AGM were:

The Local Government Finance Technical Consultation on the proposal to extend referenda principles to local councils. The AGM agreed that NALC should oppose this proposal and NALC Chief Executive should respond to the consultation accordingly.

NALC discussed their medium term financial plan, showing them moving away from the deficit budgets that they have been running in recent years. This is to be achieved in part by increasing their affiliation fees by 1.9% for 2017/18 and for 2018/19 on top of the significant increase last year.

The increasing cost of NALC membership has a direct impact on CALC's finances and influences the decision to increase CALC's subscriptions to help cover the costs.

16. **CUMBERLAND BUILDING SOCIETY**

After the death of Cllr Keith Morgan, it is necessary to appoint another signatory for the CALC deposit account at the Cumberland Building Society.

It was **agreed** that:

Councillor D Huxley acts as the third signatory (with Councillor J Hay and the Chief Officer as the two other signatories) on the CALC deposit account held at the Cumberland Building Society in Penrith.

17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Saturday 14th January 2017 at 10.00 a.m. at the Community Fire Station, Penrith.

It was **agreed** that the Chief Officer would invite Colin Cox, Assistant Director for Public Health and Communities be invited to speak to the committee at the next meeting in January.