

CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of CALC's Executive Committee held on **Saturday 24th March 2018** at 10.00 am at the Community Fire Station, Penrith.

PRESENT:

Ann Byers
Sue Castle-Clarke
Bryan Craig
Mike Cumming
Jill Hay
Roger Hart
Mike Higginbotham
Brian Kennish
Bob Mather
Rick Petecki
Margaret Throp

In attendance: Samantha Bagshaw, Chief Officer.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Roger Hart, Allonby PC to CALC as the Allerdale District Association Vice Chairman.

The Chairman also thanked Cllr David Huxley who announced that he was standing down as the Chairman of EALC recently. A letter of thanks on behalf of the CALC Executive Committee is to be sent to Cllr Huxley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Leith Hallatsch, Leslie Johnson, Keith Hitchen, Peter Bales and David Peters.

MINUTES

2. The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 20th January 2018 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

3. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2018

4. It was agreed that Cllr M Throp continue in her role as Vice Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE FROM NALC LOBBY DAY IN PARLIAMENT 20TH MARCH 2018

5. The Chairman reported back to the committee that he had met the following MPs:

John Woodcock MP

6. Issues discussed included the Borderlands initiative, the upgrading of the A595. John expressed concern over parking issues in Askham-in-Furness and the increased traffic due to the Moorside development. He expressed his support for CALC and welcomed the greater engagement with us.

Trudy Harrison MP

7. Discussed the need for improvements for the A595 and other infrastructure improvements including the West Coast rail line. She expressed her wish for CALC to help in improving diversity on parish councils ie encouraging more women and younger people from a variety of backgrounds to join parish councils. The Chairman raised the issues around GDPR and the current consultation regarding the Geological Disposal Facilities. The widespread problem of litter was discussed.

John Stevenson MP

8. The Chairman discussed the Borderlands initiative with John, (government funded initiative to develop the economy of the border region) and the MP expressed a wish to keep in touch with the parish sector.
9. The CPCA members (Mike Higginbotham and Ann Byers) expressed a wish to follow up the meeting with another meeting to discuss some local issues.

It was agreed that this would be arranged. Chief Officer to attend too.

Rory Stewart MP

10. He expressed his support for the sector and CALC/NALC. Broadband provision in Cumbria was discussed and Rory said he would follow up on the issue regarding emergency mobile masts. he is happy to speak at 3 tier meetings and is keen to be asked to any relevant parish meetings.

CALC PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS TO FEBRUARY 2018

11. The Committee noted the statement of payments and receipts for the period ended 28th February, 2018. The Chief Officer explained that the budget for 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan will be updated for the June meeting to incorporate the results from year end.

UPDATE ON CALC'S REVIEW OF ITS SUBSCRIPTION FEES

12. The President of CALC presented a short paper to the Committee . It explained that Working Group, set up by the Executive Committee held its initial meeting on 12 March.
13. The President explained that the existing 'banded' fee structure was in need of review to assess if it was still appropriate. In addition, the steady rise in the NALC element of

the fees (which is not identified separately at present) has created an anomaly for 3 Town Councils. Their CALC affiliation fees are less than the sums paid over by CALC to NALC on their behalf.

14. Some principles underpinning the review have been considered by the Working Group:
 - Fairness
 - Ease of understanding and explanation
 - Retention of and support for existing high levels of membership of CALC within member councils
 - Separate identification of the CALC and NALC elements of future affiliation fees (whilst recognising that membership of CALC automatically confers membership of NALC)
 - Recognition that there will be 'winners' and 'losers' in any formula change and the need to consider the impact of this on member councils
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15. Work is proceeding on modelling the impact of 5 options for the future of affiliation fees:
 - 'Stay as we are' i.e. continue with the existing banded structure with annual increases for inflation
 - 'Least change' ; 'Stay as we are' apart from ensuring that all member councils pay CALC at least enough to cover the per capita fee to be handed over to NALC
 - 'Per capita for the CALC element of the affiliation fees' ; this would mirror the basis for the NALC element so each council would pay a different amount based solely on the number of electors
 - 'Smoothed' approach for the CALC element ; using a mathematical formula to limit the extremes of high and low fees within the 'per capita' model and recognising that there are basic levels of activity within CALC on behalf of every council, whatever their size
 - The results from either the 'Per capita' or 'Smoothed' approaches could be 'banded' to produce a fifth option

Sue Castle-Clarke is producing the spread sheet with the various options set out. She also informed the committee that she has explored a 6th option for change which will be brought to the next meeting of the Working Group.

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

16. The Chairman reported that he had been pleased to attend the Barrow Joint Rural Committee followed by a Barrow District Association meeting. The Chairman was impressed by the co-operation and support shown by Barrow BC towards the parish councils in Barrow and felt it was very positive.
17. The Chairman reiterated his wish to see the district association meetings across Cumbria reach more members and to have some impact. He wants the rural voices to be heard. Sue Castle-Clarke from Eden reported that they are trying a different approach to their meetings to make the meetings more positive. The Chairman asked for an invitation to the next EALC meeting as part of his efforts to visit all the different districts' meetings.

The reports from the district associations were noted.

UPDATE ON THE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

18. The Chief Officer updated the committee on the planned transfer of footway lighting from Eden District Council to the parishes in Eden district, including the appointment of the solicitors, Wellers Law Group Ltd, to re-draft the contract that was given to the parish councils. The wider benefit of having a contract for footway lighting drafted from the point of view of protecting parish councils was noted.
19. It was agreed that the Wellers Law Group be instructed to continue to negotiate with Eden District Council on behalf of CALC and the 60 affected parish councils. A finite amount of funding was agreed to cover costs.

CHIEF OFFICER UPDATES

20. The Committee again raised concerns over the impact on parish councils of the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in May 2018. Concerns were raised again about the conflicting advice given by NALC and SLCC regarding the possibility of the clerk taking on the role of the DPO (SLCC say they can and NALC advise that they should not). The Chairman confirmed that CALC's official position is in line with the NALC advice. Questions were then raised about the serious difficulties parish councils face in becoming compliant with the law in May 2018 due to the cost and availability of suitably qualified Data Protection Officers. The Chairman confirmed that NALC are actively lobbying government to remove the requirement for small parish councils to appoint a DPO.
21. The Chief Officer confirmed that she had written to the principle authorities regarding the possibility of them acting as the DPO on behalf of the parish councils in their areas. She reported that they had made the same or similar responses – that they were willing to assist the parish councils in a variety of ways but could not take on the role of DPO on behalf of the parish councils as they did not have the capacity to do it. She reported that she is continuing to explore the possible alternatives for the provision of a DPO service in Cumbria. Also, In response to requests from parishes, she is drafting a 'slimmed down' GDPR Toolkit for smaller parishes to refer to.

It was agreed that:

the Chief Officer find out what advice other county associations are giving their parish councils in light of the conflicting advice regarding appointing a DPO being given out by NALC and SLCC.

NOTE REGARDING THE CALC AGM AND SPEAKER

22. The committee discussed the re-drafted format of the AGM and felt that one speaker worked better. The Chief Officer confirmed that she had booked Newbiggin Village Hall near Penrith as the venue for the 2018 AGM and that a speaker on dementia would be booked for the meeting.

It was agreed that:

- 1) The Cumbria lead on 'Dementia Friends' be invited to speak about dementia and the role communities can play .

- 2) The draft agenda be changed to start at 10.30am as it did previously and that item 10 be moved to before Item 9.

REPORTS FROM CALC REPRESENTATIVES

23. The Committee welcomed NALC's concerns over diversity in NALC and in the wide context of parish councils. Electronic voting had been discussed as a way of helping with wider representation in terms of gender, race and geography.

The Committee noted the reports.

AUDIT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER SKILLS/INTERESTS

24. The Chairman requested that the Chief Officer send out to members a short proforma for them to complete to list relevant skills and interests. This information will be kept as a reference document to help identify which members may be able to assist with queries or projects in future.

Agreed: The Chief Officer will send an email about it to the Executive members.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

25. Executive Committee's next meeting will take place at the Community Fire Station, Penrith, starting at 10.00a.m on Saturday 23rd June 2018

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Signed by the Chairman
