



Lancashire Association of Local Councils

Minutes of the 80th Annual General Meeting of the Association

held on Saturday 2nd November 2024 at 2.30 pm
at Lancashire County Council County Hall, Preston

Present

Cllr Phil Orme - Chairman

Cllrs Cranshaw, Houghton, Neal, Orme - Vice Presidents

Mrs D Platt - Treasurer

40 members from councils

Officers in attendance:

Mrs D Platt - Membership & Engagement/CO, Mr J Ashurst - Area Support

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Orme, the Chair of LALC chaired the meeting as Sir Robert Atkins had sent his apologies.

2. Minutes of the 79th Annual General Meeting

Approved: Minutes of the 79th Annual General Meeting held on 4 November 2023 were agreed.

3. Updates from the minutes – none.

4. a) Annual Report – Chairman, Phil Orme

b) Membership, Training and Area Committee Annual Reports

c) Accounts 2023 - 2024 – Chief Officer, Debra Platt

Approved: to adopt the two Annual Reports a) and b), along with c) Financial Accounts all covering period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

5. Budget proposal for 2025 - 2026

Discussions were held regarding:

- NALC subscription amount being proposed to be raised by 5% at the forthcoming NALC AGM on 7 November.
- Enquiries to the benefits and performance of NALC to Local Councils in membership. More information on the benefits of the NALC portion of membership and the improvements in recent years will be circulated further.
- The recent Autumn Budget which announced employers National Insurance contribution rises for 1 April 2025 (*to 15%, also the threshold decreasing from £9,100 to £5,000*)

Proposed by Cllr Orme, seconded by Cllr Houghton that Lancashire's NALC representatives should put forward an amendment to the 5% increase, to be lowered to a 3.99% increase. A show of hands appeared unanimous in favour. **Approved.**

Approved: to adopt the Budget proposal for 2024-2025.

6. Officers and Auditors

Members present put forward views regarding the LALC Constitution; around the proposal process of the honorary positions (President and Vice Presidents), queried how the proposed persons were chosen to be put forward; and around voting rights and process at an Annual General Meeting. The attendees had robust discussions, referrals to the constitution and moved forward as follows.

Approved: proposed by Cllr Orme, seconded Cllr Houghton voted on and agreed by a show of hands were the appointments of Treasurer and Accountants as the Agenda proposed: Treasurer - Mrs Debra Platt; Accountants - JDH Business Services Ltd

Approved: proposed by a Ribble Valley Member and agreed by a show of hands - Cllr Eunice Houghton, Cllr Alan Neal, Cllr Phil Orme and former long serving Treasurer Mr Brian Anderson all to be appointed in the honorary position of Vice President.

A commitment by Executive members to review the LALC Constitution following this meeting was welcomed by the attendees. The process will be a review, to include the views put forward at this meeting. A small group of the Executive members will carry out a review and report to the Finance & Management Committee (F&M). F&M will consider the report, the suggested changes and updates, revise and finalise the report. The revised document can be put before the Executive meeting on 1 March 2025 for approval. The new document will be communicated to member Councils for the processes of the revised constitution to be put into place as soon as possible.

7. Motions from Member Councils

- a) Whitworth Town Council. Proposer Cllr Neal, Seconder Cllr Royds (appended to the agenda)

Cllrs Neal and Royds clarified some points of the proposal and gave examples for the difference between the reporting figures of RTAs (road traffic accidents) KSIs (killed or seriously injured) and RTIs (road traffic incidents), how the style of reporting does not highlight problem areas until the worst possible scenario – road incidents should not be acted upon using KSI statistics but using RTI statistics.

Approved: Proposed by Cllr Neal, seconded by Cllr Royds that LALC should

- campaign for a change in the reporting of road accidents, from being recorded using KSI statistics but instead to use RTI statistics.
- and that representatives in the position to do so should raise this issue with the National Association (NALC) to gain support from others and traction through additional and higher channels to change reporting statistics to better serve road safety and the places we live.

8. Open Forum

A Member attending from the Ribble Valley (RV) area asked if there was anything LALC could do for many small councils (parish meetings) in the RV area [and all areas] that are so small or don't have a precept, to help them to be a member of a body to assist them.

Response: the budget just set earlier, at item 5, includes new budgets specifically: 'Support for the smaller sized Local Councils; tackle issues in the sector; support for Area Committees; Mentoring for Councils in difficulties' – all of which have been added in to the work programme in response to the needs of our local councils. It is recognised the importance for smaller bodies to be informed and kept up to date with legislation and practices but also that some Local Councils/Parish Meetings may never be able to be in membership due to their financial position – this new support will target these local councils.

A Member attending from the Ribble Valley area asked for more information regarding LALCs services to and for local councils.

Response: this information will be circulated again and more regularly.

A Member attending from the Chorley area requested all the AGM information to be circulated earlier to councils.

Response: this point will be fed into the item at the end of item 6 above – *the commitment to review the Constitution*.

9. Close of Meeting

Chair closed with saying this was a productive meeting and thanked all attendees for their presence and Officers for the organisation.

Close 16:13