

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
Minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting

Meeting held at the Double Tree Hilton, Chilworth, Southampton

Thursday 20th October 2022 – 09.45am to 11.15am

Present

Directors

Cllr Paul Mahoney (Chair)
Cllr George Bisson
Cllr Jane Worlock
Cllr Clive Ward
Cllr Jon Woodman

Staff

Dawn Hamblet, Chief Executive
Amy Taylor, Member Services Officer
Sharon Nineham, HR Consultant
Jane Ives, Member Support Officer
Lisa White – Engagement Officer
Tracy Taylor – Office Administrator

The full attendance list is available at the end of this document

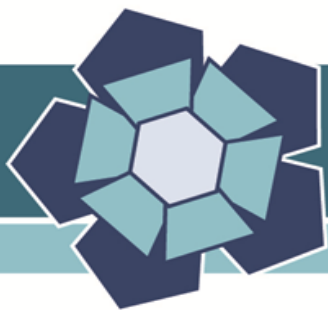
1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HAMPSHIRE ALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Chair welcomed 61 delegates representing 36 councils to the 75th Hampshire ALC AGM and thanked them all for attending. A particular welcome was extended to the guest speakers for the conference.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following individuals

Cllr Jim Macdonald – Hampshire ALC Director (East Hampshire)
Cllr Maureen Queen – Hampshire ALC Director (Eastleigh)
Cllr Anne Winstanley – Hampshire ALC County Executive Member
Cllr Trish Monks – Hampshire ALC County Executive Member



Apologies were also received from 23 member councils:

Abbots Ann Parish Council	Fordingbridge Town Council
Alton Town Council	Froyle Parish Council
Ampfield Parish Council	Hamble Parish Council
Barton Stacey Parish Council	Headley Parish Council
Baughurst Parish Council	Hound Parish Council
Charlton Parish Council	Kingsclere Parish Council
Chilbolton Parish Council	Selbourne Parish Council
Chineham Parish Council	Sherfield on Loddon
Dogmersfield Parish Council	Sparsholt Parish Council
Dummer Parish Council	Tadley Town Council
Ellisfield Parish Council	Twyford Parish Council
Fleet Town Council	

3. **TO RECEIVE & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021**

It was resolved that the minutes of 6th November 2021 were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Jane Worlock and Seconded by Cllr George Bisson.

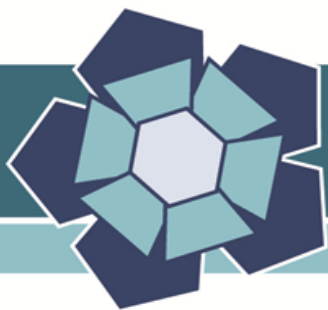
The minutes were agreed unanimously.

There were 5 abstentions.

4. **TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21 AND ANNUAL REVIEW**

The Accounts, which were prepared and certified by Accord Accountants and approved at the July Board meeting had been circulated with the AGM Agenda and included within the delegate packs. The Chief Executive reported that Hampshire ALC had made an operating surplus of just over £17,000. Once again this was largely due to not being charged office rental costs due to restricted access following COVID, and also some staffing vacancies. Although face to face training was undertaken on a limited basis during the financial year, several venues had significantly increased costs, and there was still unavailability of training rooms in Eastleigh House. Consequently training costs were once again higher than normal.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions relating to the Accounts.



There were no questions received.

The Chief Executive drew members attention to the Annual Review. She noted that the proportion of money that comes from the HCC grant has reduced slightly from 24% in the previous financial year to 22.7%, as shown in the annual review. This is continued progress in regard to an important part of our strategy to make the ALC more financially independent. Whilst financial independence is vital, Hampshire ALC still highly values the relationship with Hampshire County Council.

During this financial year, Hampshire ALC had supported Eastleigh Borough Council with formation of two new parish councils, Eastleigh Town Council and Boyatt Wood Parish Council. The addition of these councils made the Eastleigh District fully parished. We have continued to provide training courses and networking opportunities, offering a blended approach of both face-to-face and virtual sessions. We welcomed Jane Ives, Member Services Officer, to the team in 2021. New IT systems were launched at the beginning of this financial year, providing members with a greater level of support, together with an updated website to ensure the ALC is in a strong position moving forward in respect of knowledge management.

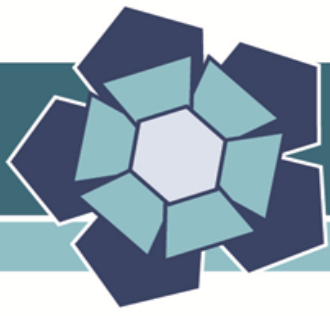
It was noted that Owslebury had been omitted from the Annual Review and this information will be updated and included for next year.

5. **TO AGREE BY RESOLUTION THE LEVEL OF ALC MEMBER COUNCIL AFFILIATION FEES FOR 2022-23**

Fees for the 2023/2024 financial year were debated at the Board meeting in July. The Board proposed a zero increase in Hampshire ALC fees for 2023/2024 given the current difficult financial environment and this was agreed by the County Executive in October. However it was noted this is not sustainable going forward. Although the proposal is that the ALC will not be increasing its own membership fees, the Chief Executive informed members that they may still see an increase on their invoices due to NALC proposing a 3% increase at their AGM next week. In addition, those Councils who have experienced an increase in population growth will also see an increase in their fees as these are calculated using the Electoral Register figures.

Member Councils were given the opportunity to ask questions on the Affiliation fees proposal.

Cllr Nick Wilson from Liss asked about the consequences if Hampshire ALC no longer existed and could not provide the service to member Councils. The



Chief Executive responded by explaining that the ALC is a membership services organisation, wholly owned by its members, that exists to support Town and Parish Councils. If the ALC didn't exist, the current high levels of advice and training would not be easily available, and councils would need to source this elsewhere. This would be likely to be significantly more costly and also external providers are unlikely to be as sector focussed as the ALC is. It would also be difficult to replicate the collective voice for all member councils.

Eleanor Greene asked if the affiliation fee was calculated in the same way as it always has been. The Chief Executive confirmed it is.

It was resolved to agree the proposal of the zero increase to Hampshire ALC member council affiliation fees for 2023/2024. This resolution was Proposed by Cllr Paul Milner and Seconded by Cllr Brian Foster. The majority (33 votes) voted to agree no increase in affiliation fees for 2023/2024. There were no abstentions and no objections.

6. **TO REAPPOINT BY RESOLUTION THE PROPOSED INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS**

The Chief Executive invited members to consider the re-appointment of **Accord Accountants** as Hampshire ALC's independent examiner of accounts.

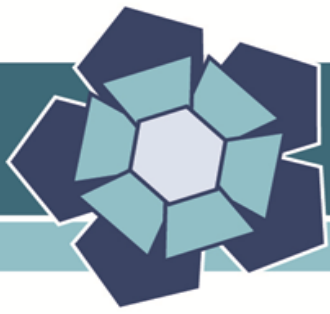
This was proposed by Cllr George Bisson and Seconded by Cllr Nigel Harrison.

The resolution to reappoint Accord Accountants was passed unanimously. There were no abstentions.

7. **RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH ALC AND STANDING ORDERS REGARDING ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.**

The Chief Executive reported that the Articles of Association, which govern how the ALC operates as a Ltd Company have been in need of updating for several years to bring them in line with current legislation and working practices. A specialist solicitor had been commissioned to undertake the work to ensure the Articles complied and were also futureproof. This work has been ongoing since early 2022 and a number of iterations have been discussed in detail by the Directors. Once the final proposed articles were agreed, they were circulated to all member Councils on 1st September to comply with the AGM timescales.

In late September 2022, it was brought to our attention that some of the wording around membership levels included in the proposed articles circulated with the AGM paperwork, whilst appropriate for a limited company



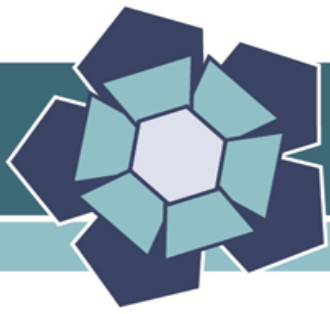
could cause some conflict with NALC's constitution. The only solution would be to amend the wording around membership types back to the existing articles. It was proposed to withdraw the Articles changes and revert to the previous membership wording which allows Hampshire ALC to be in harmony with the NALC Constitution and so allows our members to continue to join NALC.

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held during the evening of 23rd February 2023 to discuss and vote on the proposals. This will be held in a hybrid fashion to allow for maximum attendance. This will give all members Councils the opportunity to discuss the Articles at their Council meetings prior to the EGM.

The Chief Executive gave members the opportunity to ask questions on the Articles as they currently stand. It was noted that some questions have been answered already.

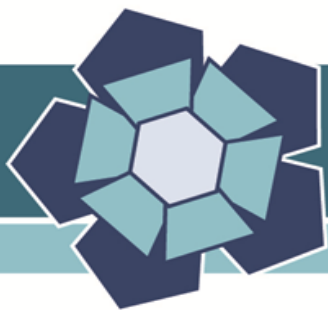
Questions raised from the floor as follows:-

- One member asked about the benefits of being members of NALC. Why would that be beneficial to a Parish Council? The Chief Executive explained that Hampshire ALC and NALC are two separate organisations that have some similar interests but are independent of each other. NALC lobby Government and deal with national issues and provide some national guidance. All the day-to-day services to member councils in the form of advice, support and training delivery are delivered through Hampshire ALC.
- Cllr John Cotterell, Nether Wallop raised a question around hybrid meetings. There is nothing in the constitution which states the ALC are unable to hold hybrid meetings. Currently the constitution does not allow for fully virtual meetings so meetings have to be held at a venue. The amendment of the Articles provides the opportunity to hold hybrid meetings in the future if members preferred this arrangement. It was noted that when the AGM was held virtually a couple of years ago, due to the temporary change in legislation due to COVID, it was very well attended with over 100 Councils.
- Cllr Loraine Rappé, Wickham and Knowle Parish Council expressed her views on the advantages for Councils of being NALC members, stating that NALC influence other organisations and organise different events, covering a broad spectrum which affect local parish councils



and can be attended either face-to-face or hybrid, some of which are free for members.

- Cllr Jane Worlock asked about the types of organisations which NALC have influence over.
- Alastair Clark, commented that there have been problems at NALC as it is a large organisation. He noted the previous Hampshire ALC representative to NALC spent many years in that role and had attempted to build relationships to gain the confidence of the 40 representatives of other CALCs and slowly improve NALC services. He commented that NALC are consulted by Government committees and legal bodies and fight on behalf of new Parish Councils and he believed the NALC fees offered good value for money.
- Cllr Brian Foster, Clanfield commented on the suggestion that the benefit of Councils being NALC members is the lobbying of Government. However, they have been trying for 10 years to lobby Government, particularly around standards, and it has not been that effective. Most of the information and assistance comes from Hampshire ALC so he was not really sure of the benefits of NALC membership.
- Cllr Eric Bodger, Curdridge expressed a concern around an item in the Articles which relate to the Board allowing employees to become Directors alongside the reduction of the quorum to 3. He believed the Board can co-opt other Board members which creates a self-perpetuating oligarchy and that there was a risk that some future Board members may misuse those. The Chief Executive that the proposals were suggested by the Solicitors to ensure the association can still run and make decisions if in the future insufficient directors were proposed by the District Associations. She noted that there are no plans to make employees Directors at the current time and that there are other safe guards within the articles to prevent a small group of rogue directors making decisions that are not in the interest of the majority of members.
- Cllr Jon Woodman, Swanmore Parish Council asked if a copy of the answers to the queries raised with the Solicitor will be circulated. The Chief Executive confirmed these will be circulated in due course.



8. **AWARDS**

The Chief Executive welcomed the opportunity to announce the recipients of the 2022 Hampshire ALC awards, to acknowledge good practice of Councils in various areas. The level of entries in all categories had been very high. The awards were presented by the Chair, as follows:

Best Local Council Website – e-mango Shield

Winner: Greatham Parish Council.
Runner-up: Grayshott Parish Council

Best Local Council Newsletter – Microshade VSM Shield

Winner: Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council
Runner-up: Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council

Best Use of Social Media

Winner: Elvetham Heath Parish Council

Hampshire Council of the Year 2022

Winner: Grayshott Parish Council

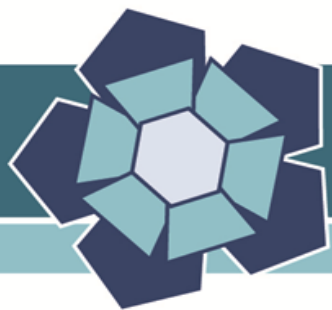
Hampshire Clerk of the Year 2022

Winner: Sarah Smith of Liss Parish Council
Runner-up: Sarah Goudie of Four Marks Parish Council

The Chief Executive informed the AGM that after a hiatus due to Covid, the Village of the Year 2022 Awards had run again this year and the awards ceremony had been held in September, hosted by 2019 winners Bishops Waltham. The 2022 winner was Odiham Parish Council. The winners of the other categories are available on the website and in the October newsletter.

9. **REMARKS AND CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Chair thanked Hampshire ALC staff for their contribution to the meeting and thanked both the exhibitors who had supported the event and to the venue for their excellent catering.

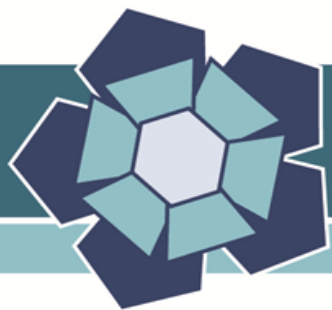


Members were thanked for attending and making the event such a success.

Meeting closed at 11:00am.

COUNCIL ATTENDEES

Council	Name
Allbrook and North Boyatt Parish Council	David Betts
Allbrook and North Boyatt Parish Council	Nancy Palmer
Andover Town Council	Rebecca Myer
Bishops Waltham Parish Council	Judy Marsh
Boyatt Wood Parish Council	Lisa Crosher
Boyatt Wood Parish Council	Gavin Ellys
Bramley Parish Council	Maxta Thomas
Brockenhurst Parish Council	John Korbey
Cheriton Parish Council	Clare Cholerton
Clanfield Parish Council	Brian Foster
Copythorne Parish Council	Jackie Rhodes
Curdridge Parish Council	Eric Bodger
Denmead Parish Council	Paula Langford-Smith
Elvetham Heath Parish Council	Natalie Radley
Elvetham Heath Parish Council	Tracy Hamer
Fawley Parish Council	Matthew Hartmann
Four Marks Parish Council	Janet Foster
Four Marks Parish Council	Sarah Goudie
Grayshott Parish Council	Nigel Harrison
Greatham Parish Council	Sarajane Bartlett
Hook Parish Council	Jane Worlock
Itchen Valley Parish Council	Patrick Appleby
Liss Parish Council	Nick Wilson
Liss Parish Council	Sarah Smith
Lockerley Parish Council	Sue Kent
Lyndhurst Parish Council	George Bisson
Nether Wallop Parish Council	Jon Cotterell
Netley Marsh Parish Council	Heather Lawrence
Nursling and Rownhams Parish Council	Roy Hamilton
Odiham Parish Council	Andrea Mann
Odiham Parish Council	Helen Tyler



Council	Name
Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Council	Murray Campbell
Owslebury Parish Council	Astrea Hurlock
Petersfield Town Council	James Deane
Petersfield Town Council	Paul Milner
Rooksdown Parish Council	Paul Mahoney
Silchester Parish Council	Chris Gunnell
South Wonston Parish Council	Rachael Jones
Steep Parish Council	Charlotte Duthie
Swanmore Parish Council	Jon Woodman
West End Parish Council	Becky Bond
Wickham and Knowle Parish Council	Loraine Rappé
Yateley Town Council	Tony Spencer